

The High Sheriff of Leicestershire - Mr James Buxton

James Buxton was born in County Durham in October 1939, but his parents lived in Leicestershire before the War. His father was killed in the War serving with the Leicestershire Yeomanry. James was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge.

He joined Barclays Bank in 1962, starting in branches in London, Loughborough and Chelmsford. He worked in Nigeria in 1965-66 during the civil war before running a branch in Ghana for six months. Back in England, he served on the Inspection Team in Windsor and Reading then became Assistant Manager of a large branch Bradford.

As a Local Director he spent ten years at Peterborough, living in Drayton in Leicestershire then Seaton in Rutland. He then took on a similar role in Norwich, with responsibility for corporate and retail business development and agriculture. He left Barclays in 1988 and moved back to Leicestershire, living in Lubenham for 11 years. After 18 months as Financial Director of Shuttleworth Agricultural College, he joined the British Horse Society in 1989 at Stoneleigh as Senior Executive Officer responsible for the volunteers throughout the United Kingdom.

After retiring in 1999, he continued to work for the British Horse Society in a voluntary capacity, being elected to the Board and serving as Vice Chairman. He remains on the Audit Committee. He joined the Board of St. John Ambulance in Leicestershire, becoming County Chairman, and briefly also County Commander. He is a member of the St. John Finance Committee in London.

James has been married to Meriel since 1970. They live at Smeeton Westerby and have a married daughter and an unmarried son. Meriel's father was High Sheriff of Leicestershire in 1961. She is a qualified solicitor and was a District Commissioner of the Pony Club for 16 years and has written four books. She is also a J.P.

James is a keen horseman who has taken an active part in the equestrian world all his life. His other interests include swimming, travel, theatre, bee-keeping, photography, Dexter cattle and walking the dogs.