



Fantastic community response

IT WAS a great honour to take over the historic Office of High Sheriff of Staffordshire in April and a privilege to be able to celebrate the Jubilee of the longest-serving monarch in British history. But my first six months as High Sheriff have also seen the end of that reign and the great sadness across the county, country and Commonwealth as we mourned Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The High Sheriff's duties at that time included reading the Proclamation of our new King and I was able to see first-hand the deep affection and respect for our Queen and what her passing has symbolised for so many people.

It's now the role of the High Sheriff to support King Charles III in all matters of law and order and to continue to bring people together in the county and to benefit the community.

My engagement with the local community has been wide and varied, ranging from visits to HM Prison Stafford and Werrington Young Offender Institution, to the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service and the National Memorial Arboretum.

I have been overwhelmed and honoured by the sheer quantity of invitations I have received to experience and celebrate the incredible work that goes into making Staffordshire the county that it is. It warms my heart

to see the crowds of people all eager to engage with their local community especially given that only a year ago socialising in large groups was still a cautious task because of Covid.

As the High Sheriff of Staffordshire, I was delighted to attend the vaccination volunteers' celebrations at the Pirelli Stadium, home of Burton Albion FC where I am chairman. The English Football League (EFL) recognised the Pirelli Vaccination Centre as the Best Community Project of the Year among all 72 clubs competing in the EFL. The first dose was administered at the Pirelli Stadium COVID-19 Vaccination Centre in December 2020, which was the catalyst for an incredible response to the pandemic in the local community. Eighteen months later over 400,000 vaccinations have been administered (now including flu jabs) saving the lives of countless residents. This fantastic community response would not have been possible without the selfless volunteers who put their hands up amid a national emergency and the support of the Burton Albion Community Trust. I assisted the Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire Ian Dudson CBE who presented volunteers with certificates and COVID badges as a token of appreciation for their dedication and the timeless hours they undertook in supporting the vaccination programme.

I was delighted to have been invited to the Staffordshire Garden Party Marquee at the Staffordshire County Showground by the Lord-Lieutenant. It was a great privilege to be one of the 500 nominees from organisations across the county invited in recognition of their outstanding service to the community of Staffordshire throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. The celebrations also coincided with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

I engaged in many celebrations across the Jubilee weekend, notably the official opening of the new Jubilee Park in the village of Loggerheads. I hope the children who attended will remember the Jubilee celebrations fondly and they will bring their families to the park in the future.

It was my profound honour to perform the first Proclamation in over 70 years on the steps of the Shire Hall building in Stafford and the Stoke-on-Trent Cenotaph. It was delightful to see hundreds of Staffordshire citizens who had travelled to pay their respects to Her Late Majesty and witness the historical event of proclaiming King Charles III. I hope these events will be recalled by the citizens of Staffordshire for generations to come.

Ben Robinson MBE BEM DL
High Sheriff of Staffordshire 2022-23



Image: Elan Homes

With Kate Davis from Elan Homes at the official opening of Jubilee Park in the village of Loggerheads; the new Brook Meadow development by Elan Homes crowned its play area in honour of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee



Image: Robert Yardley Photography

With L-R: Sydney Sawyers, Jane Sawyers QPM DL (former Chief Constable of Staffordshire), Ruby Nagi and Pritpal Singh Nagi MBE DL at the Staffordshire Platinum Jubilee Garden Party



Image: Robert Yardley Photography

With front L-R: handler Greg Hedges and the mascot of Staffordshire Regimental Association, Cpl Watchman VI, Jane Dudson and Lord-Lieutenant Ian Dudson at the Staffordshire County Show