

Multum in parvo

Colonel Richard Chesterfield

High Sheriff of Rutland 2025-26

My preparation for the role of High Sheriff was broad. It introduced me to a wide network of engaging individuals and especially my wonderful fellow High Sheriffs in the East Midlands. In addition, my predecessor gave his time generously, providing advice and guidance. This was both welcome and valuable, and I am most grateful to him. In particular, it became clear that the role has great freedoms which I could use to be a force for good in the county. Hopefully, the conditions for success have been set.

Rutland is the smallest county and its motto, *Multum in parvo*, provided me with the kernel of an idea. That was to engage in the small things that improve people's lives, those which bind communities together and which make this county such a wonderful place to be.

Both my Under Sheriff and Chaplain have been a great help making suggestions, testing ideas and opening doors. They truly are an integral part of the team and role of High Sheriff. Similarly, having a close working relationship with the Lord-Lieutenant has ensured effective cooperation and prevented duplication.

Almost all my engagements have been joyous; some have been serious and all have been life-affirming. I have met amazing people working quietly in plain sight hidden by the noise of everyday life. My first engagement was with Root and Branch Out, a small community interest company, nurturing community through nature. I had several cheerful afternoons



Rutland Sailability facilitates safe sailing for people with disabilities

at their allotment chattering away with participants who enjoy the benefit of a gentler environment.

In today's society, resilience is of increasing importance and it has been a privilege to visit drop-in centres – like Peppers – which provide a calm welcoming environment to help combat loneliness and improve wellbeing. Similarly, the Rutland Man's Club provides a safe space to speak of life's challenges and to support one another in times of need. In addition, the Armed Forces Breakfast Clubs in both Oakham and HMP Stocken – as well as other clubs – serve to increase social capital in our society.

The range of charitable work in the county came as a great surprise to me. Based on Rutland Water, Rutland Sailability

facilitates safe sailing for people with disabilities across a wide range – from beginners to elite competition. I was privileged to attend the UK Challenger Championship and present prizes. It was truly uplifting as participants young and old revelled in the joy of competition, striving to overcome adversity and be the best.

As a motorcyclist I naturally took a special interest in the Longest Day Challenge which has, over the last 13 years, raised significant funds for Cancer Research UK and Leicestershire and Rutland Blood Bikers. This latter vibrant charity distributes blood products and medical supplies to the NHS and air ambulance all year round. I've also walked with a group of ladies hiking the Rutland Round to raise monies for Breast Cancer UK. So many people are doing extraordinary things for their communities.

I have also had the opportunity to visit Leicester Crown Court, the Magistrates' Court and Leicestershire Police all of which serve Rutland. The visits to the courts were eye-opening. The professionalism, dedication and diligence were of the highest order. That this was tempered with compassion and an understanding of the human condition was confidence-inspiring. Similarly, our police make a terrific contribution in protecting our communities in often difficult and challenging circumstances; I thank them for their outstanding service.

In sum, I am humbled by the number of people who serve our community and county in a myriad of ways. I wish there was more opportunity to thank them and publicise their generosity and humanity.



With the Blood Bikers who serve the Air Ambulance within the East Midlands



With Dr Sarah Furness (Lord-Lieutenant), Police Cadet Martha Barrett and my chaplain, the Venerable John Ellis CB (RAF Retd) and others for Armed Forces Week