



Glam girls share experiences



THE OFFICE of High Sheriff holds many duties and responsibilities; some we learn in the years leading up to taking Office, and others we learn while in Office. Many are steeped in tradition – the uniform, entertaining visiting High Court Judges and ceremonial duties associated with Remembrance services. What has come as a delightful surprise is the camaraderie among fellow High Sheriffs.

As High Sheriff of West Glamorgan I have been welcomed, encouraged and educated by those who have gone before me. My High Sheriff family extends beyond my own county, and perhaps this is in part due to the history of the geographical area that was Glamorganshire, but is now split into three shrieval counties – West, Mid and South Glamorgan – or maybe it’s just a Welsh thing. Friendships have been forged that will, I know, endure beyond my year of office.

By far the busiest of the three Glamorgans is South Glamorgan, whose nucleus is Cardiff, capital city of Wales. High Court Judges sit in only some of the eight counties of Wales, but by far the most visits are to Cardiff where even the Supreme Court sat at the Senydd, the heart of Welsh government, for a week in July. The eight High Sheriffs of Wales hosted a dinner to mark their inaugural visit. The service to mark the beginning of the legal year alternates between south and north Wales – this year in Cardiff. Again, all the Welsh High Sheriffs dine together the night



Top left: Sally Goldstone at her Declaration with Royal British Legion trumpeters

Top right: Dinner hosted by High Sheriffs of Wales for Justices of the Supreme Court sitting in Cardiff, Lady Hale, Lord Reed, Lord Thomas, Lord Lloyd-Jones and Lord Sales
Photo credit: Sally Uphill Photography

Above: Sally Goldstone, High Sheriff of West Glamorgan at her Declaration with (L-R) Col Tina Donnelly CBE TD DL (Mid Glamorgan), Dame Claire Clancy DCB DL (Gwent) and Dr Isabel Graham (South Glamorgan)

before, and host a reception immediately after the service.

The three Glamorgans are bonded by their common link with the South Wales Police Force which has almost the same geographical territory. Isabel Graham (South), Tina Donnelly (Mid) and I attended an open day at police HQ in Bridgend to mark 50 years since it was established. Together we have chosen the winner of the Shrievalty Cup, presented to a member of the South Wales Police Force who has contributed most and made a positive difference within the local community they serve. Claire Clancy

(Gwent) often joins the ‘Glam girls’ as we support each other throughout the year.

Another bond exists between the counties of West Glamorgan, Dyfed and Powys. Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service serves all three counties. Helena Lewis (Dyfed), David Peate (Powys) and I were shown around HQ in Carmarthen and learnt of the excellent work of this great team who do so much to keep us safe. Whenever I see a blue light or hear a siren again I will be grateful for the bravery of our emergency services.

The role of High Sheriff must remain relevant in this fast-moving, digital 21st century. I post information on my activities on Facebook and Instagram. Many have commented that they previously had no idea what the role entailed. Other counties have evolved in different ways, at different paces and in different directions. Sharing our experiences and practices wisely can only enhance the Office of High Sheriff and the public perception of it.

Halfway through my year in office there is still so much to experience and it will be over all too soon. I relish every moment and hope that I will have made a positive contribution as High Sheriff. I will treasure the memories and the friendships forged long after the end of my term.

◆ Sally Goldstone

High Sheriff of West Glamorgan 2019-20