

Showcasing the county's rich cultural heritage

Douglas Wright MBD DL

High Sheriff of the West Midlands 2024-2025

As my term as High Sheriff of the West Midlands comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on a year filled with extraordinary experiences, meaningful engagements and the privilege of serving our community. It has truly been a fascinating and rewarding journey, allowing me to witness first-hand the dedication and resilience of volunteers and individuals committed to making a difference.

Over the past year, I have completed 165 engagements, each providing a unique opportunity to connect with the diverse voices of our community. From civic visits to local organisations and schools, these engagements have reinforced my belief in the power of social cohesion and community spirit.

One of the highlights of my year was hosting High Court judges from the Midlands Circuit at various events, including a local Champions League football game, a cricket match at Edgbaston, a ballet at the Birmingham Hippodrome and a dinner. These occasions not only celebrated the arts and sport but also fostered connections between the judiciary and our vibrant community. It was a privilege to bring together such distinguished guests in settings that showcased the rich cultural heritage of our region.

In addition to these events, I had the honour of recognising the remarkable contributions of individuals across the West Midlands. I proudly handed out 40 High Sheriff's Awards to court staff who have gone above and beyond in their duties, acknowledging their dedication to justice and service. Furthermore, I presented 66 High Sheriff's Awards to community members who have made



At Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College with St John Ambulance Cadets

significant contributions in various fields, celebrating their exceptional commitment to volunteerism and mentorship. Hearing their inspiring stories reinforced my belief in the positive impact we can all have on our community.

Throughout my year, I also had the pleasure of attending several civic services which provided a platform to celebrate our shared values and commitment to community service. These occasions served as important reminders of our collective responsibility to support and uplift one another.

A particularly memorable experience was my day spent at Birmingham Law Court as part of the Intensive Supervision Court (ISC) pilot programme. Observing the judicial process and engaging with the dedicated professionals working within the system deepened my appreciation for the rule of law and the vital role that our courts play in ensuring justice.

My visits to community organisations allowed me to witness the incredible work being done to support vulnerable populations. From food banks to youth mentorship programmes, these organisations are essential in addressing



At the opening of Coventry Law Courts with Dame Sue Carr, the Lady Chief Justice

the challenges faced by many in our communities. It was inspiring to see the passion and commitment of those involved and I was honoured to lend my support to their efforts.

Following the implementation of my High Sheriff's Magistrates Recruitment Programme I had the pleasure of speaking at Joseph Leckie School alongside two magistrates, promoting the important work of magistrates and encouraging students to consider careers in law and public service. Similarly, my visit to Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College provided an opportunity for my High Sheriff's cadets to share their experiences and highlight the importance of volunteering. Their enthusiasm and dedication to volunteering roles were truly commendable.

As my term as High Sheriff comes to an end, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported me throughout this journey. It has been an incredible honour to serve as High Sheriff of the West Midlands and I look forward to seeing how future High Sheriffs will build upon the foundations laid this year.



Presenting High Sheriff's Awards to the court staff at the ISC pilot at Birmingham Magistrates' Court