



In the international spotlight

WHEN I was sworn in as High Sheriff of the County of West Midlands in April 2022, I knew that it was a real privilege to have been asked to take on this role and everything that I have seen and done since then has proved that to be true.

This was always going to be a momentous year for the country and, particularly, for the West Midlands region. We were at the tail end of UK City of Culture in my home city of Coventry and I was fortunate enough to be the High Sheriff for the final month of celebrations which were truly spectacular.

Then, of course, we had the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, with activity and excitement stretching across the whole of the region which all helped to put the West Midlands and the country in the international spotlight.

The Commonwealth Games has a very dear place in my heart and I was asked to be the Mayor of the Athletes Village at the University of Warwick, which was wonderful. I've experienced

Games' villages before and they are very special places – this was no different.

There was so much joy spread among the many representatives of so many nations and, for me, if that proves to be my last 'hands-on' experience of a Games then it was extremely fitting and wonderful to be part of it.

This role has also afforded me the opportunity to be involved with Armed Forces Day celebrations in Birmingham and Wolverhampton, which were particularly poignant during these troubled times and a great opportunity to pay tribute to those who make up the Armed Forces community.

I've seen many great projects and causes which benefit so many people in the West Midlands such as the Sense TouchBase Pears (supporting adults and children who are deafblind, have sensory impairments or complex needs) and I also took part in a lovely memory session run by CV Life in Coventry which gave individuals that safe place of looking back into the past, which can be comforting.

With my counterpart, Heather Phillips – the High Sheriff of Greater London – I have seen the great work that the charity Beating Time is doing both in and out of prisons by presenting opportunities for those who are serving time and for those who have recently come out of prison, who need support around finding a job and integrating back into society.

Of course, I cannot look back upon my first six months in this role without reflecting on Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

First, it was a joy to be part of the celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee. When I became High Sheriff that was something I was really looking forward to and the outpouring of love for The Queen and the joy that the weekend brought could be seen right across the West Midlands.

We saw that outpouring of love and gratitude again more recently but this time due to the very sad passing of Her Majesty. It was a moment that touched the whole world.

Part of my role was to ensure that the Proclamation was read out across all local authority areas in the West Midlands and I attended the event in Coventry; I pay tribute to the Lord Mayor, Cllr Kevin Maton, for the way he handled it so sensitively and dutifully.

It was an extremely moving few days and while extremely sorrowful, I was proud to fulfil such an important duty – something Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II took very seriously.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to everyone who has supported me in this role so far, including Lord-Lieutenant John Crabtree OBE, all of the Deputy Lieutenants, who do such a great job for the region, my Cadet, Pavan Johal, the Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce and, finally, the network of High Sheriffs across the Midlands.

David Moorcroft OBE
High Sheriff of West Midlands 2022-23



Above: At an impromptu service for Her Late Majesty at Coventry Cathedral on the Friday evening after her death

Above right: At the premiere of the West Midlands Platinum Jubilee Anthem with Linda Moorcroft, Oliver Hayne (composer), John Crabtree OBE (Lord-Lieutenant) and Diana Crabtree

Right: With some of the 1,000s of volunteers at the Commonwealth Games

