

My first one hundred days



With Michael Pace (Under Sheriff) and Richard Lake (outgoing High Sheriff of Lincolnshire)

Philip Dymoke

High Sheriff of Lincolnshire 2024-25

Starting out on the path as a High Sheriff seemed easy and fun. Much advice was received from many people – those who had undertaken the role previously and those who knew best, which was often not the same. Anyway, the main suggestions were to do as much or as little as I wanted and that a PA would prove invaluable. The turnover went without fault and my predecessor departed happily, the responsibility now being with me.

Having decided to take on this role in retirement I had no intention of having a PA. I had many emails and invitations to respond to, social media to follow and realised early on that maintaining a diary

correctly was vital. It was a task I was to do alone but I do have much needed assistance in the social media area and a kind consort, my wife. Knowing the distances to be travelled and timings to be adhered to was vital. Lincolnshire covers a very large area. I had no desire to receive an unnecessary speeding fine or parking ticket if avoidable. It was interesting to read a recent article in the High Sheriffs' Association magazine where one of last year's High Sheriffs had completed many journeys on foot or by bicycle. The distances involved in Lincolnshire prohibit this for me.

A piece of advice to future High Sheriffs is to ensure they know what to wear, where to park, who will meet them and, if necessary, where to change. These small points certainly make the many events much simpler. Once an engagement is accepted that is what will be attended, even if something else that is considered to be more worthwhile emerges.

Having seen the police, been to court and visited all Lincolnshire's prisons in my time thus far has been both fascinating and rewarding. The warmth with which I have been welcomed is most touching. In no way have I ever felt an outsider. I have had the privilege of presenting long service medals to the police and some 52 Coronation medals to prison staff and this I will continue to do in thanks for all their hard work.

I have attended dinners of the highest standards and been greeted with great



Taking the salute at the Armed Forces Day parade in Spalding with Major (Retd) Tim Brown and the Revd John Bennet

kindness. Much time has been spent in Lincoln Cathedral both in services and presentations which have included university degree ceremonies. As the year progresses it is clear that I can continue to acknowledge making some peoples' contributions more valued by showing an interest and giving praise where praise is due.

I have had the honour of taking salutes for retired service personnel, attending parades and being the returning officer for a county constituency during the general election, a task that has been a responsibility for High Sheriffs for many years gone past. The value of presenting awards can never be underestimated, and this is such an important and helpful task to fulfil which I will continue with in the coming months with the issuing of High Sheriff's Awards and Certificates.

This initial period has given me great insight into how I may be of use and how I may help others over the coming months. The first one hundred days are now over and, as we head into the autumn and winter months, much remains to be done, with more visits planned. A recent visit to the Air Ambulance with other High Sheriffs from the East Midlands group was fascinating. It also provided a useful catch-up and insight into what we have all individually been doing over the past months. The year so far certainly seems to be most fulfilling for all of us.



East Midlands High Sheriffs visiting the Air Ambulance: Nick Rubins (Notts, second left); John Chatfeild-Roberts (Leics, third left); Philip Dymoke (Lincs, fourth left); Ian Morgan (Derby, third right); and Richard Cole (Rutland, far right)