



What goes on under the radar

WHAT AN incredible first six months as High Sheriff – almost impossible to put into 500 words. First, I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone I have had the pleasure to meet and work alongside during those months who have been so inspirational and supportive and enabled me to have a more in-depth knowledge of what really goes on under the radar across our county and beyond.

I have reflected on my six months and would like to share a few photographs of just some of the events. It is phenomenal quite how much work goes on across sectors and the impact of that work in providing a more positive life experience for those in need. I have had the opportunity to see how the people in our county do some amazing things, and I have been thrilled to work with young people undertaking wonderful work in a voluntary capacity.

South Wales Police and Police Youth Volunteers, together with borough councils have been so engaging and supportive while always going that extra mile to make things happen. The huge number of charitable events has been

really impressive so far and I am very humbled by what they do and achieve.

Being part of the judicial system and meeting judges, probation staff, magistrates and many others has given me further insight into the work they do.

Presenting High Sheriff's Awards to those who have made a difference in their communities either as a group or individual volunteer has also been so inspirational.



At Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Pontypridd for a remembrance service for Armed Forces Day with officers from South Wales Police and Lord-Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, Peter Vaughan QPM



Presenting a High Sheriff's Award to John Codd, now 92 years old, who has volunteered at Rowan Tree Cancer Care in Mountain Ash for over 40 years

There are two very exceptional occasions that I have had the privilege and honour to be part of during my first six months. The first was meeting His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall in July. They visited Treorchy in the Rhondda Valley of Mid Glamorgan after the town won an award for having the best high street – not just in Wales but in the United Kingdom. Thousands of people were there and many of the shops were visited by the royal party – an amazing occasion.

The second was being part of the solemn and ancient Proclamation ceremony marking the Accession of King Charles III, which took place across the country. Following the Proclamation that I made at Merthyr Tydfil I reflected on the passing of our late monarch who touched so many people, with many finding it very difficult to comprehend.

While very sad at The Late Queen's passing, I was hugely honoured and privileged to read the Proclamation – a profound moment in history.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the role as High Sheriff and I look forward to the next six months.



In Treorchy with Their Royal Highnesses The Duchess of Cornwall and The Prince of Wales, and the Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Cllr Wendy Treeby

◆ Maria Thomas BEM JP
High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan 2022-23