

Daunting, fascinating, rewarding



At Midlands Air Ambulance headquarters on the occasion of their volunteers' party with Charles Moyle (Worcs), Julia Mitchell (Staffs) and Patricia Churchward (Herefordshire)

Brian Welti JP

High Sheriff of Shropshire

Serving as the custodian of this historic role in a modern world has been daunting, fascinating, rewarding and, of course, an absolute privilege and honour.

I look back with great pleasure on the many engagements that I have made throughout the ceremonial County of Shropshire, getting to thank the representatives of our legal system, where I have observed the Crown, Family, Coroners' and Magistrates' Courts, as well as the probation and prison services. I have patrolled with the police, attended the attestation of our new Chief Constable and 20 new recruits, and witnessed the swearing in of the PCC.

I was able to fulfil the High Sheriff's role as returning officer for the county, resulting in a 38-hour shift without sleep due to pre-booked engagements on the Friday after. Nevertheless, an unforgettable experience.

A busy military year with the 80th

D-Day celebrations and my visit to RAF Shawbury to fly in the helicopter simulator, experience the air traffic and tactical weapons training simulators as well taking the salute at local town march pasts.

I have been humbled by the kindness and generosity of my many hosts and when meeting some of the 74,000 volunteers we know about in the county, who are involved in such an incredible variety of organisations, celebrations, anniversaries and groups all generously sparing the time to share with me what they do. I had the opportunity to thank many of them by staging a high tea event at Telford Fire Station hosting 300 guests representing many of the charities I visited.

Of particular note was the 2025 High Sheriff of Shropshire's Young Citizen Awards at Telford College where I presented special awards to 64 inspiring young people who had achieved amazing things in their young lives – that was in addition to the 70 or so High Sheriff's Recognition Awards made throughout the year.

I have recently launched the High Sheriff's Fund for 2024-25, inviting applications from charities and organisations to help young people improve their lives and help to give them clear direction.

A visit to the new headquarters of the Midlands Air Ambulance in Shropshire, saw the High Sheriffs of Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire all presenting awards at the same event to recipients from our respective counties – a wonderful day all working together.

It has been a joy to visit many more such organisations and groups, and I hope I have been able to impart a wider understanding of the Shrievalty. I have thanked a great many people for the incredible work and service they give as volunteers both individually and within charitable organisations; our county and society would not survive without them.

I have been humbled by the efforts that have gone into making my visits memorable.

I have supported our Lord-Lieutenant at three royal visits and presented certificates at the citizenship ceremony.

I have been privileged to be a part of the West Midlands region or posse (as we called it) of High Sheriffs. Posse did seem to be the appropriate collective noun. We gelled very early on in our journey through nomination, regularly chatting, meeting up and exchanging ideas.

My chosen theme for the year was to raise the profile of all the issues affecting farming and rural communities – which has taken on even more meaning during my year of office – supporting the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution and Shropshire Rural Support which are both busier than ever.



In the company of mayors, magistrates, visiting High Sheriffs, High Court judges and members of the police leaving from Oswestry School to process to the legal service Photo: Russell Davies Photography



Presenting a High Sheriff's Award to Martin Wood, Town Crier of Shrewsbury, marking his 40 years of service