



Connecting over breakfast

AS I write this article, I will have completed the first half of my year as High Sheriff. What no one can prepare you for is the huge variety that a High Sheriff will encounter in their year.

Government restrictions in April meant that the date of my Declaration at Little Driffeld Church had to be changed and the guest list reduced from 40 to 15. Also our summer reception followed by our civic garden party the next day was postponed from June until July and then unfortunately cancelled – it didn't feel right to go ahead. Despite these setbacks I have not had too many restrictions apart from social distancing, smaller gatherings, face masks and fewer civic ceremonies.

At my Declaration I set out my aims for the year with my special interest being Early Intervention. I organised a 25-mile sponsored bike ride to raise money for the Tribune Trust, a unique partnership between the High Sheriffs of the East Riding and Lincolnshire, Humberside Police, and Humberside Fire & Rescue. The trust is especially keen to support initiatives which involve young people because early intervention is so important in helping them head in the right direction in life. The bike ride was a huge success and thanks to everyone's generosity over £16,000 was raised, with Gift Aid to add to this figure.

It was important to thank as many organisations and people as possible for all that they achieved during the pandemic and to thank the volunteers on the vaccination programme. Wherever I went I was met with such enthusiasm and a feeling of better times ahead.

The police have been outstanding, giving their time to show me all aspects of policing.



At the Slavery Remembrance Day commemoration with Angela Murden (centre left), Hull AFRO Caribbean Association, Sidi Majubah and Bongi Mokone

The police community support officers work tirelessly to integrate all members of society with their tact and humour.

The opportunity to visit any organisation in the county is something I will never experience again. The variety is staggering – sitting on the bench with a High Court judge at a murder trial followed the next day joining litter pickers and then delivering on behalf of the food bank.

I enjoyed hosting recently a High Sheriff's Breakfast which managed to join

Below left: Richard Shepherdson with volunteers for the charity bike ride

Below right: At the wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the R38/ZR-2 airship disaster. With Lord Mayor of Hull, Admiral of the Humber, Cllr Lynn Petrini, Graham Petrini, Air Commodore Ian Stewart CBE DL RAF, Air Vice Marshal Clare Walton QHP RAF and Captain Kevin Quarader USN



Issi and Richard Shepherdson with Ashley Mason (Sheriff of York and CPG Chair for Humberside) for the dedication of a new ambulance

leading representatives of the Lieutenancy, judiciary, police, fire and rescue, business, agriculture, education, health, church and sport with local charities. Many new connections were made that morning.

I look forward to so much more planned before my year comes to an end soon after my Legal Service in March.

Richard Shepherdson

High Sheriff of the East Riding of Yorkshire 2021-22

