

Celebrating young people and communities

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High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire 2023-24

My year as High Sheriff so far has been wonderful, exciting and at times extreme!

The Coronation service at Southwell Minster was an amazing day for us all where we were able to bring together many of our diverse communities from across the county. It was a really uplifting and joyful celebration enjoyed by all on a sunny day.

My Declaration ceremony was held in the YMCA Community Activity Village in Newark.

Young people and communities are at the heart of my year as High Sheriff so this was a perfect place to start as I intended to carry on, showcasing not only the work of this amazing charity but also the skills of many young people through their performances and the cultural traditions. The whole service was live streamed to many countries including my country of birth, Kenya. I was honoured to not only be accompanied by the Lord-Lieutenant Sir John Peace but also by the Kenyan High Commissioner, His Excellency Manohar Espisu.

In June I was able to bring together nearly 300 young people and their organisations in Sherwood Forest to celebrate their work and their achievements. It turned out to be an amazing party with live music, and an RAF fly past. It was lovely also to be supported by some of our regional High Sheriffs from Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Derbyshire, Rutland and South Yorkshire, all in full court dress in the sweltering heat on what turned out to be the hottest day of the year.

Supporting my county and city became a major focus in June as thousands gathered to pay respects to those who were attacked and killed in Nottingham. It was my very sad duty to accompany the Lord-Lieutenant and civic leaders at the vigil in the city square following the deaths two young students and a much loved school caretaker. The response from the people of Nottingham was amazing and very touching, as we all stood together in solidarity with the University of Nottingham and the police to offer support and condolences to the parents and families during this very challenging time.

I have had the pleasure of being able to attend several major events and



At the start of the Tour of Britain cycle race

celebrations during my first six months as High Sheriff. One of the highlights was the visit of HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh to the Flintham agricultural show. Another being several events marking the 75th anniversary of Windrush, celebrating the contributions of African Caribbean communities. I attended the main event at the council house hosted by the Nottingham City Council.

I've had a number of very interesting and revealing days out with our front-line services, including attending the police long service awards, swimming in the Trent in full gear with the fire service, and lots more planned. I'm committed to supporting the great work that they all do in serving our communities and helping to keep us all safe.

It was great fun and a privilege to be asked to launch the Nottinghamshire leg of the Tour of Britain cycle race starting at the RSPB site in Sherwood Forest and finishing in Newark; and following that to be invited to open the new youth and family cycle track with the YMCA.

It's been a very busy and rewarding first half of my year, and the next six months promise to be just as busy and intriguing. I am of course getting to know our amazing judges and have planned a reception and dinner in their honour!

Right: At a Windrush 75 reception with pupils from Welbeck Primary School



With Alex and Danni from Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue

