

Volunteering for community good

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High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear 2022-23

The end of a very special and quick year and it has been an honour, privilege, and pleasure to be the High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear for the shrieval year 2022/23 – a year which will live long in the memory.

My theme for the year was 'volunteering for community good' and I have been lucky enough to have visited dozens of venues and events including community libraries, community gardens, businesses, cadet groups, schools and law courts which all depend on volunteers to make them work. In all these, individuals freely give up their time and skills to help others and to help to make their communities better, and my thanks go to each and every one.

What I have been most pleased about with my year in office has been the engagement with young people and how they volunteer for community good. There are dozens of examples, but I would like to use two groups to help to illustrate my point: Northumbria Police Cadets and West Denton Fire Cadets.

I am delighted to report that the Northumbria Police Cadets with their project Operation Hayness this year won National Crimebeat's the High Sheriffs' Association Award (see pages 14-16) with an innovative plan to reduce the purchase of alcohol from retail premises by underage people. This project led to a measurable reduction in crime in the area and has had a long-lasting effect as to how we manage



Above: Presenting a High Sheriff's Award to cadet leader Karen Soady, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Below: With the West Denton Fire Cadets to present their award



Photos: TWFRS

underage alcohol purchase in our region. I have spoken to both senior and local officers of Northumbria Police who have all commented on the significant positive long-term impact of the project.

The West Denton Fire Cadets this year won the High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear Fund's top award for the considerable work they do to help others over a long period of time. Every week the cadets learn new skills which help them develop a range of technical and life skills. I set them a challenge – what they could do for community good – and they responded with imagination, determination, and hard work completing challenges, raising funds, and working with a special needs school. A perfect example of young people doing something for community good.

Finally, I would like to wish every 'new' High Sheriff all the best for their year in office and to reassure you that you will be well supported as I have been by your Lord-Lieutenant, previous High Sheriffs and your Under Sheriff. Have a great and memorable year in office.