



## Forever changed and enriched

I WAS sworn in as the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire on Friday 26 March, 2021. We were in Step 1 of the ‘roadmap out of lockdown’, which, if you recall, was: no visitors indoors (households only); the ‘rule of six’ outdoors; only six people at weddings or wakes; stay at home; no holidays or travel; and no more than 30 people at a funeral. All of which sadly meant my Declaration Ceremony in 2021 could not be an in-person event.

So, for the second year running, the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire’s Declaration Ceremony was held virtually. Fortunately, we could see this coming, and the planning for my year as High Sheriff was full of contingencies if meetings could not take place face to face and/or we had further lockdowns. Freedom Day occurred on Monday 19 July, and from there on I had a packed diary of events. We had a six-week hiatus when Plan B was introduced just before Christmas and throughout January, but that meant that many of my shrieval appointments and events were postponed rather than cancelled.

In the 12 months since I was sworn in, I have... sat in Crown, family, and magistrates’ courts; visited the probation



High Sheriff lighting the flame at Diwali celebrations



Healing Arc interfaith event with the High Sheriffs from Bedfordshire (Eric Masih) and Northamptonshire (Hon Mrs Lowther DL)



With competitors at Olney where the pancake race originated!

services; visited all of the police stations in Buckinghamshire as well as the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner at their headquarters in Kidlington; visited all of the prisons in the Thames Valley Region (including Broadmoor Secure Hospital); visited the fire and rescue services, several NHS hospitals, the coroners’ courts in Beaconsfield and Milton Keynes; visited with local MPs, conducted citizenship ceremonies, and attended British Empire Medal investitures.

I have attended a great many charitable organisations and events far too numerous to mention, and have been involved with several tree plantings under The Queen’s Green Canopy initiative. I have travelled the length and breadth of this great county several times over.

I mention all these events because, just over one year ago, I was an ‘ordinary’ private citizen, who in all likelihood would have had very little interaction or involvement with many of these essential public service providers and charitable organisations. As my year comes to its natural end, I can only express my admiration and respect for organisations



At the Police Awards in Aylesbury Crown Court with His Honour Judge Sheridan and award recipients



QGC tree planting in Weedon (my village) with Sir Francis Hapgood QPM DL

like the judiciary, the police and prison services, and many others which have had to operate in the most challenging of circumstances over the past 18 months. As I slip back under the warm duvet of private citizen obscurity, my life has been forever changed and enriched by the honour of being the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire.

Here are just a few of the highlights of my year:

- being the returning officer at the Chesham and Amersham by-election
- raising in excess of £60,000 for the Milton Keynes University Hospital Cancer Centre at my charity golf day at Woburn Golf Club
- creating a new website and social media presences on Twitter (>700 followers) and Instagram (>300 followers)
- winning the adult led category at the National Crimebeat Awards with Hospital Navigators (see page 9)

Thank you, everyone, it’s been a great year, and I have loved every minute of it.

**George Anson**  
*High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire 2021-22*