



Those who give most often have very little themselves

IT WAS remiss of my predecessors not to have provided me with a copy of the report of 1846 by 'Gentlemen of the County of Northumberland' that considered how to overcome the expenses of the Sheriff of Northumberland being 'unnecessarily large'. Fortunately, as my great-great-grandfather was pricked as High Sheriff in the year of the report, I found a copy myself.

However, I must confess that my budget was even more constrained than suggested, as I have not even met High Court Judges when they arrived

at Newcastle Station, let alone in a coach and four, and I have not maintained pages to attend upon me, duties (and expenditure) which the report recommended should be retained.

As other High Sheriffs have done, I have discovered new aspects of a county that I thought I knew very well already and continuously met people who give so generously of their time to inspire others through numerous voluntary and community groups. Often I have found that those who give most to their communities have very little themselves, being inspired to help others arising from their own needs.

Below: High Sheriff with Chief Fire Officer Paul Hedley and Michael Fairles



Photo credit: Helen Smith Photography



News from and about members



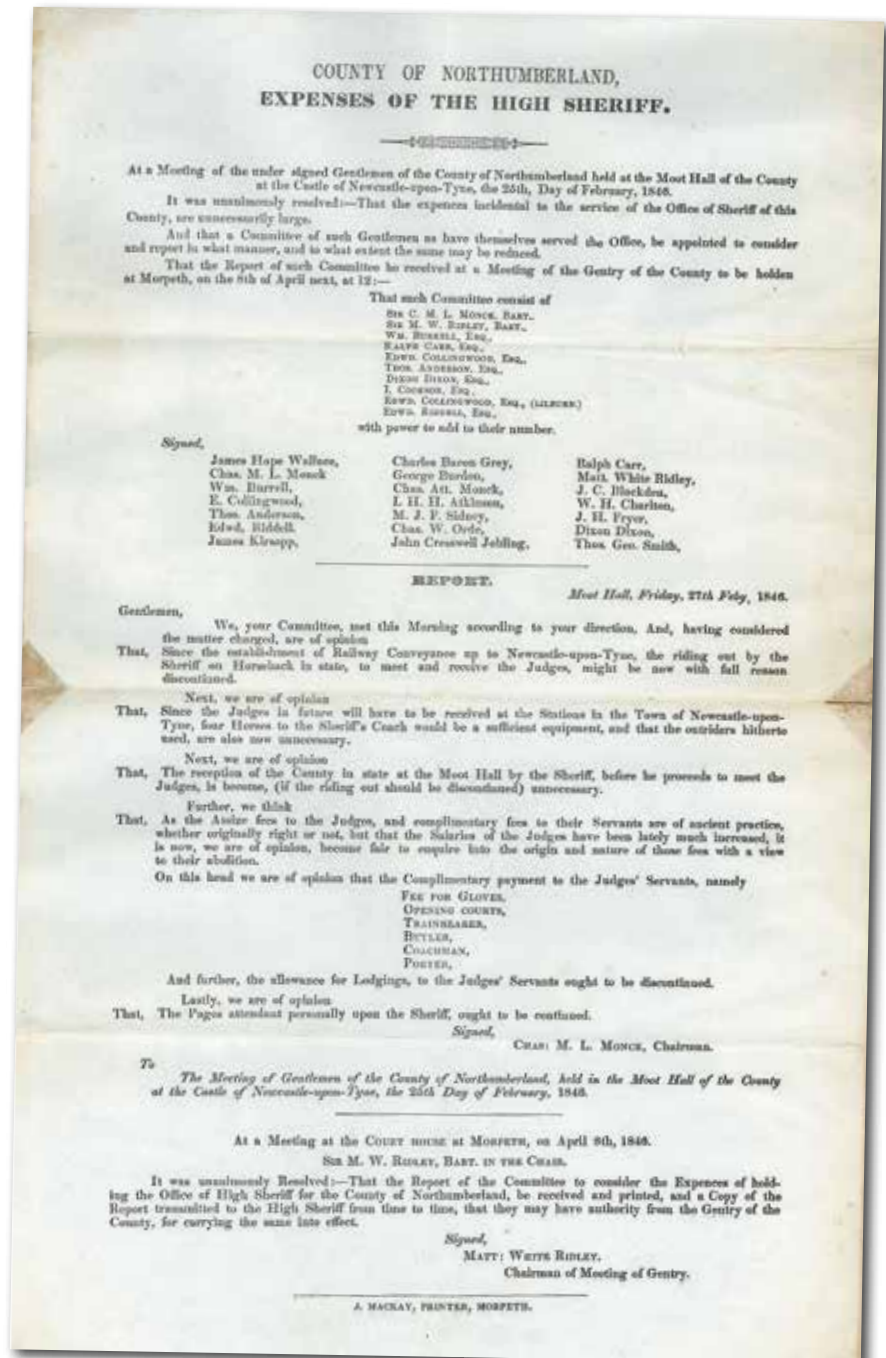
Above: High Sheriff with Inspector Kevin Waring and Sgt Chrissie Skillen with the High Sheriff's Cup

It was fascinating and a great pleasure to visit groups providing activities for the young, in the hope of raising their self-confidence and their aspirations and keeping them away from crime, and on almost every occasion I was impressed by what is being achieved.

One of the aspects of my education in the ways of agencies involved in law and order that has impressed me most has been the multi-agency approach to joint working. I was privileged to see this in action when sitting in on MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements) meetings, where the title does infer that you should expect it. However, I was also impressed to find the emergency services giving joint presentations about road sense to school children taking up driving. Without declaring my role, I attended multi-agency training on handling situations in public places involving people with mental health issues, alongside the police, paramedics, doctors, social workers and accredited mental health practitioners. It was very evident that all the professionals were learning from each other and would make a far more effective team using collaborative working.

I started my year with great respect for those working in the emergency services and this has significantly increased as I have seen first-hand some of the issues that they have to deal with on a daily basis. It was a great privilege to give awards to those who were commended as making even more difference than others. This included giving recognition of 40 years' service to the Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service at Allendale Community Fire Station by Michael Fairless and presenting the High Sheriff's Cup to Sergeant Chrissie Skillen of Northumbria Police.

Towards the end of my year, I was pleased to be able to help raise funds, and the profile of homelessness, by taking part in a sponsored night sleeping rough. When I drove home through snow the following morning, I was very conscious of how lucky I was to be able to go straight home for a hot bath



and a bowl of porridge before getting on with my day.

At the start of my year in office I felt humbled by the weight of history in taking on such an ancient and important role. This has continued by meeting the most amazing range and number of people who give so much to make their communities, and the county, a far better place to live than it was in 1076 when the first Sheriff of Northumberland was appointed. It has been an inspiring year and the greatest of fun.

◆ Michael Orde
High Sheriff of Northumberland 2018-19

Above:
The report
from 1846