

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

19th November 2014

Introduction

This report sets out a summary of the commitments I have undertaken since the last Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 4th September 2014. I write a weekly blog which provides a brief overview for the public of what I have been up to. This is published on my website (www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk) and the content of these blogs is copied below for the Panel's information.

MAKE SURE YOU GET THE MESSAGE

Posted: Tuesday 2nd September 2014

Monday 11 August

We may be right in the middle of the holiday season, but, so far this summer, I've had three days in France which I do not recall and have had to cancel a week in the Loire valley due to being in hospital. So, as you can imagine I'm really looking forward to taking a trip to Verona midweek to listen to some opera. Before that, however, I had a day at the Headway charity and a day in the office.

Tuesday 12 August

The office day was spent reviewing the agenda for the Police and Crime Panel meeting in Salisbury on 4 September and making sure we are fully prepared. I then had a short performance briefing from the force, but there were no surprises there.

Monday 18 August

I got back from Verona on Sunday night after a wonderful break seeing some really great opera. It is interesting to think of all the events over the years that have happened in the arena. No lions for us, but a wonderful setting for La Boheme, Madam Butterfly and Aida.

Tuesday 19 August

Back in the office and I received a quarterly update about the Drug Intervention Partnership (DIP) teams in Wiltshire and Swindon.

Thursday 21 August

As today is GCSE results day, I pre-recorded a letter to my younger 16 year old self for BBC Wiltshire. I offered advice and encouragement about young Angus's life choices. It was quite novel to write as my older (and hopefully wiser) self and reflect upon the choices I made in my youth with the benefit of hindsight.

I then went out to the first of the four initial Community Messaging launches in Malmesbury.



The four neighbourhood policing areas that Community Messaging is now live in are Malmesbury, Pewsey, Swindon West and Warminster.

Don't worry if you live or work outside these areas ... you can still sign up and you will receive messages as and when your local neighbourhood policing team starts to use Community Messaging.

I commissioned this two-way messaging system as it is a great way to engage directly with the public on a variety of channels that best suit the user. You can find out more about Community Messaging and sign up at www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk

On to chair my Commissioner's Monitoring Board. The agenda covered a presentation by the former High Sheriff William Wyldebore-Smith on the scrutiny of Restorative Justice. I am greatly indebted to William for his work on this topic. He was keen to point out that it is work in progress and I do agree.

The meeting also discussed regional forensics, an update on transformation and estates, domestic abuse and homicide reviews and finally Chief Police Officers' Staff Association (CPOSA) Insurance.

I was also able to share with the Force my 2014 updates to the Police and Crime Plan which are now published and available [here](#). They will be presented to the Police and Crime Panel on 4 September.

I then attended the Community Messaging launch in Swindon West and I was pleased to be joined by the Chief Constable Pat Geenty for the launch at the Link Centre. There was a nice turnout and it was good to see the public signing up and getting involved.



Above: Here I am with the Chief Constable Pat Geenty at the West Swindon Community Messaging launch event

Bank holiday weekend

Last, but not least, I found I had been nominated for the Ice Bucket Challenge. It is to raise awareness and money for motor neurone disease (MND), or Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) as it is known in America.

Not being one to back away from a challenge. I was filmed soaking myself with water over the bank holiday weekend. Luckily I got to do my challenge in the sunshine in the garden. After donating to the British MND Association I then nominated the Chief Constable, Martyn Underhill, the Police and Crime Commissioner in Dorset, and my wife, Sarah Jane.

You can watch my Ice Bucket Challenge on my Facebook [here](#).



PLOUGHING ON WITH A LOOK AT RURAL CRIME

Posted: Thursday 4th September 2014

Monday 25 August

A bank holiday so no Headway Club but, in its place, my neighbour took me to **Imber**, the village in the middle of Salisbury Plain that was closed during the Second World War. **St Giles**, the church in Imber, is open a couple of times a year, as are the roads across the plain between Gore Cross and Warminster, and Edington and Heytesbury. It was an excellent chance to travel the plain which is closed to the public most of the time, but probably used by those up to no good more often than we would like to think.



(Above: The abandoned courthouse and St Giles Church in Imber.)

Tuesday 26 August

In the office, firstly to see Occupational Health and secondly to meet the **National Farmers Union** (NFU) and **Country Land and Business Association** (CLA). The meeting with the agricultural reps was good and I was able to confirm that we will be carrying out a rural crime survey, as well as telling them about **Community Messaging** and **Farm Watch**.

Before that though the Chief Constable undertook his ice bucket challenge which I nominated him to do. He was a great sport and, by the end of the day, I was given the social media viewing stats which are impressive. After being posted on Wiltshire Police's **Facebook** site the Chief's challenge reached a massive 605,000 people, the video had 203,000 views, 3,703 shares, 6,515 likes and 606 comments. Not bad going at all.

(Below: Me soaking the Chief Constable Pat Geenty in the Ice Bucket Challenge.)



It was good that I was also able to meet with the Chairman of the [Police and Crime Panel](#) to discuss the agenda for the next meeting.

Thursday 28 August

I caught up with the leader of Wiltshire Council, Jane Scott, and the leader of Swindon Borough council, David Renard, on the phone, for one of our regular updates. It's clear that the summer holiday has had an impact on all organisations, so I expect our next meeting to be more substantial.

I was then joined by the Chief Constable and others when we discussed estate matters including the proposed new Salisbury Custody Unit. It is clear that we need to get on the ground with the project soon.

The week has been dominated by the Rotherham child sexual exploitation affair and the role that the current Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wiltshire, Shaun Wright, may have played during his time as a member of the local council when he oversaw children's services.

I believe it is a matter for South Yorkshire's residents, but it seems to me that any office holder who loses the confidence of his electorate would find it impossible to continue.

As August drew to a close, I took the opportunity to visit a real treasure of the county, [Longleat](#). What a fabulous house, grounds and lions.

A REGIONAL VISION, A LOOK AROUND BOURNE HILL, AND FUN AT THE BLUE LIGHT SHOW

Posted: Thursday 11th September 2014

Week ending 7 September 2014

I am now beginning to ramp up the time I can spend in the office after my health problems in May. Until now I have been restricted by the doctor to two half days a week. But this week I am in for two full days plus the Emergency Services Show on Sunday and next week that will rise to three whole days.

The major activities this week are the regional get-together of PCCs and Chief Constables and my quarterly meeting with the Police and Crime Panel.

Wednesday 3 September

PCC Regional Meeting

We decided to hold our regional meeting at Bridgwater in Somerset for the convenience of all participants.

The region's five PCCs (representing Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire) have been pulling together a vision statement for collaborative working across the South West. I have signed the document. Once I know that everyone else has signed I intend to publish it as a further update to my Police and Crime Plan to reflect our ambitions for the region as far as working together is concerned.

The document makes clear that we are committed to local policing, with specialist areas being provided and managed on a regional or sub-regional basis. None of us favour all-out mergers, not least because local people need to identify with local police, an important principle that can be traced back to **Robert Peel**, the founder of modern-day policing.

At the meeting we were given an update on some of the existing regional work and, in particular, on those areas where the region was successful in bidding for funds from the Home Office. The most notable of these projects concerns the regional approach to forensic services. The pooling of expertise and the efficient use of expensive resources lies at the heart of such schemes.

Zephyr, the south west regional organised crime unit, has been running for some time. We made a bid to the Home Office for the purchase and modernisation of premises to deal with the growth of the team and to allow them to be based at one site. The bid has been accepted and we will now be relocating Zephyr to a purpose-built base in the centre of the region.

The afternoon involved a series of updates to the Commissioners and Chief Constables covering changes to probation, the commissioning of services for victims and the assumptions made by individual forces in planning their medium-term financial strategy. These meetings tend to be quite technical and dry, but are absolutely invaluable as we seek ways to work together and save money.

Thursday 4 September

Bourne Hill Police Station

I have been trying for some time to get to **Bourne Hill** in Salisbury (below) to meet the officers and staff who have relocated there from Wilton Road. Today was my first opportunity.



As you may recall there was some criticism by a local councillor that Bourne Hill was hard to find. So, as an experiment, we forgot all knowledge of where it was and followed the signs, both in the car and from the car park on foot. I am pleased to report that we found it with no difficulty. The signage seemed really good.



I had the opportunity on arrival to speak to police and council reception staff. I must say the light, airy and spacious reception area, with its comfortable seating, is a great improvement on our old premises across the city.

I am pleased to say that police officers were out and about in the city – as they should be. But those I had the opportunity to speak to were beginning to experience the advantages of working alongside council colleagues, something I am used to hearing about at Monkton Park in Chippenham.

Many of the teething troubles at Bourne Hill that I heard about have been sorted by the facilities management team.

Joint working with councils is happening in Swindon, Chippenham and now Salisbury. I look forward to visiting Springfield Community Campus in Corsham next week to meet our Neighbourhood Policing Team who are relocating from their police station elsewhere in the town.

Police and Crime Panel meeting

Moving over to City Hall I had a meeting with my Police and Crime Panel. The agenda covered my update on the performance of the force for the first quarter of 2014/15. I was also able to present my **Police and Crime Plan updates** which cover topics such as commissioning victims' services, restorative justice commissioning, finance, volunteering strategy, complaints and professional standards, the structure of my office, key statistics, the Special Constabulary and governance of the constabulary.

The other major item to share with the panel was the launch of Wiltshire and Swindon Community Messaging. You can find more about that in my report below on the Emergency Services Show.

These are quarterly meetings with the panel and this particular quarter is probably one of the quietest. The work programme of the panel for the future includes a detailed look at licensing of premises. I will bring a detailed paper to the panel's next meeting in the autumn.

Sunday 7 September

The Emergency Services Show

On Sunday I was off to Hullavington Airfield for the Emergency Services Show. We were blessed with fine weather which seemed to bring out the crowds.

My marquee this year was being used to promote Wiltshire and Swindon Community Messaging.



(Above: The Community Messaging Logo)

Neighbourhood Watch volunteers and members of my team were encouraging visitors to our stand to sign up for the two way communication system. Community Messaging sends messages about policing and crime matters in a users area by email, text or voicemail. It only takes a few minutes to put your information into our special Community Messaging kiosk or tablet device and it was great to see a steady stream of people keen to get involved.



(Above: Here I am on the special Community Messaging kiosk)

The beauty of the scheme is that you can choose who you would like to hear from and how you would like to be contacted. It will allow Neighbourhood Policing Teams quickly to pass on information to people living (or working) in a specific postcode area. It can be used for such things as appeals for information or potentially in the future to help look out for a missing person.

If you were unable to be at the show but would like to sign up, please go to www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk

The other new development on our stand this year was that we had been designated as a Safe Place. This is a scheme I have helped to support through my Innovation Fund and it is slowly spreading across the force area.

Shops and public buildings which are taking part display the Safe Places logo (below) in their window and anyone who is out and about and feels vulnerable should know that they can go inside and be assured that someone will find them a chair, look after them and if required phone for a relative or carer to come along and collect them.



(Above: The Safe Place Logo which will be in business around Wiltshire)

Those taking part will also understand that the person may be carrying an In Case of Emergency (or ICE) card with details about their particular needs. No one needed our help, but the training my team received and the displaying of a Safe Places banner at least meant that we managed to further raise the profile of this excellent community scheme.

Overall the show was a lot of fun and had something for all the family. I was among many who enjoyed a fast ride in a police car along one of the runways.

Another highlight was meeting Wiltshire's Volunteer Police Cadets resplendent in their distinctive uniforms with red hat bands and lapels.



(Above left: Here's me with the smart looking volunteer Police Cadets at the show. Above right: About to embark on a police car ride)

There also seemed to be a greater breadth of attractions this year. Some old favourites were of course present again including the emergency vehicles of yesteryear.

(Below: Here I am at the show with an old style police car, and an old style ambulance)



I would like to congratulate the committee members, drawn from Wiltshire Police and the other blue light services, who work so hard around the year to plan this very popular event and who raise thousands of pounds for good causes in the process.

Last, but not least, thanks to those involved in the traffic management which seemed to allow a much quicker getaway from Hullavington at the end of the day than has sometimes been the case in the past.

Take a look at the PCC album of pictures from the day by visiting:
www.facebook.com/Wiltshireandswindonpcc

ROADS POLICING RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Posted: Wednesday 17th September 2014

Monday 8 September

The major meeting of the day is the Commissioner Monitoring Board, where we look in detail at the proposed custody suite for Salisbury and the Consultation being undertaken by Wiltshire Fire and Rescue.

I also had reports on the Northumbria Complaints system which we visited recently and wave nine of the Public Opinion Survey. The next round of the survey is to be launched this week. Worthy of a mention is the concern residents have over teenagers "hanging around" that has come to light in previous surveys, it was for that reason I was pleased to provide funding from my innovation fund for the below mentioned BIOS mobile youth club in Swindon which has proved very popular. It would be good to see such a service being available in Wiltshire.

Tuesday 9 September

Today I was on Swindon 105.5 to talk about the next wave of the public opinion survey, during which we will be phoning 2000 households in Swindon and Wiltshire to gather their views on how their area is policed. The survey will also explore issues such as quality of life and fear of crime. The information helps me to commissioner services from Wiltshire Police and helps senior police officers to understand the needs and priorities of the people they protect. I think it is important to get the public's opinions so we have reliable and up-to-date information, remember your view counts. If you receive a call and have any concerns about the validity of the caller, please call 101, the non-emergency number for Wiltshire Police, and ask for Ruth McGee on extension 2396.

In the morning I had a meeting with Neighbourhood Watch, an update on Community Messaging and these were followed by an update on [Neighbourhood Justice Panels](#). Neighbourhood Justice Panels bring together someone who has experienced crime or anti-social behaviour and the person or people who caused it. These panels are now established across the county, but are lacking referrals.

The first panel in Salisbury is being held this week, but more buy in is now required. It should not only be Police Referrals. There are now established panels in Swindon, Salisbury, Trowbridge, Devizes and Chippenham.

Finally I had a preparation meeting for the Audit Committee next week.

Wednesday 11 September

Clutching my copy of [Bradshaw's Continental Railway Guide](#), I catch the train from Swindon to Chippenham. The refreshment room at Swindon is described in the guide written by George Bradshaw as "admirably conducted and abundantly supplied with every article to tempt the best as well as the most delicate appetites, and prices are moderate".

I decided to purchase myself a coffee to take on the train, where I met a member of Wiltshire Council staff who works at Monkton Park. I was pleased to hear his positive experience of joint location with the Police.

Bradshaw says Chippenham makes a little cloth and silk. It boasts "two tanneries, a foundry, four banks, a new Town Hall and Market House ... and a long bridge on 23 arches. It is delightfully situated in a valley on the south bank of the river Avon".

A new guide would mention our joint facility with Wiltshire Council where Police and Council staff share the Monkton Park Offices.

I had a meeting with the council leader, Jane Scott and her officers, before returning by road to Swindon for a health and Wellbeing Board where we discussed the Better Care Fund.

Thursday 11 September

Today I was on Radio Wiltshire to talk about the Public Opinion Survey again, before spending time with Swindon 105.5FM, where I was discussing a programme I plan to make with them based on my grandfather's letters from the front line in the First World War.

My office launched a survey on community remedies today asking the residents of Wiltshire their opinions.

[Click here to take the Community Remedy Consultation.](#)

Friday 12 September

A Tour to Remember

(Below: the tour passing County Hall in Trowbridge, picture courtesy of Wiltshire Council)



I caught the bus to Trowbridge to attend the Tour of Britain. It was very well organised and I felt great pride at the tour coming through Wiltshire. With it being a race it all passed by very quickly, but there was a good party atmosphere for the hour we waited. It was quite a job for all the public services as the roads are cleared and checked for the cyclists.

(Below: Me and the Mayor of Trowbridge Glyn Bridges at County Hall and a Wiltshire Police officer getting into the spirit of the tour) Pictures courtesy of Wiltshire Council



I think with Obama going to Stonehenge and the Tour of Britain, our roads policing team have had some very high profile work to do recently, and have successfully risen to the challenge.



(Above: Some of the cyclists taking part in the race and a police motorbike from the rolling road block)

It was then back to Devizes Headquarters for a so called “hot debrief” from Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) on their police efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy (PEEL) inspection. There was positive initial verbal feedback, but no judgements at this stage. This national report will be out in October.

Saturday 13 September

I went over to Wootton Bassett to support Mayor Sue Hughes in her charity cake sale that was fundraising for the Filling Station, which is a charity I am a trustee of that provides food and provisions to those in need on the streets of Swindon.

We then picked up the Archbishop of Canterbury and his wife to take them to Pinehurst. There was a brief opportunity to talk with the Archbishop in the car before showing him and his wife the BIOS van which I have sponsored with my Innovation Fund. The BIOS Van is a converted supermarket home delivery van, fully customised as a well equipped mobile youth club. Young people to get on board the vehicle, the sides fold up providing games consoles, internet access, information services, music, mobile seating, sports equipment and refreshment facilities. The van has been running now for about six months, the weather will be a challenge going forward into the colder months, but I look forward to the evaluation.



(Above: The Archbishop of Canterbury and myself taking a look at the BIOS Van)

An event running through the week has been the London 2014 Invictus games, which have included some inspirational stories. I think that they will have a wiser effect than just our support for the military, and have inspired many disabled people.

IPCC INVESTIGATION HITS THE HEADLINES

Posted: Monday 22nd September 2014

Monday 15 September

Every Monday morning I start the week by looking at performance with the team. We have also received the draft 2014 value for money profile from Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to check. The report will be published at the end of October. Essentially, today was an update and review ahead of the Strategic Improvement Board next Monday.

During the afternoon I put out a statement to staff and the media regarding an Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) inquiry into the conduct of the Chief Constable, This is what the media statement said:

“I can confirm that, on 29 August 2014, I made a referral to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) concerning the Chief Constable after considering a letter of complaint received by my office on 14 August 2014.

This letter was with regard to the way in which a previous complaint had been dealt with by the Force between 2008-10. That complaint was in relation to the way a case of historic sexual abuse had been managed.

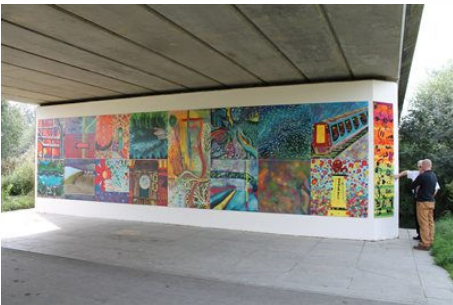
Following an initial meeting with IPCC investigators, my office is now in consultation with the IPCC on the matter.

Deputy Chief Constable Mike Veale has made referrals to the IPCC in relation to the conduct of two other officers who were also involved in the handling of the 2008 complaint.”

Tuesday 16 September

I gave a small amount from my Innovation Fund for the painting of murals to cover up graffiti in an underpass at Biss Meadows in Trowbridge. These were painted by students from [The Clarendon Academy](#) in the town. The request for funds came from the [Friends of Biss Meadows](#). The improvement to this part of Trowbridge has been marked and I hope that an area that has attracted bad behaviour will be improved by people taking "ownership". Today I attended the press day and met some of the talented young artists who painted the panels.

(Below: Me and some of the A Level art students from the Clarendon Academy and the Chair and Project Leader from the Friends of Biss Meadows, and a photograph of one side of the mural.)



I'm a non-voting member of the Wiltshire Cabinet Transformation Committee which met today in Trowbridge. We had an update on the progress of "system thinking" and of the disposals of property being undertaken. We also touched on police integration within the county. I'm looking forward to going to Corsham later this week

The Chief Inspector of Prisons gave [the Mercers' Lecture at Dauntsey's](#) school this evening. Interesting, I felt, but not that challenging. There was little solace for women prisoners from our county who are not kept in Wiltshire whilst serving their sentences.

Wednesday 17 September

Up early to attend a briefing with the rural crime team and roads policing unit for a day of action around Marlborough. Then an opportunity to watch some road stops with partners from Customs and Excise.



(Above: Me at the rural crime day of action around Marlborough)

I then attended the Crime Beat Panel at Wiltshire Community Foundation. It distributes the Police Property Act monies. We looked at eight applications and I was able to pass the foundation a cheque for a further £36,000.

I issued a further statement to Wiltshire Police officers and staff and to the media about the IPCC inquiry with regard to the Chief Constable:

"On Monday (15 September 2014) the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) announced that it was investigating the Chief Constable of Wiltshire Police, Patrick Geenty, in relation to the way the Force dealt with complaints between 2008-10.

The investigation comes after I contacted the IPCC on 29 August 2014. I made this contact after considering complaints which were referred to my office by the Force earlier that month.

In line with process, yesterday afternoon (16 September 2014) Mr Geenty was served papers by the IPCC. As expected, these papers outlined allegations which, if proved, would amount to gross misconduct.

My role as Commissioner is to represent the people of Wiltshire and Swindon in police and crime matters.

After giving careful consideration to information I have received from the IPCC, together with independent legal advice which my office commissioned, I have decided that the public interest would be best served by Mr Geenty continuing in his role whilst the IPCC investigation is underway. I am required to consult the IPCC on this decision and I have done so.

The purpose of an investigation is to establish the facts behind a complaint and that is what I am waiting for.

Nothing has been placed before me at this stage which, in my judgment, would justify suspension. If new evidence is produced by the enquiry team, I will review my decision.

It would not be appropriate to make any further comment whilst the IPCC investigation is underway."

In the afternoon I attended the opening of the new Crime and Communications Centre at the Wiltshire Police HQ in Devizes. This is where all calls to Wiltshire Police on 999 and 101 are received and dealt with. We have carried out a full refurbishment of the building and the technology. It has been designed with a great deal of input by the staff. I think it is fair to say that our guests at the opening were greatly impressed.



(Above: Me in the new Crime and Communication Centre at Devizes HQ)

Thursday 18 September

First thing I went to see the new [Springfield Community Campus in Corsham](#). Our Neighbourhood Policing Team is based on the first floor. The campus is not yet complete, so it was difficult to fully appreciate the way in which it will work once the builders have packed up and left. Currently the sports centre seems to dominate, but I'm sure that the signposting to Wiltshire Police will be more akin to that at Bourne Hill in Salisbury or Monkton Park in Chippenham when the reception area is open. It is very much a work in progress at the moment.



(Above: The Chief Constable, myself and SGT Nick Cooke at the new Springfield Campus in Corsham)

In the afternoon I attended the independent Audit Committee. It is always pleasing when the accounts are approved by the auditor and I am pleased to report that we got a good value for money statement as well. The accounts have been posted on my website.

Friday 19 September

I have to say I am pleased that Scotland will not be leaving the United Kingdom after yesterday's referendum. My Scottish roots did not entitle me to a vote, and nor should I, the Macpherson having been in Swindon for the whole of the last century. I do think that there is a great strength in Great Britain which is worth keeping, albeit with some regional variation.

EXPLORING THE LINK BETWEEN HEALTH, WELLBEING AND CRIME REDUCTION

Posted: Thursday 2nd October 2014

Monday 22 September

Bus journey to work in Devizes for a day dominated by meetings, the first being Performance Update, followed by a regular meeting with the officers and councillors who have responsibility for licensing in Wiltshire. On this occasion it was in preparation for the Police and Crime Panel to whom I will be reporting in November. In particular I am interested in the impact of the Late Night Levy on licensed premises within Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). Allow me to explain. The Late Night Levy is a method by which those who sell alcohol as part of the night time economy make a contribution to the policing and welfare of the town in which they trade. If the premises happen to be in a BID area, they will, in effect, be paying twice because they have to contribute to the costs of creating a BID area. Some of the businesses are complaining that they cannot afford to join the BID and pay the Late Night Levy.

I also attended the Strategic Improvement Board, which is chaired by Deputy Chief Constable Mike Veale, and the Programme Board.

Tuesday 23 September

An early start for breakfast with the [Devizes Chamber of Commerce](#) at The Bear Hotel. It was followed by a meeting with [Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary \(HMIC\)](#) who are in force for a couple of days looking at the criminal justice system. I am very pleased that the Chief Constable has been made chairman of the local Criminal Justice Board and I hope that, at their next meeting, I will be invited to join them as a board member. The board is made up of magistrates, court officials, police, Crown Prosecution Service and probation. Its main function is to ensure the smooth running of the criminal justice system which depends on each agency doing things right the first time.

Wednesday 24 September

Commissioner's Monitoring Board in the morning. A good briefing on predictive policing. It is about the sharing of data with local authorities and others to show the risk of harm within a particular community. This is something which both Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council have been working on. For example they are looking at the resources which are put into an area and what effect they have on the residents. It is right that police data forms part of the picture and there is still more to be done to bring that about. We also discussed the next bidding round for the Home Office Innovation Fund (not to be confused with my own fund) in November. We will have to work up some ideas for Wiltshire and the regional forces. We then went on to talk about estates matters in respect of Salisbury, Chippenham and Corsham.

I then spent some time with Temporary Det Supt Ian Saunders, talking about restorative justice. The scrutiny panel, chaired by William Wyldebore-Smith, the former High Sheriff of Wiltshire, is looking at the suitability of the process of Neighbourhood Justice Panels and other initiatives. We now have an out-of-court disposals manager who has been in post for a few weeks which should give impetus to the use of restorative techniques by officers where appropriate.

I was pleased to visit the [Wiltshire Air Ambulance](#) team at Devizes HQ and to meet paramedic Jo Munday who responded quickly when I was taken ill in Trowbridge. The helicopter was temporarily grounded, so Jo travelled by road to look after me until the Great Western air ambulance arrived. I am looking forward to welcoming the new air ambulance (a [Bell 429](#)) to Devizes in October. Please remember the Wiltshire Air Ambulance slogan: "Funded by you, flying for you". The final event of the day was attending the Wiltshire Public Service Board meeting in Trowbridge.



Thursday 25 September

Today was dominated by health with two meetings at County Hall, including the Health and Wellbeing Board. I was asked by a colleague in the office why I was so keen on these boards. To my mind the answer is simple: most crime in Wiltshire is not sophisticated or planned but instead the outcome of circumstances. Those circumstances are often driven by choices made or by an individual's state of health. Something as simple as being able to cook a basic but nutritious meal can have great effects in the long term, whilst dependency on ready meals is both expensive and sometimes unhealthy. Of course the major issue is the use (or rather misuse) of drugs and here I would include legal highs and alcohol. So the efforts of those who attend the Health and Wellbeing Board can and do have a positive impact on crime reduction.

In the evening I attended [Corsham Area Board](#). It's the first time I have been to an area board since my illness in the summer. I chose Corsham for my return to try to get a sense of how residents there were feeling about the new [Springfield Community Campus](#) which I visited last week. I have to say that it was not one of the most well-attended area boards I have been to, perhaps because the last one was held at the campus and was apparently very busy.

Of particular interest to me at the meeting were the terms of reference for the new [Local Youth Network \(LYN\)](#). A LYN is defined as a sub group of the Area Board. It represents a wide range of community stakeholders who work in partnership to facilitate a range of positive activities across the area. Young people play a central role in all aspects of the LYN.

I note that the police are included in a list of likely representatives on the LYN. We need to ensure that there is consistent engagement by each Neighbourhood Policing Team with their LYN.

Friday 26 September

In the morning I attended a meeting of the Wiltshire Community Foundation where I am a trustee.

But the day really started at 6pm when I attended a briefing at Gablecross Police Station in Swindon for officers engaged in alcohol awareness. The idea of the exercise was that four volunteers, aged between 15 and 16, would visit licensed premises in Swindon and Highworth to try to buy alcoholic drinks. These test purchases are arranged between the police and the local authority licensing officers on a regular basis across Wiltshire and Swindon and are aimed at ensuring that licensees are acting responsibly with the licence they are given. Media publicity about the operation gave me an opportunity to promote PASS cards which are supported by the Home Office and trading standards. These new cards can be used as proof of age. Apparently many young people use their passport for ID purposes and over half of the passports which go missing are lost by young people on nights out. My evening finished at about midnight as I accompanied officers back to the custody unit at Gablecross with a man who had been arrested.

Sunday 28 September

It's party conference season and I am attending the Conservative conference in Birmingham on Monday. So I travelled up this evening. It turns out that there was quite a lot going on. I was invited to attend a meeting which was addressed by the party chairman and then I went on to a reception at which Robert Buckland, the Swindon MP, was speaking. Off to bed early as I am meeting the Home Secretary at 7am tomorrow.

BREAKFAST WITH THE HOME SECRETARY

Posted: Monday 6th October 2014

Monday 29 September

An early start to the day at the Conservative Party conference in Birmingham because I had to check out of my hotel to be with Theresa May, the Home Secretary, by 7am. The Conservative Police and Crime Commissioners met her for a breakfast briefing, which was useful. It is good to know that the office of PCC still has the support of the Home Secretary. I think we all agree that you cannot judge the success or otherwise of the office over such a short period. I'm sure there will be continued debate on the idea of voters being able to recall their Commissioner, something which has exercised for some years those who want to be rid of their MP.

I spent some time manning the PCC stand at the conference with colleagues before heading off to a round table discussion with the [Police Federation](#), the staff association for police constables, sergeants and inspectors. I must admit that I came away feeling quite refreshed, with - on the whole - many positive comments from the Federation. Again, Commissioners should not all be judged by the headlines about a tiny minority. I will be judged by Wiltshire and Swindon people at the election in 2016, and in the meanwhile my office and that of the Chief Constable are focused on providing a better service to our residents with reducing resources.

The commissioners published the Think Blue Line to tie in with the conference. I contributed a paper called [The Wiltshire Way](#) which sets out my approach as your Commissioner. Please have a read. I would welcome any feedback via the Contact Us link on the home page of my website.

Tuesday 30 September

In the morning I visited [Mullane House](#) in Swindon. This is a home for six young people run by Threshold Housing Link. Through my Innovation Fund I am funding a positive activities worker to support them and other young people. Threshold are working with the [Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#) to encourage the residents to take part. I was pleased to meet (from left in picture below) Peter Singleton, of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award team, Georgia Randall and Dec Veitch, who are taking part in the award scheme, and Donna Harrison, the positive activity worker. I will now be encouraging our Volunteer Police Cadets (whose swearing-in ceremony I attended with the Chief) to get involved with Threshold and to take part in a fund raising "winter sleep out" to help the homeless on 5 December.



A trip to the hospital for a check-up in the afternoon and I am pleased to report that I passed. Back to normal working now, thank goodness! But still on public transport and scrounging lifts until Christmas when I will be allowed to drive again.

Wednesday 1 October

The chairman of the Police and Crime Panel, Cllr Richard Britton, came this morning to look around our new Crime and Communications Centre which was opened in September. After welcoming Cllr Britton, I had to disappear to briefings on Lorry Watch schemes, the Crime Reduction and Community Safety Strategy Board, and the estate.

I also had a visit from the Chairman of the **Bobby Van Trust**. We would like to extend the excellent service offered by the Bobby Van and are looking at ways of achieving this goal. They currently visit people over 60 or those classed as vulnerable, but I would like to extend their service to properties close to an address that has been burgled. I think the Trust could also benefit from using the Police Cadets (pictured below) to distribute crime safety information.



Thursday 2 October

Just two topics worthy of report today. First a meeting about the proposed Late Night Levy. It seems that we are awaiting some information from Wiltshire and Swindon Borough councils, so I will be following up that request. Without this information we cannot form a view on the merit, or otherwise, of a Late Night Levy to be applied to certain pubs and clubs.

I also met a neighbourhood officer from Calne, Sgt Ben Huggins, who is promoting a Positive Ticket scheme. I rather liked this idea which is aimed at ten to 17 year olds and will recognise the positive things they have done for the community. Rewards will include a certificate and complimentary tickets to the popular Bluez n Zuz discos. I visited this event in January (see picture below) and it was clear that the young people were having a great night out.

It has the support of Calne Area Board, Calne Town Council and John Bentley School. It will be interesting to see how the trial scheme works and whether it is something that should be rolled out across Swindon and the county.



Friday 3 October

I attended the South West Regional Collaboration Programme Board held at Bridgwater in Somerset. It was the first meeting and generally quite successful, but it does need all Chief Constables and PCCs in the region to be heading the same way if it is to be a real success. Undoubtedly there are savings to be made, but gaining these does require a joint effort and not mere lip service to the idea.

PUTTING VICTIMS AND WITNESSES FIRST

Posted: Monday 13th October 2014

Monday 6 October

As always, the week began with a look at the force's performance. Whilst I attend the Strategic Improvement Board, these weekly sessions enable me to follow a theme over time and challenge in private.

My rural crime survey is running until 14 November and I was pleased to be able to promote it on Jack FM and The Breeze. We live in a rural county and our approach to rural crime matters, so I'm keen to hear from those who live – and make their living – in our villages. If that is you, please take a few minutes to let me know your views by completing [the survey](#).

I also had a review during the day of complaints and Freedom of Information requests. There are issues about the speed at which complaints are handled, but they are not insurmountable.

My final briefing of the day was on the provision of police estate in Salisbury, including the custody unit. Readers will be pleased to hear that I am still intent on building a custody unit at the old Engine Sheds site near the city's railway station. We will be discussing the matter formally next Monday at the Monitoring Board.

Tuesday 7 October

The communications team have decided, rightly, that my website needs a refresh, so a photoshoot in the morning to provide new images, followed by the vastly more important matter of the proposed victims bureau. My excitement for the project was re-ignited by listening to the team. When it is up and running I believe it will make a real difference to the quality of service the system offers to victims and witnesses. One of the six strategic priorities in my Police and Crime Plan was "putting victims and witnesses first". This new centre will play a big part in delivering that ambition.

Off to London for an evening meal with some fellow commissioners, which was both enjoyable and instructive. There is no doubt in my mind that the office of PCC is too young at this stage to be fully assessed. Each area is in a different position and has embraced the legislation in differing ways. I have to say that the way in which we work in Wiltshire with the two local authorities is excellent, but that cannot be replicated across all force areas in England and Wales.

I believe that local policing should be delivered in close collaboration with the local authorities, whilst serious and organised crime should be tackled by specialist police teams at a regional level, an idea I set out in my recent article called [The Wiltshire Way](#). But could it be replicated nationally?

Wednesday 8 October

I'm in Central London for a meeting of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) at the BT Tower. Rather disappointed that the conference room is on the ground floor. We heard from James Brokenshire, the Minister for Immigration and Security, and from a senior police officer about the security implications presented by international conflicts.

I had to hotfoot it back to Wiltshire to the dentist and for a communications update in the office before attending a meeting of the trustees of [Big Breakfast +](#), a charity which gives a cooked breakfast and support each day to some 20 people in Swindon who are homeless or have no cooking facilities.

Thursday 9 October

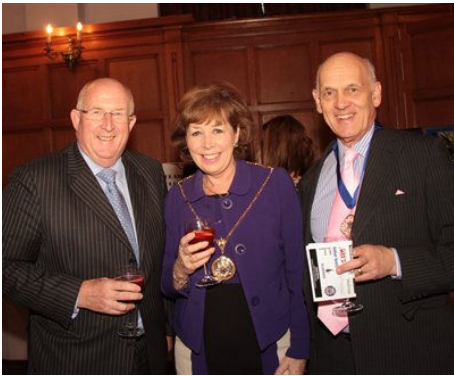
I'm very pleased to be able to attend area boards (in Wiltshire) and locality meetings (in Swindon) once again. I had to miss a few over the summer because of my health problems. This evening the meeting was at Churchfields Academy in Old Walcot. These meetings are run rather differently to those in Wiltshire. My concern was that the local police officers attended for the networking session after the meeting but no formal report on policing was given to the meeting. I know there is no right or wrong way of doing these things, but it does seem to me unfortunate that there is no formal record of the networking sessions which can be followed up at future meetings. The issues raised were those common to many parts of Swindon and in particular related to parking outside schools and colleges.

Friday 10 October

I was disappointed that I was not able to be at the launch of the Safe Places scheme in Swindon. I contributed about £7,000 from my Innovation Fund to enable the scheme to be rolled out in a consistent manner across Swindon and towns in Wiltshire. Safe Places is designed to help people who find themselves in difficulty whilst out and about. Shops and other premises which have signed up to the scheme display an orange Safe Place sticker in their window. It was pleasing to see that the launch was covered prominently in the [Swindon Advertiser](#) the next day.

I did a pre-recorded interview about my rural crime survey from our useful, but cupboard-sized, studio at Devizes HQ for BBC Wiltshire's Sunday morning Wild About Wiltshire programme with Marie Lennon. Have a [listen online](#) if you can.

In the evening I was very pleased to have been invited to celebrate 25 years of SPLASH in Wiltshire and Swindon. SPLASH gives tremendous opportunities to young people who would otherwise not get the chance to enjoy adventure training. The event was held at Marlborough Town Hall, and guests were welcomed by Chief Constable Pat Geenty, Volunteers mingled with a wide range of supporters. The charity's patron, the adventurer Bear Grylls, was there, along with Justin Featherstone (who has been awarded the Military Cross). The catering was provided by SPLASH patron Peter Vaughan from the Bistro and music was provided by Miranda Sykes. TV's FLOG IT! auctioneer Paul Martin ran the auction and I gather the event raised about £6,000. The picture shows me with the Mayor of Marlborough, Marian Hannaford-Dobson, and Cllr Stewart Dobson. I have supported SPLASH with a £38,000 donation from my Innovation Fund. I enjoyed visiting some of the activities during the summer. Happy birthday to all concerned – and keep up the good work.



Saturday 11 October

Sixteen Special Constables and one PC transferring to Wiltshire Police were sworn in at HQ in Devizes. They were joined by proud family members. The officers will be working out of stations across the county and Swindon. They looked very smart in their uniforms and are looking forward to getting out and serving the public. I was pleased to join them and Chief Constable Pat Geenty in the official photograph. Readers of my Police and Crime Plan will know that I set an objective of increasing the number of volunteer Specials to 300. We are well on course to achieving that target.



WHY WE NEED TO CRACK ON WITH OUR CUSTODY PROJECT

Posted: Wednesday 5th November 2014

Monday 13 October

As usual, the week starts with a look at performance. I have to say that we appear to be in line with our plans and expectations in most areas. Those areas which are not will be subject to detailed review at the Strategic Improvement Board (SIB) next Monday. This will be a good opportunity to feed in my concerns to the performance team in anticipation that they will be covered at the SIB.

One major item for debate at this week's Commissioner's Monitoring Board (CMB) is Salisbury Custody. The costs seem to go up and down almost on a daily basis. With building inflation beginning to accelerate we do need to get the project fixed very soon. Even then, I'm told, we may be in a queue for both steel and bricks.

Funds arising from the Police (Property) Act 1897, by which certain proceeds of lost property sold by the police are distributed to charity, are now distributed on my behalf by the [Wiltshire Community Foundation](#). Since the arrangement began 52 grants have been made, totalling £145,000. In this year £53,000 has been distributed. More than 26,000 people have benefited from the funds. In terms of priorities this works out as:

- Tackling youth crime: 6 per cent
- Reducing anti-social behaviour: 44 per cent
- Crime in local communities: 12 per cent
- Drug and Alcohol related crime: 6 per cent
- Reducing re-offending: 19 per cent
- Violence against women and children: 13 per cent

A full report was considered by CMB and we were pleased by the spread of projects. Grants are limited to £3,000 per year per application and we will consider whether this is the right level for the future.

Tuesday 14 October

I have received an update on **Community Messaging** this morning. Messaging is already set up in four areas and a further six will be launching in November (Tidworth, Melksham, Swindon North East, Swindon North Central, Swindon North and Trowbridge). The whole county will be covered by the end of January, although there is nothing to stop people joining now wherever they live in Wiltshire.



I have been given an update on the numbers of people sadly killed and seriously injured on roads in the county. I was taken through the 17 fatal incidents that have happened in the year to date. Every one is a tragedy, but I was struck by the fact that alcohol was not a primary cause, whilst speed did feature as a factor in many.

Campuses are progressing. A lot is being learnt from the Corsham project, with Five Rivers at Salisbury and Melksham following behind. I'm not convinced that the mechanism is in place to take on board the experience gained in developing the first of the 18 locations.



(Above is the Chief and I at Springfield Campus)

On Thursday I am chairing the Crime Reduction and Community Safety Strategy Board, so some time set aside this afternoon to prepare.

Wednesday 15 October

Had a very good meeting with the Intercom Trust this morning. The Trust, which supports lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities, has received support from a Ministry of Justice fund for a hate crime advisor to be based in Salisbury.

(Below is a picture of me with some of the Intercom Trust team when I caught up with them at the Swindon Pride event this August)



I was interested to find out more about our Automatic Number Plate Recognition capability, and received a briefing today. With the introduction of Tri-Force roads policing and the need to have a robust regional strategy, this is an area for regular review. I'm wondering whether the Home Office Innovation Fund might be used to make improvements?

Thinking about the Innovation Fund was timely because the next briefing was about cyber crime. I believe that my office should have a role in encouraging education on this issue. It seems to me that there are at least three distinct groups who need to receive information: young people in school and further education; those of working age and those who have retired. I want to see a plan to educate each group.

Thursday 16 October

The first meeting of the Crime Reduction and Community Safety Board that I have chaired, having been ill for the first meeting. The agenda included a look at serious and organised crime, hate crime, restorative justice, integrated offender management and victim services.

It seems to me to be a useful meeting especially as both Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council were present. We did mention the late night levy, and I also had a separate meeting with councillors from both Wiltshire and Swindon to talk about the information required to evaluate the potential benefits and down sides of a late night levy on pubs and clubs.

Friday 17 October

Poorly attended regional phone-in, but we did have a useful conversation about the Government's Innovation Fund.

I met the new boss of Zephyr. Launched in 2010 Zephyr is the regional initiative against serious and organised crime. It seems to work well and will shortly be embracing two further strands of work for the region. Based just outside Bristol, it is in a good position to work with other regional operations. I'm meeting the regional team after the weekend to discuss the way forward

Sunday 19 October

I attended the Mayoral Service at Royal Wootton Bassett. The Mayor, Sue Hughes, has made her charity [The Filling Station](#) which provides food and other provisions for those in need on the streets of Swindon. I am a trustee and so I was pleased to have been invited. It was also good to hear during the service (although I already knew) about the vast amount of volunteering which happens in the town

GOOD NEWS: CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ARE DOWN

Posted: Friday 7th November 2014

Monday 20 October

The Strategic Improvement Board met this morning. It looks at the performance of the force. At the highest level, crime continues to fall with 910 fewer crimes or a 5.3 per cent reduction in the year to date with an 88.3 per cent overall victim satisfaction level in the service provided by Wiltshire Police. Perhaps that should be expressed as 910 fewer victims? Anti-social behaviour (ASB) has fallen by 10.6 per cent in the year to the end of September. The falling trend in crime is in line with our peers and similar forces.

The tenth wave of our public opinion survey shows very positive trends as well. Concerns about young people hanging around have been reversed and the survey also demonstrates a 3.9 per cent reduction in concern about ASB across the county. Wiltshire has a significantly lower incidence of robbery, dwelling burglary, homicide and other crimes against society than our peers. This is something to celebrate but there is no cause for complacency.

We also had a report on the Strategic Policing Requirement inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) due to be published by the end of the month, and noted the recommendations for improvement which will be actioned.

In the afternoon the Chief Constable and I gave evidence to a peer review of the newly-created Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board. I think we were both in open and honest mood. But I hope we left the impression that we are very committed to membership of the board and recognise its developing and important role.

My day ended with a train journey to London to be ready for the morning at the Ministry of Justice.

Tuesday 21 October

Attended a conference hosted by the National Criminal Justice Board (NCJB). Robert Buckland, the Swindon South MP, is a member of the NCJB, so I have invited him to address the Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board. I attended breakout sessions on Local Partnerships, Transforming Rehabilitation and Victims and Witness Policy. As I have only just been invited to join the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) I can't comment on how it measures up to the minimum expectation published in July. However it will be good to test it.

What was apparent is that all LCJBs are at a different place, not necessarily a bad thing, meeting local problems with local solutions. Pity our boundaries are not the same. At the round-up session we heard of a

national helpline being put in place for victims. I have to say this seemed to me, and most of those present, rather in conflict with what we are doing locally. More work needed.

Wednesday 22 October

The second conference day in London. This time the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) victims workshops. This was a workshop for practitioners so I was pleased to be joined by Yvonne Maunder from my office. We had a follow-up from the day before by the Ministry of Justice. I was able to share what we are doing in Wiltshire with the setting up of Horizon Victim and Witness Care. This goes live in the spring and from what I heard at this conference puts us in Wiltshire in an excellent position with our care of both victims and witnesses. As for today's session, I might have been better off coming home last night and working locally.

Thursday 23 October

Had my regular meeting with the two council leaders (Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council). On this occasion we met at County Hall. In the event it was just with Jane Scott and we were able to update each other on various topics including safeguarding and estates.

I then had a meeting with members of the Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel who are looking at licensing. We had given written answers so much of the meeting was clarification. The next Police and Crime Panel is on Wednesday 19 November at 10am in Committee Room V1, Civic Office, Euclid Street, Swindon SN1 2JH.

Friday 24 October

I attend most of the area boards and locality meetings, but have now decided to get back into the market places. Today was the first of these visits and I went to Chippenham. I have to say we were busy almost from the word go, meeting people with a variety of problems, observations, complaints and compliments. We were joined by some of the local Police Community Support Officers and the whole three hours was very engaging and worthwhile. The people you meet on market days are from a wider group than those who attend area boards and locality meetings and I think it is well worth the time spent. Next Friday we will be in Calne.

In the afternoon I went to Trafalgar Park in Salisbury to welcome the new air ambulance to Wiltshire. This was an exciting event, tinged with sadness that the police's working partnership with the air ambulance will soon end. The new aircraft will be operational from the New Year after which date police requirements will be met from Filton, Bournemouth and Oxfordshire. I'm keen that we will see no reduction in service and we will monitor the service closely.

Saturday 25 October

The Swindon Tamil Association was set up about ten years ago. For the last eight years Sara Jane and I have been invited to the Deepavali Festival. Held in the Phoenix Theatre at New College, it is an exhibition of South Asian dance and music. The purpose of the association is to promote knowledge of traditional Tamil customs among those young people who have grown up in Britain. It always reminds me that my great grandfather was a founding member of the Swindon Caledonian Society which still exists today and which has a similar purpose of maintaining a cultural link between the mother country and those of us who have our home in England. As ever, there was an excellent curry supper at the end of the evening when we were able to mix with the performers.

Sunday 26 October

No Sunday morning lie-in for me, or indeed Sara Jane, as I am on a Question Time panel with Wiltshire Council leader Jane Scott, John Glen MP, Coun Ricky Rogers and King Arthur Pendragon.

This has been arranged by young people in Salisbury and it coincided with the third Salisbury youth market being held in the Market Square. I am sure the organisers were very pleased with the numbers as a lot of chairs were being sought out from other rooms in the Guildhall. The principal questions were around the changes being made by Wiltshire Council to youth services.

I was slightly disappointed that we did not get on to talking about the relationship between young people and police, though I did get a chance to promote the Volunteer Police Cadets who will be starting shortly in Amesbury. I am sure that, if enough young people come forward, we can have a group in Salisbury too.

ROYAL GUEST AND FLUTTERING POPPIES HONOUR WAR DEAD

Posted: Thursday 6th November 2014

Monday 27 October

HRH Duke of Kent is visiting Marlborough and Swindon today. So I went to Marlborough first to greet him with the Deputy Chief Constable Mike Veale.

The royal visitor attended the re-dedication of the war memorial which has been refurbished and presented good service medals to serving army people.

The Duke was given lunch by the Mayor of Marlborough, but I had to head off to the next event in Swindon. Here he was visiting the community radio station [Swindon 105.5](#) which recently received a grant from my office. The station supports people with a variety of challenges, including those who have been in trouble with the police. The grant has been used for outside broadcast equipment. HRH awarded the station's Shirley Ludford with the Queen's Award for Volunteering which is the equivalent of an MBE. Well deserved,

Back to the office in Devizes for the Commissioner's Monitoring Board meeting.

Tuesday 28 October

An office morning, getting ready for the Police and Crime Panel amongst other things before going to Portsmouth with Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Gavin Williams. We have been invited to a regional meeting with Alison Saunders, the Director of Public Prosecutions. It is part of a series of meetings being held all over the country. We were able to share our plans for a victim and witness bureau and to discuss some administrative issues. It was interesting to hear that one Police and Crime Commissioner is using former Crown Prosecution Service staff to review files to ensure that they are of correct quality for a prosecution to be made. I think this is something we can look at locally too.

Wednesday 29 October

Today I'm addressing more than 500 members of the Wiltshire Federation of Women's Institutes in Salisbury. We set up an exhibition stand for the delegates and it was good to meet so many before my speech. I was given the last slot before lunch and the day was running late which meant I wasn't able to take questions. I was talking about some of the initiatives that I have introduced to support women and girls. [Read the full speech here](#). Afterwards we were invited to join the executive members of the Federation for lunch where I chatted to Mike Dilger, the wildlife expert from BBC's The One Show, who addressed the meeting later.

Thursday 30 October

I had a useful briefing on counter terrorism measures in the morning. It was provided by two specialist police advisors. The presentation confirmed to me that we all have our part to play in keeping Wiltshire safe. .

Friday 31 October

The second of our consultation mornings in the markets of Wiltshire. Today we were in Calne, and I was particularly pleased that BBC Wiltshire's Mel Kimmer gave me a "shout out" in her "Pinboard Wizard" slot on the Breakfast show. I was pleased to be joined by PCSO Sarah Moth (see picture below).



Whilst Calne is not the largest market in the county, we had a steady stream of conversations outside the exhibition vehicle during the morning and I was very pleased to meet members of the Neighbourhood Watch. One complaint about people urinating in an alley and the police's approach to dealing with it, but many more positive than negative stories.

I think that today's visit to Calne and last Friday's to Chippenham Market have been very worthwhile. I hope to be attending markets across the county over the coming months.

By the way, while mentioning Calne I must add that the town's Neighbourhood Policing Team have a very active engagement with young people. Bluz n Zuz discos thrive here and Neighbourhood Policing Team Sergeant Ben Huggins is about to introduce a Positive Ticket scheme

This is how it works: If a police officer or police community support officer witness a positive act being carried out they will serve the young person with an on-the-spot 'Positive Ticket.' A young person can also be nominated by a member of the public or by one of our partner agencies.

Every young person with a ticket will be entered into a draw to receive a free entry VIP ticket to the next Bluez n Zuz disco and an invite to the next Calne Area Board to receive a certificate.

Sunday 2 November

Sara Jane and I were invited to the Swindon branch of the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Wyvern Theatre. I was especially pleased to find that the Wiltshire Police Band, under the baton of Paul Holland formed the backbone of the programme. We also enjoyed the Military Wives Choir from the Defence Academy at Shrivenham, Goddard Park Community Primary School Glee Club, Commonweal School Performing Arts and the Western Players giving an excerpt from Journey's End. Finally the Wessex Male Voice Choir performed.

The entertainment was followed by a short service of remembrance with a two minute silence during which poppies fell on the audience. The whole event was broadcast live on 105.5 and hosted by Shirley Ludford. Very enjoyable and moving.

WISHING KIER SUCCESS ON SENIOR OFFICERS' COURSE

Posted: Monday 10th November 2014

Monday 3 November

Regular blog readers will be aware that Mondays are very often taken up with briefing meetings on a whole range of topics which a Commissioner needs to know about.

One of our senior police officers, Temporary Assistant Chief Constable, Kier Pritchard (pictured below), is off to the Senior Police National Assessment Centre (Senior PNAC) run by the College of Policing. The Senior PNAC seeks to identify those officers capable of being an effective chief officer. Officers who are successful at Senior PNAC are eligible to attend the Strategic Command Course (SCC). Success on the SCC allows candidates to apply for chief officer roles.



I was pleased that Kier came to see me before going on the course to check his understanding both of the relationship between the Constabulary and the PCC and what I as PCC expect from the senior command team in Wiltshire. I wish him every success at the board next week.

The Chief Constable and I have a joint audit committee whose job it is to support and challenge us over matters financial and administrative. This committee is made up of people who bring a range of professional skills to the task. It comments on audit reports from both our external and internal auditors. Among other aspects the audit committee reviews our register of risks to ensure that my office is concentrating on those aspects of the business which matter.

I met the audit committee chairman in advance of the committee meetings to ensure that the agenda is properly prepared. At the next meeting I will be sharing with the committee the Medium Term Financial Strategy which sets out how much money we think will be available over the coming years and our plans to

operate within those constraints. I will also be talking about our regional work with other forces and our local integration with Wiltshire and Swindon councils.

Following my session with the audit committee chairman I had my regular meeting with Clive Barker, the Chief Finance Officer, at which we looked at the budget monitoring statement for the period from April to September.

The largest figure in this monitoring statement relates to salaries for police officers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and civilian staff. Part of our monitoring is to ensure that we are recruiting sufficiently well in advance to maintain the budgeted staff numbers. We are slightly behind in respect of PCSOs but, through recruitment, I hope we will be at the establishment number at the year end (March 2015). In September ten PCSOs transferred to train as regular officers and they need to be replaced.

Tuesday 4 November

The Chief Executive and I met the chairman of the Police and Crime Panel to discuss the agenda for the next meeting on Wednesday 19 November in Committee Room VI, Civic Office, Euclid Street, Swindon SN1 2JH.

Over the past quarter, panel members have been looking at the detail of the delivery of my Police and Crime Plan in respect of the enforcement of licensing of pubs and clubs. It seems that the panel's report on licensing might not be completed by the time of the meeting. I will be providing risk, performance, finance and complaints data for the second quarter of the year.

The panel reviews and, if necessary, challenges the risk register for my office so I spent time with colleagues reviewing our analysis of the steps we have in place to deal with those risks.

Wednesday 5 November

I attended a meeting of the [Wiltshire Public Service Board](#) at the new Springfield Community Campus in Corsham. It was good to have another look around the campus (at which the Neighbourhood Policing Team is now based), but I have to say it's a shame the site is not yet fully open.

The Public Service Board is made up of representatives of the various public bodies which serve the people of Wiltshire.

Of particular interest at the meeting was a presentation by the [Corsham Institute](#) highlighting the skills in the Corsham area in respect of IT and the internet. I hope to meet the leading figures in the institute in the coming weeks and share with them some of the challenges that the Constabulary and my office have in respect of new technology.

All the public services are using networks to run our organisations and I would like to be sure that we are not unnecessarily duplicating our efforts. I believe there are potential savings to be made and other benefits for all public services if we keep abreast of what each of us is doing.

Thursday 6 November

It was a pleasure to visit [Wiltshire People First](#) at Semington. It's probably a year since I have been to see them and it was an opportunity to hear from some of the users of the service and those who run it about their experiences of being disabled in Wiltshire. The meeting wasn't that well attended by users but, that said, it did give me an opportunity to talk in greater depth.

I have to say that I was a bit disappointed that there had been little progress in joining up Wiltshire People First and [Swindon Advocacy Movement](#). I still feel their shared objectives could be better met by working together.

I had a visit from the [Independent Police Complaints Commission](#) (IPCC) deputy chairman Sarah Green and Tom Milsom, the Associate Commissioner for Wiltshire, Devon and Cornwall. There was no agenda, so it was more of a "meet and greet" than dealing with some of the substantive matters in the IPCC's "in tray". As we move towards a greater degree of regional working it's perhaps important that I keep the IPCC apprised of our direction of travel with partners in the South West.

The day finished with a live interview with Lee Stone on [BBC Wiltshire's Drive show](#). It marked the second anniversary of my election to office and we covered quite a lot of ground. I was able to provide some Wiltshire context to some of the comments made by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in recent reports. I also took the opportunity to promote my rural crime survey which closes on 14 November and Community Messaging which I will be helping to launch when it is rolled out to more areas next week.

Friday 7 November

In the morning I attended the Royal British Legion **Field of Remembrance** at Lydiard Park. This is billed as being in Royal Wootton Bassett, although my wife was keen to point out that Lydiard Park is firmly in Swindon. It was a moving ceremony and it was a privilege to be able to lay a wreath in remembrance of members of Wiltshire Constabulary who lost their lives whilst serving in the two world wars.

Later I travelled to Salisbury for a meeting at Bourne Hill to look at a local Lorry Watch scheme.

Then it was on to the White Hart Hotel in the city for a presentation about the good work done by **Girlguiding in South West England** ahead of a celebration of Guiding in Salisbury Cathedral the next day.

Angus Macpherson
Police and Crime Commissioner
For Wiltshire and Swindon