



# TYNE AND WEAR

*News from and about members*

## Get out and about!

MY FINAL week as High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear pulled together various things that I had been working on or had seen during my year. It was a special week with the High Sheriff's Awards up first on Tuesday. The real highlight of my year has been visiting community groups across the county – amazing people doing wonderful things to support young people. Lots of unsung heroes! On the night we awarded nearly £40,000 to 68 groups and a special award to Dr Shobha Sroavastava, as the outstanding unsung hero, for her work with Hindu Nari Sangh in South Tyneside. Our inspirational speaker was Alan Hinkes OBE, the only British person to climb all 14 mountains over 8,000 metres – he gave a brilliant insight into achieving goals against the odds. I guess my first message about being High Sheriff is get out and about as much as possible!



*“I've spent a lot of time on this and knocked on quite a few doors but they were always open*

Wednesday brought the launch of Read North East, at the University of Sunderland. Literacy was the theme for my year with a plan to try and bring together a range of partners to improve literacy levels in the whole North East region. The campaign is backed by the High Sheriffs of Durham, Northumberland and North Yorkshire. It will be driven by the National Literacy Trust supported by numerous partners including the Education Endowment Foundation, Penguin Books, Greggs, Schools North East, Seven Stories, New Writing North and organisations leading library services for young people. The campaign aims to lift literacy levels in the North East and I was delighted to be made honorary president of the campaign to enable me to stay involved after my shrieval year. Nearly 150 people from different sectors and various parts of the region attended and pledged their support. You can pledge your support or read about the campaign at [www.readnortheast.org.uk](http://www.readnortheast.org.uk). I've spent a lot of time on this and knocked on quite a few doors but they were always

open and I do believe having a focus on one thing helped me.

History has been a major part of my year starting with my Declaration at the 7th-century St Peter's Church in Monkwearmouth in Sunderland, home of the Venerable Bede, the Father of English History. My finale took place on the Thursday of that final week at Ryhope Engines Museum, a 19th-century steam driven water pumping station. It is run by volunteers – more unsung heroes! This was my last major event before handing over to Robin Brims and it gave me the opportunity to say thank you to many people who had supported me throughout a magnificent year. What a year!

**John Mowbray, OBE**  
*High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear 2016-17*



**Top:** Outside Ryhope Engines Museum with the wonderful volunteers

**Left:** At the High Sheriff's Awards, accompanied by Alan Hinkes OBE and Vivien Stapley of the Sir James Knott Trust, one of our funding supporters, John Mowbray presents a cheque to Jonny Falcon of Newcastle YMCA, which won the top award of £2,500 to support its Space2 project in Newcastle