

# The greatest good fortune

## Charles Moyle JP

High Sheriff of Worcestershire 2024-25

If there is a more fortunate High Sheriff in the country I'd be pleased to meet them! I have had the greatest good fortune with so many 'big ticket' events happening on my watch; put simply, six months of wonderful adventures – it has been the greatest privilege to serve as High Sheriff of Worcestershire and to have experienced what I have.

My very first event post Declaration was to be part of the quite stunning Maundy Service at Worcester Cathedral attended by Her Majesty The Queen. One hundred and fifty recipients from all four corners of our country came together to be recognised and were awarded their tokens of appreciation within a staggering environment of the grandest pageantry I have ever experienced – just a remarkable and extraordinary day, never to be forgotten.

The D-Day memorial services held throughout the county were immensely poignant. Veterans of all denominations, creeds, colour and Commonwealth nations came together to remember the immense sacrifice of their friends, their family and their regiments, their squadrons and ships. They will never be forgotten...

Being the returning officer for the West Worcestershire constituency at the general election offered a special insight into our democratic election system at its very best. The winner was noble in victory, the losers gracious in defeat. The dozens of staff and volunteers delivering the result were so immensely good-humoured even when they had to re-count the result multiple times – particularly when one considers it was four o'clock in the morning!



With some of the recipients of a High Sheriff's Award: Mikey's Boxing Club in Kidderminster and Avenbury Care Farm near Bishops Frome



At Worcester Cathedral for the Maundy Service with Her Majesty The Queen and the Rt Revd Dr John Inge, Bishop of Worcester



At a D-Day memorial service with one of many veterans and Dr The Hon Gilbert Greenall CBE DL (Vice Lord-Lieutenant)

The experience of joining the West Mercia Police elite serious and organised crime task force on two drug farm raids will stay with me for a very, very long time. Apart from witnessing their terrific professionalism what stood out was the appalling squalor the 'growers' were made to live in. It was also depressing that, in 2024 Britain, people are hiding in plain sight (in one case the 'farm' was exactly opposite the town's police station), fuelling a trade to feed the streets with substances that only ever cause complete misery. The two raids I attended removed over £1m worth of narcotics from Worcestershire and dealt with three growers – how many more are operating from a disused shop or shed near you?

Above all the greatest privilege has been working with Worcestershire's regional mayors. These local politicians

of all colours and hue have the very best insight into exactly what is happening in our communities – they have been a fundamental key for me to meet some truly remarkable organisations. I tasked each mayor's office to curate a tour of their town whereby the mayor and I, together with local press, would meet and thank the staff, volunteers, trustees, donors and end users of dozens and dozens of community organisations and charities. The dedicated care and provision of companionship to the scores of lonely and sometimes house-bound people has touched me deeply. It has been an honour to mark their dedicated work by presenting awards and medals wherever I have been lucky enough to have been invited.

What a privilege this role has been and continues to be.

