

# Welcoming the new High Sheriff



We have received the below message from Andrew Horncastle MBE who is the new High Sheriff of the East Riding of Yorkshire

## **To all who work within the Humberside Police serving our communities**

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak about the role of the High Sheriff and to introduce myself as the current High Sheriff of the East Riding of Yorkshire.

My name is Andrew Horncastle, I don't watch the news it depresses me, I know the real world contains much more good than bad.

I run a local construction and property business. I was born and bred in Hull and the East Riding. I went to school in Hessle, then Howden and later attended Hull College before completing a degree in building construction at the then Leeds Polytechnic. I love this area, it is a great place with great people, it has been good to me. Since 2002 outside my business, I have involved myself in the local community, working with groups interested in our local economy and with charities dealing with youth support and medical research. I want to see the region become more prosperous, with a bigger economy better and higher paying jobs. Fix the economy and you can solve so many of our other problems. Within this I want to see more local opportunity for our young people, I think it is sad when we lose local talent to London and other big cities because a young person can't find the lifestyle they want here.

My community work has involved my being a founder member of For Entrepreneurs Only, helping people start adapt and grow businesses, I am also a trustee of the Daisy Appeal, a charity whose aims are to boost medical research in our region. I have worked with the Prince's Trust here since 2008, helping with their enterprise programme and with their development awards.

I have worked with and supported the team at Cat Zero and since 2016 I have been working with St Paul's Boxing Academy helping move that organisation to become a charity with a big audacious future plan.



St Paul's really does change lives and is so much more than a boxing club. Helping people with both their physical and mental health, building their confidence to overcome the issues they face in life. The club is thriving full of positive role models and has more than 450 members', over 110 female, 190 under 14's and 53 between ages 14 and 18. The problem they have is their building is crumbling and we're going to fix it.

Turning to the role the office of the High Sheriff has existed for more than 1000 years since the Shire's were formed. Historically a Sheriff's powers were very extensive including law enforcement, the judging of cases in law courts, responsibility for the collection of taxes, the charge of crown property within the shire and being the principal representative of the crown. However over the centuries these powers have been steadily eroded with responsibility passed on with the creation of the Assizes, the introduction of Coroners and Justices of the Peace. And under the Tudors, the creation of Lord Lieutenants as personal representatives of the Sovereign.

By enactments in 1856 and 1865 all Sheriff's powers concerning the police and prisons passed to the local Constabulary and Prison Commissioner and under an Act of 1883 the care of Crown Property was transferred to the Crown Commissioners.

The Sheriff's Act of 1887 consolidated the law relating to the office of High Sheriff and that remains in force to this day. It is an office that is held by an individual for one year only.

The role of the High Sheriff in the 21st century is very much what the individual wishes to make of it but with certain guiding principles, these are;

To uphold and enhance the ancient office of High Sheriff and make a meaningful contribution to the county during your year.

To uphold and lend active support to the principal organs of the UK Constitution – The Royal Family, the Judiciary, the Police, other law enforcement agencies and emergency services, local authorities and all recognised faith groups.

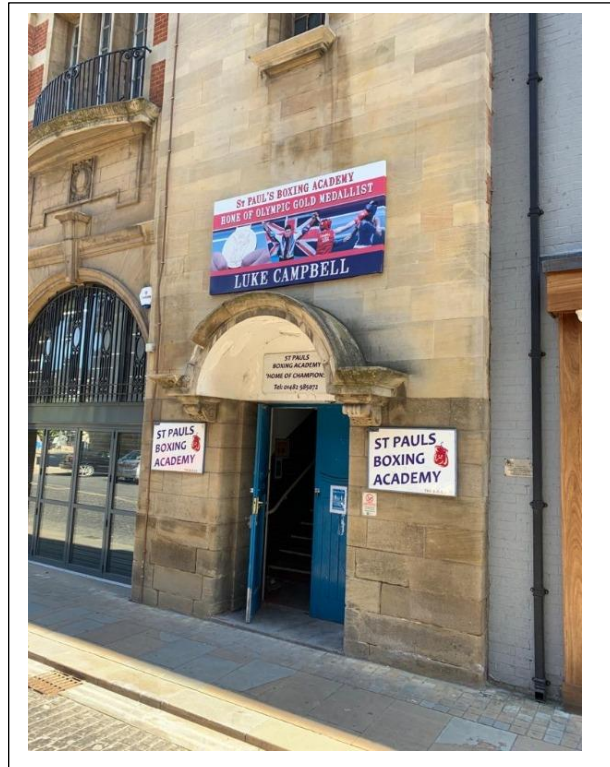
To assure the welfare of visiting High Court judges, to attend on them at court and to offer them hospitality.

To support and encourage the voluntary sector in the county.

To support the Lord Lieutenant on royal visits and on other occasions as appropriate.

Now, I never imagined being asked to do this job and was quite shocked when I received the phone call. I am a kid born in a caravan educated at a pretty awful suburban secondary modern school. Anyway, having had the call, it was suggested I think about it, which I did. After some reading up on the role, it seemed to me a great opportunity to shine more of a light on the issues I care about and have been working towards.

After acceptance your name is put on to the Official Roll of High Sheriffs in nomination. Then each year on the 12th of November (the eve of Martinmas) your name is read out in the Royal Courts of Justice in London by the Queen's Remembrancer in the presence of the Lord Chief Justice, a member of the Privy Council and two High Court Judges. There are strict protocols to be followed, there is no guarantee you will become High Sheriff. You remain in nomination until



Her Majesty the Queen pricks your name with a bodkin on the Sheriff's Roll usually in the following March preceding your prescribed year. Then within a period of only one month, you as the new High Sheriff make your declaration and are sworn in.

My year has been much impacted by Covid 19 and my ceremony was performed by HHJ John Thackray QC our local resident judge and Mr Andrew McCormack chair of the Humber bench. It was performed over a Zoom platform. For me I see the pandemic as a challenge, and I am pleased to have the role in these difficult times.

Two months into my year I have helped raise funds that have gone out to groups working across the county's local communities, recognising the fantastic efforts small groups of volunteers have made to those in need of help and support. Small really has been effective as opposed to big government.

With the impact of Covid 19 on planned VE day celebrations I was delighted to participate in an online tribute to mark the 75-year anniversary. That generation gave us so much and their example continues to be such a source of inspiration to us all today.

I have begun meeting people within the Police and other agencies as well as those working in the third sector and look forward to continuing to do so and providing any support I can.

The biggest Covid 19 impact on my role has been how it has curtailed Civic engagements and we shall have to see what happens on days like Remembrance Day as the guidance allows.

Finally, despite a delay due to the pandemic local contractor Houlton began work on North Church Side in Hull, the home of St Paul's Boxing Academy on 5th May 2020. The refurbishment costing £930,000 will be complete in September. The fully modernised building will operate during the day as well as evenings and weekends. With capacity to reach out to many more people. Changing people's lives – creating champions not just in the boxing ring but much more importantly for us all creating future champions in life and within our communities.

We still need to raise £200,000 toward the costs of this project. Alongside fellow trustees of the charity I shall be endeavouring to raise awareness of the project and we intend guidance allowing to welcome agencies and organisations to the club later in the year.

I very much look forward to meeting more great people from our great county, including those of you doing great work within Humberside Police, keeping our streets and neighbourhoods safe for which I thank you. You have a tough and often unforgiving job and one that has become much more complex.

Good luck to you all, stay safe. Thank you

**Andrew N Horncastle MBE**

