



High-pressure situations!

MY SHRIEVAL year started on 11 April 2018 in the unique and historic surroundings of the 11th-century Oakham Castle.

From the outset I decided to do two things: to support law and order, and to support local individuals and organisations that enhance social cohesion and provide support for those in need. And what a wonderful year it turned out to be!

I made it my business to work with and learn about all the organs of law and order within the county and nearby. I was privileged to visit our prisons, to work with all departments of the police and fire and rescue services, and to spend much time in our courts, learning of the work of our judges and our justice system.

I have vivid memories of my time with the frontline services – swaying in a gale up a 30-metre rescue ladder, being blown backwards by a high-pressure fire hose and sharing a Harley Davidson motorbike with Neil Thomas, Governor of Stocken

Prison. Among the many exciting and interesting events with Leicestershire Police, I carried out an evening foot patrol with PC Andy Jones in Leicester city centre, which included arrests – and the joys of the custody suite – in which I was touched by one man's request for a shot of heroin, followed by a caution that he was allergic to peanuts.

The overwhelming impression I had was of essential services manned by dedicated people who constantly go the extra mile to make their organisations work, despite limited and sometimes inadequate funding and resources. We are privileged and very fortunate to have such people working on our behalf. We must never lose sight of the need to give those services the resources, respect and support they need.

I sought to spread the law and order message to every school in Rutland and was assured by all children I met that they would be my ambassadors for the support of law and order – especially when they were allowed to hold my sword. The charity Warning Zone based in Leicester continues to

Below: My ambassadors for law and order





reinforce this message. Each year it works with over 10,000 children from primary schools in Leicestershire and Rutland to make them aware of the dangers of modern life. It is growing and flourishing and there has never been a greater need for its essential contribution.

There is much in the news about the mental health problems in the young. This is well recognised in our county and is being addressed by our schools and the local charity Resilient Rutland. Looking ahead, we must strive to engage all young people to build on the excellent work already being done. I have had a long and rewarding relationship with Rutland Friends of Cancer Research UK and will continue to do so. I have also got to know a number of smaller local charities and have been able to raise some much-needed funds for all of them.

A great joy has been to visit local military units, which have bent over backwards to welcome me and tell me about their work; this I found extremely impressive. I was of course delighted to meet many lovely working dogs and horses, most of which I would cheerfully have taken home!

Our World War One centenary celebrations were most moving and sobering and united our county in paying our respects to the fallen. Being High Sheriff opens doors to so many organisations and functions and the most cherished memory, which will remain with me for the rest of my life, will be of meeting all the interesting and charming people running our essential services and charities, and my opposite numbers in surrounding counties.

◆◆ Susan Jarron
High Sheriff of Rutland 2018-19

Above: Opening the motorbike maintenance training unit at Stocken Prison

Top right: Declaration in Oakham Castle with the Lord-Lieutenant

Right: Coming to terms with a high-pressure fire hose

Below right: High Sheriffs of Cambridgeshire, Derbyshire, Rutland, Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire at a Service to Celebrate the County of Rutland in Peterborough Cathedral on 24 February 2019

