



Take each day as it comes

I AM delighted to contribute an article to The High Sheriff as it has afforded me the opportunity to reflect on an unprecedented first six months as High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan.

My year began in March with my Declaration ceremony arranged for Friday 27 March at the historic Miskin Manor, Pontyclun. With two weeks to go and after many sleepless nights and three years of planning and preparing, I excitedly but somewhat nervously went through all the arrangements, meticulously checking and double-checking that everything was in place. With the rehearsals perfected and the school choir, harpist, 200 guests, court dress, shirt, tights, sword and shoes at the ready, I was more than prepared for the biggest day of my life – what could possibly go wrong, I thought?

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown saw everything quickly grind to a halt; these were indeed worrying times. On 18 March with numbers kept to a minimum (three) and with social distancing in place, I signed the Declaration. I felt so proud and honoured but at the same time a little saddened that my two sons – Thomas (aged 16) and Morgan (aged 12) – family and friends were unable to attend this very prestigious moment in my lifetime.

Following my Declaration, I had no time to look at the schedule of events I had planned for my year in office; not only were we going through unprecedented times with a world pandemic but the



Meeting His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

situation was exacerbated even further by torrential rain and flooding within my local community. The results were devastating, and I soon became involved in the evacuation and rehousing process, ensuring all occupants were safe and well.

Due to government legislation on shielding, I heard that elderly residents without families of their own were unable to do their regular shopping. I immediately contacted our local store and with myself as driver, Thomas as navigator, and Morgan as grocery carrier,

we set up a free home-delivery service. To see the residents' faces when we placed the groceries outside their doors was priceless.

As we all know, the NHS is going through the greatest challenge in its lifetime, so it was important for me to show my appreciation by providing 'free' transport to NHS and frontline workers, attending the weekly 'clap for carers', and awarding High Sheriff's Special Recognition Awards to deserving doctors' surgeries and practices.

Who would have thought that behind the scenes, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales had got to hear about my local community work? On Monday 3 July, Prince Charles made a personal visit to Abercynon, a very small village in my community, to show his thanks. I was speechless (for once).

At the time of writing this article, if I were to give any tips to my successors, it would be to enjoy and take each day as it comes.



With volunteers at the Salem Chapel food bank



Special delivery to the Tirion Birth Centre

◆ Jason Edwards
High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan 2020-21