



Photo: Mandy Jones Photography



... and don't stop

AT THE time of this article being published I will have completed the best part of my shrieval year. Writing it in July after reading the summer edition of *The High Sheriff* I am already realising how quickly the year is moving.

I have realised how important your run-up year is if you want to do 'The Job' properly. Attending Burghley and the Welsh Regional Seminar at Llangoed Hall, and making valuable contacts and connections with organisations and key people in your county before taking office help smooth the way – 'hit the ground running' should be followed by 'and don't stop'.

In our corner of north-east Wales, sandwiched between affluent Cheshire and picturesque Gwynedd, Clwyd holds its own with the beautiful Vale of Clwyd and the powerhouse of industry on Deeside. Long gone are the spinning reels of the rayon industry and the steel making – in their place are new high technology, manufacturing, automotive and aeronautical industries.

Already in my year I have appeared on live TV in court dress to launch the Mini Police project, the first in north Wales. With part-funding from North Wales Crimebeat, this initiative involves 9- to 11-year-old children at primary school and is a fun and interactive volunteering opportunity. Those involved develop a

confident voice in their communities through enjoyable experiences, participating in community events which give them a better understanding of the police and reduce perceived barriers.

Along with our 'Justice in a Day' programme aimed at Year 9 (12- to 13-year-olds in secondary education and performed by actors from the renowned Theatr Clwyd Company) we send a strong message for law and order to the youth of Clwyd.

I have attended DangerPoint (a life skills activity centre) with local schoolchildren for the launch of new interactive displays. This facility addresses the dangers to primary school pupils both in the home and the outside world. I have been honoured to recognise many volunteers at award ceremonies including

the 10th anniversary of Young Dragons Wales, a partnership of uniformed youth organisations in Wales and an initiative of HRH The Prince of Wales.

Being a 'number on the door' person without the assistance of a PA I rely on my dedicated husband, a Deputy Lieutenant for our county and a Parkinson's sufferer. I have to be incredibly organised and am aided by my Under Sheriff Sarah Noton and my Chaplain the Reverend Andrea Jones, two of the most able females I have ever met, so things are running smoothly – 'a well-oiled machine'. For those who ask 'What is a High Sheriff?' my answer is 'follow my blog' – highsheriffclwyd1920.co.uk.

Highlights so far in my year are: raising a respectable amount at my charity auction/dinner; seeing parts of the county I didn't know existed; and meeting and working with incredible people all trying very hard to make their own communities a safer and better place to live.

It is my honour and privilege to serve this noble Office.

◆ Stephanie Catherall *High Sheriff of Clwyd 2019-20*



Top: High Sheriff of Clwyd (Stephanie Catherall) on her Declaration Day at St Deiniol's Church Hawarden with the Choir of St Deiniol's and the Flint Male Voice Choir

Above Right: High Sheriff with children from Alexandra School Wrexham for the launch of the Mini Police project and the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales Arfon Jones

Right: High Sheriffs of Clwyd and Gwynedd (Susan Moules Jones) with their cadets (L-R) Josh Taylor, Jacob Riddle, Sunshine Bowers and Sarah Goodsir at the award ceremony for the 10th Anniversary of the Young Dragons, Wales

