

Thank, encourage and recognise

Henrietta Chubb JP

High Sheriff of Leicestershire 2023-24

On 29 March 2023 I made my Declaration in a simple ceremony, part of which was a solemn promise to work hard for all citizens who maintain The King's peace, administer justice and protect and support their fellow citizens.

I started with an empty diary apart from a Justice Service to organise in October, a part to play on Remembrance Day and perhaps attending carol services in the future. I began a campaign to get to know as much of the city and county as possible, especially where the role of the High Sheriff is not known.

I purposely did not set a theme for my year in order to be open to everyone, but to still carry out the principles of the Office of the High Sheriff of supporting the judiciary, emergency services, crime reduction, volunteers and charities. I chose three charities to support: Warning Zone, Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation and Charity Link, who together support a broad range of the community.

It has been my aim to connect with the less visible smaller charities, organisations and volunteers who rarely get recognition to ensure they feel seen and valued. It is here where I believe the impact of the High Sheriff can make the biggest difference.

Although it has taken some time to build contacts, I have learnt that a 'thank you' from the High Sheriff can mean so very much. Giving awards to members of the community who would not normally receive awards and perhaps never dreamed of being thanked has been humbling.

Early in my year I attended police ceremonies for Long Service, Bravery and Chief Constable Awards where I heard of achievements, dedication and acts of selfless bravery demonstrating the amazing police we are lucky to have serving and protecting our county. The press may generally choose to report when things go wrong and perhaps not to celebrate when police do exceptional work. They do great work and can certainly shift through country lanes when called in an emergency – luckily I thought to take travel pills that day! Thanks to our Chief Constable the connection between the police and Shrievalty in Leicestershire is strong.

In the first half of my year as High Sheriff I have had the privilege of meeting people



On a visit to Golden Gloves Boxing Club, Braunstone



With recipients of BBC Leicester's Make a Difference Bravery Award, PCSOs Phillip Grimwood and Matt Jones

who serve in our police, ambulance and fire services, cleaners, therapeutic counsellors, royalty, armed service personnel, Lord-Lieutenants, religious leaders, community leaders, addicts, homeless, Deputy Lieutenants, sexual abuse survivors, prisoners, families of and people with living with sickness and disability, scouts, judges, award-winners and fellow High Sheriffs, to name just a few.

I've heard stories of immense bravery and also of horrific experiences and have met people facing such unbelievable adversity in its many guises. I have also had the privilege of hearing stories of faith, hope and many successes stories. I have learnt there are numerous people here in Leicestershire who just believe in getting on with protecting us and helping those in need and improving and enhancing the life of their community. I am looking forward to thanking, encouraging and recognising more of these outstanding people during the rest of my year.

Having spent the first part of my year gaining a deeper understanding of my county and its challenges I find I am in a unique position to connect people and



On a visit to Countryside Enterprises CIC (a community enterprise run by adults with learning disabilities)



Completing the 3 Peaks of Leicestershire Challenge for Charity Link

organisations. I have raised funds for my chosen charities and from being unused to self-promotion on social media I have now learnt its power for the organisations I visit.

In the second part of my year I wish to continue to increase and strengthen those connections, to raise the profile and understanding of the role of the High Sheriff in the city and county, and to ensure that the office is handed on in good shape. It has been a wonderful, fascinating, life-changing, fun and exhausting six months, for which I am so grateful. I wonder what I will report in the next issue!