



HIGH SHERIFF'S NEWS

From Staffordshire

In this issue:

- Virtual installation
- Charity Appeals
- Recognition
- Cycle ride
- Community Debrief Events
- What about the rest of 2020?

Welcome

For all of us, 2020 has not been without its challenges. However, through a combination of making use of what the Government's guidelines allow and spending a lot of time on the computer, especially 'Zoom' and Microsoft Teams, it has been possible for me to reach many people across the County. This newsletter aims to let you know something of what I have been up to.

Charlie Bagot Jewitt

Virtual Ceremony

On Wednesday 1 April 2020, Charles Bagot Jewitt was sworn in as High Sheriff of Staffordshire in a 'virtual' ceremony in the presence of His Honour Judge Michael Chambers QC, Recorder of Stafford at Stafford Crown Court. Staying true to the custom, outgoing High Sheriff Ashley Brough was also in attendance.

Charity Appeals

Within my first two weeks in office I was invited to Appeal on behalf of the Staffordshire Community Foundation (SCF) <https://staffsfoundation.org.uk> who have been supporting a myriad of small charities across the county throughout the pandemic. I also took part in an excellent webinar organised through SCF. This was soon followed by an appeal on behalf of St John Ambulance. <https://www.sja.org.uk>.

I have also been in discussions with three small charities working in the County to help provide support and profile. These are ASIST which provides advocacy support <https://www.asist.co.uk>, the Beth Johnson Foundation promoting health and well-being for the over 50s <https://www.bjf.org.uk> and PEGS - Child to Parent Abuse Support.

"I have the oldest job in the UK, but Covid-19 won't stop a 1000-year-old position. The position of High Sheriff has evolved and survived and in early 2020 it starts in the virtual world. The current lockdown means much of my work will have to be carried out remotely over the internet."



Charlie Bagot Jewitt, High Sheriff of Staffordshire 2020

Recognition of those fighting Covid-19 or providing community support

Working jointly with Ian Dudson CBE, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, a significant number of organisations have been written to across the County. This has been to offer our support and to help ensure that those who have done so much for the community during the pandemic are recognised; either through the national honours system or through other forms of recognition including the presentation of High Sheriff's Certificates. It is heartening to read the many stories of those who have contributed so much and I look forward to presenting a number of certificates during the autumn. If you know of someone who you believe merits a national honour please do not hesitate to contact the Lieutenancy on office.lieutenancy@staffordshire.gov.uk. or myself regarding High Sheriff's certificates on charlesbagotjewitt@btinternet.com.



The 'Posse' leaves Blithfield Hall. Read the full story of the cycle ride at www.highsheriffstaffordshire.co.uk

Cycle Ride

In the first week of August, myself and five other Staffordshire people formed a 'posse' to cycle around the 'bailiwick', our lovely County, both to promote Staffordshire as an ideal place for 'Staycations' and to raise funds for the Staffordshire Community Foundation.. Staffordshire is a place of infinite variety and the tour embraced rural and urban heritage sites, stunning landscapes, and established and start-up businesses. We were welcomed by Civic leaders and many others along the route and greatly supported by Staffordshire Police. Well over £3000 has so far been raised for the Community Foundation.

Community Debrief Events

A key part of the High Sheriff's role is to promote networking across the County. Although I have been involved in a number of 'webinars', face to face contact is harder to achieve at present. However, community events of up to 30 people have been allowed outside, and so my wife and I have taken the opportunity of holding a number of socially distanced 'debrief' events at Blithfield Hall where some of our community leaders shared their experiences during lockdown. This opportunity has clearly been greatly appreciated, although sadly it has not proved possible to invite everyone to Blithfield that we would have wished..



Charlie and Cosy Bagot Jewitt at a Community Debrief Event

High Sheriff's Cadets

It has been my great pleasure to appoint Police Cadet Alisha from Longton and Jake from Tamworth as High Sheriff's Cadets for 2020/21. They have both been excellent sounding boards and provided a younger persons voice during lockdown, making a number of suggestions for recognition and awards.



Cadets Alisha and Jake



Future Plans

What can and cannot be achieved in the remaining half of my Shrieval year will of course be dictated by whether the Covid-19 situation improves and conditions relax, or whether further lockdowns, even of a very localised nature, are enforced. Whatever happens, I aim to make the best of the opportunities at any particular time and to be able to react at short notice if necessary.

Currently, we aim to hold Court Opening and Service with restricted attendance on 5 October, and hopefully a larger event at the start of the Easter Term in January. I have been lucky enough to attend Court in Stafford and Stoke and wish to continue to support the Courts, legal services and Prisons in the County as best I can. I am also very aware from my 'day job' with the Sea Cadet Corps of the many pressures on our younger people and those in less-advantaged communities at the present time and I seek to support positive outcomes.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you feel that I can assist, maybe through visit, a 'virtual call' or just by writing a letter of support. The High Sheriff can be reached on 07850 659656.