



Capture Rutland

RUTLAND MAY be the smallest county in England and Wales but it certainly lives up to its motto 'Multum in Parvo' (Much in Little). Considering its size one would have thought that it would be easy to explain the role of High Sheriff. I tried hard but was amused when, in full court dress, entering a café one sunny Sunday morning after awarding prizes at the local junior park run with a charity fundraiser (dressed in her trademark fairy outfit), I was greeted by the cheerful teenage waiter with: 'Hi girls! Are you on a hen party?'

One of my objectives for the year was to get to know and meet many of our hardworking charitable organisations, especially those run by 'unsung, unseen' people. I quickly found that while additional funds are always welcome, these organisations also sought 'airspace' to promote their charity. I decided to hold an event to both help fund and promote some of these charities. In March, over 40 charities and other interested parties and donors gathered in Oakham Castle for my charity presentation evening. This started with tea and cakes (thanks to the local WI) and was followed by an hour's presentation where 14 charities received cheques from me. Each charity was given time to share their activities via short talks and videos. Drinks afterwards enabled all to network



High Sheriff with Carole Hughes from the charity Anna's Hope at the junior park run by Rutland Water

and I have had feedback of many useful connections made that night.

The money shared at my charity presentation had been accrued during my year from generous individual donors and collections at two church services. One such service, to 'Celebrate the Community of Rutland' took place after two weeks in office. I used it, and the following drinks reception, as an opportunity to both introduce myself and to celebrate the good work in our community. My funds were managed by the Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation which was helpful in highlighting small 'hidden' charities and supporting the organisation of the charity presentation evening.

I was keen to engage with our young people and to hear their views and ideas. With this in mind, I ran a photography competition (using phones or cameras), where school-aged children were tasked to 'Capture Rutland' for the High Sheriff, showing something they valued about the county. When visiting schools this provided a great talking point and after three competitions, there were six winners and a number of highly commended photographers. The photographs were imaginative and creative. A presentation evening was held at Goldmark Gallery in Uppingham, which kindly sponsored the event, framed and hung the photographs, donated prizes to the winners and gave a generous donation to our local children's charity, Warning Zone.

It has been an enormous privilege to meet so many working within our county to create real community cohesion. I have been hugely impressed and heartened to see our law and order services, our charitable organisations and many of our young people interacting in creative ways to promote and sustain this cohesion. Multum in Parvo!

 **Margaret Miles**
High Sheriff of Rutland 2019-20



With the under-11 age group winners of the Capture Rutland photography competition



Charity Presentation evening with 14 local charities receiving their cheques from the High Sheriff