



# News from and about Members

## West Yorkshire 2013-14

I stepped down as High Sheriff on 14 April 2014 and even though I had been in office for 55 weeks I could hardly believe the year had flown by at such a speed.

It was such an incredible and unforgettable year and gave me so many new experiences, going to a football match for the first time (and with two High Court Judges!), and watching cricket and rugby matches. I also steered HMS *Explorer* across the Humber for 20 minutes on one of the windiest days of the year and judged the best turned-out horse at the races.

I am often asked who were the most inspirational people I met during the year. There have been so many, but some of the most amazing were in one of the five West Yorkshire prisons I visited throughout the year, people whose lives had hit rock bottom but who somehow found the courage and tenacity not just to turn around their own lives but also inspired others to do the same. I also met at Huddersfield University my absolute hero Sir George Buckley, which was a real highlight. I always admire people who overcome adversity and Sir George had a very tough childhood but became CEO of



The High Sheriff and her husband Clive visiting Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

3M. He has been a big benefactor to the university.

My husband Clive and I had a fascinating insight into the work of West Yorkshire Police, including going out on a Friday night shift in Calderdale with two constables. I was also honoured to present the West Yorkshire Police Long Service and Good Conduct medals. I feel so proud of living in a county with such a wonderful force.

It was a delight to meet so many High Court Judges and Circuit Judges and to entertain them at home. Sitting on the bench with the High Court Judges was

really fascinating and such a privilege. During my last week in office I met the Lord Chief Justice who was so kind and very interested to hear about my experiences as High Sheriff.

I visited many remarkable organisations during the year and enjoyed meeting hundreds of inspirational individuals who give so much of themselves to help others. They really are a beacon of light in our county.

I wanted to give something back to some of these incredible people, so on my last Friday as High Sheriff I held an awards ceremony at Leeds Combined Court Centre to which I invited 27 organisations and individuals. I presented them each with a certificate and a cheque for £100.00. It was a wonderful end to a fantastic year, which has been humbling, heartening and life-affirming.

Huge thanks go to my husband Clive and my children Freddie and Izzie for their unwavering support. I wish my successor Annie Dent a wonderful and unforgettable year in office. □

*Virginia Lloyd*  
High Sheriff of West Yorkshire 2013-14



With recipients of High Sheriff's Awards during a visit to the Joshua Project.