

## **POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015**

#### **Introduction**

This report sets out a summary of the commitments I have undertaken since the last Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015. 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](http://www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk)) and the content of these blogs is copied below for the Panel's information.

#### **Friday 19 June**

I had a regular 1-2-1 with the Assistant Chief Officer for Business and People Development, Zoe Durrant before attending a board meeting of the Community Foundation in Devizes. In the evening I joined fellow residents of Wroughton at a reception at Overton House in support of the Conservative party.

#### **Saturday 20 June**

After a day in the garden I left home at 7.30pm in the evening to go to the Royal School of Artillery in Larkhill where I met up with officers and staff for a briefing on the police activities at summer solstice. After the briefing we had a quick meal in the excellent canteen before driving to the new visitors centre at Stonehenge. I spent my time walking from the visitors centre to the stones talking to officers, helpers and the public. It was a beautiful evening, relatively warm and dry. The area around the stones themselves was extremely crowded.



I also headed to Avebury where another group of officers was policing. This was a much smaller event than Salisbury and I particularly enjoyed a conversation the Force Chaplain had with a pagan worshiper about his alignment with the police. I left at 2.30 am and was in bed by 3 am but unfortunately with the curtains drawn I missed the sunrise. I want to say thank you to Avon & Somerset Police for their support with their horses at solstice. It was quite a sight to see.

#### **Monday 22 June**

Volvo has lent us a vehicle for our Community Police Volunteers to use over the next 18 months. This will be a great asset for those who give up their time to help with policing throughout the county. There are challenges around how the vehicle is to be allocated. To resolve this issue we are thinking of using a volunteer to manage the booking system.

I can see the vehicle being used to support Community Speed Watch, the rural crime team and Specials. It's a very nice vehicle and I'm keen that we get the best value out of this generous sponsorship. No doubt readers will have ideas about how we can use the vehicle. I would be happy to hear from you.

**Tuesday 23 June**

I had an off-site briefing about the custody review in advance of the major briefings in Salisbury tomorrow to staff, media and court users. The rest of the day was spent with the senior management team looking at how they will deliver my revised Police and Crime Plan. I am very pleased that the draft plan has been well received by the Constabulary and look forward to the public consultation in a couple of weeks.

In the evening, I went to a meeting of the One Swindon board which discussed the new vision being developed for the town. I also received updates from the fire service about helping troubled families and about a project known as Swindon 175 which is a celebration of the achievement of the borough since its formation. I was able to give members of the board a briefing on my draft Police and Crime Plan and seek partners' comments.

**Wednesday 24 June**



Today was dominated by the provision of custody to serve the south of the county. Chief Constable Mike Veale and I were at a staff briefing in Salisbury attended by about 40 officers and police staff (see picture above). We then had a media briefing which five media outlets covered. The day finished off with a briefing to the court user group at Salisbury Law Courts.

It's good that the presentation on the custody proposals was so closely argued and based throughout on evidence. The conclusion is that a custody unit will be built in Warminster and we will have a two custody model (the other unit being the existing one at Gablecross Police Station on the outskirts of Swindon). Over the next six months we will be looking at potential locations in Warminster.

**Thursday 25 June**

I had a governors' meeting at Dauntsey's School in the morning before an interview with Heart FM on the custody issue in the afternoon. In the evening I did my duties at the Filling Station charity for homeless people in Swindon which was busy. I'm afraid many people had consumed too much alcohol before they turned up for food.

**Friday 26 June**

A meeting of the Independent Audit Committee at Headquarters. I respect the way in which the committee does its work and the commitment of the individuals. The audit of the accounts is just about to commence and the committee reviewed changes and other technical matters raised by our independent auditors. The audit fee has reduced this year.

Bill Fishlock, who was a member of the police authority before taking over as chair of the audit committee, retired at this meeting. He goes with very best wishes from Chief Constable Mike Veale and me. Bill's knowledge and commitment over many years has been of great benefit to the people of Wiltshire. I'm sure he will enjoy spending even more time with his grandchildren.

Saturday 27 June



Up early for Armed Forces Day. This event was marked in three locations in Wiltshire; Salisbury, Swindon and Trowbridge. Over the years the Trowbridge event has grown and it now fills the whole of the town's park. It was a beautiful day, so lots of people were about. It gave people the opportunity to talk to me about local police and crime issues. I must say those I did speak to were complimentary about policing and the visibility of police in Trowbridge. (The picture above shows members of the Trowbridge Neighbourhood Policing Team).

In the evening, I had an old students' reunion at Dauntsey's School. An excellent dinner in the company of other "old boys".

Back to my desk after a busy weekend. The first meeting is with Julia's House. This is a new hospice for young people which is being established in Wiltshire. They came to see Chief Constable Mike Veale and me to find out if employees of the Force would be interested in fundraising for the project. I hope that they would, but it has to appeal to the staff as an idea and I'm not sure that it should come from the top. I have no doubt that such a valuable and local project will appeal and we will be sowing the seeds around the organisation.

A few weeks ago I visited the Junior Good Citizen project in Swindon and this week I visited the county project at Wiltshire Scout Centre in Potterne. This is a very good scheme and we reach a fantastic number of students. The picture below shows me with PC Sally Pullen, who delivers the scheme for Wiltshire Police. It will be interesting to see how it melds with the proposed Fire Safety Centre being talked about for the county.



Now that the new Chief is in post I need to develop the performance development review (PDR) which will be used to assess his performance. This will sit alongside my new Police and Crime Plan. My last meeting was with the Finance Director. I am pleased to say that finance matters are on track.

In the late afternoon and evening I attended the summer festival at Dauntsey's School. I watched nine of Grimm's fairy tales over two performances. Overall around 100 students were involved. It was a great undertaking and everyone seems to be enjoying playing their part.

Tuesday 30 June

An office day. It was excellent to see Gill Stafford, who used to be on the Wiltshire Police Authority, who called in to say hello. Gill is still supporting the operation by attending meetings of a joint board for public protection comprising Wiltshire Police and partner agencies.

A lot of catching up on what is going on before heading back to Dauntsey's, firstly to see a dance show with about 12 presentations and then Lord of the Flies. This production was by the choreographer Matthew Bourne - a great experience for the performers. It was good to treat my wife and daughter to an evening they enjoyed, being Bourne followers. A wonderful production and a warm night.

Wednesday 1 July

Further work on the Chief's PDR before a meeting with the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). We have a new lead member and I was pleased that he has taken the time to visit the Chief and me at an early stage. Very engaging, open and honest and, I believe, someone who will be good to work with, albeit that I would prefer not to have need of referrals to the IPCC in the first place!

Having to write the blog ensures that time is set aside in the diary, but I never feel like writing to order. So, as usual, I am busy with other things. I was pleased to meet a local representative of Shared Hope International and to give what advice and introductions I can to help this organisation. It is dedicated to eradicating sex trafficking and to bring justice to vulnerable women and children. Like others it is greatly concerned about child sexual exploitation (CSE) and getting young people to be aware of the signs and dangers.

In the evening I attended a meeting of the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) where I spoke about my role and about road safety. I hope that those setting up the fire safety centre get in touch as they are a very committed bunch.

Thursday 2 July

An early start as I'm spending the morning at Wilton Market. This is a busy market in an ancient town, and it was good to see many of the leading citizens during the morning, but - more importantly - to have an opportunity to meet local people.

I had no doubt that the people of Wilton know their local police officers and that view was reinforced during the day. Again, little concern was raised over the move of custody to Warminster. When the issue is explained, people understand that it is more important to have officers on the streets, whilst providing a robust service to all



the county. The weather was mercifully cool and dry and we had a steady stream of visitors. I was very pleased to have been supported by a local PCSO for the session, always a bonus.

Back to Swindon for the swearing-in of some new Police Cadets (see picture below). These young people are from the West Swindon unit which we have just started. They have done a few weeks and showed great poise and confidence as they read out, individually, their service promise. The parents were rightly proud. I was very pleased that the High Sheriff, Lady Gooch, was able to attend and that, in a week or so, one of the cadets will become a "High Sheriff's Cadet".



Friday 3 July

Chaired my last meeting of the education panel at the Community Foundation this morning. The applications for scholarships had been assessed by a sub group during the week and today was the final decision day. We were able to fund 16 individuals to go on to university with funding totalling around £90,000. In addition there were some smaller awards (but no less important for the recipients) for personal support.

It has been a real pleasure to play a part in enabling students to go to university, many of whom would not have fulfilled their potential without the grants. I fear that there will be further changes to the funding of higher education which may result in more demand for Community Foundation help in the future. I look forward to meeting some of the graduates in a few weeks' time.

Saturday 4 July

Attended the prize giving and speech day at Dauntsey's. The guest speaker was Claire Perry, MP for Devizes, who reminded students how lucky they were to have had the opportunity of a good education. A happy day tinged with sadness as students prepare for a new chapter of life.

Monday 6 July

In the morning I had a meeting with the South West regional collaboration programme lead, Temporary Superintendent Chris Eastwood, in my office. I was glad to see that he is intent on being seen to work independently of both Wiltshire Constabulary and Avon & Somerset Constabulary. He will be based at an office on the border between the two areas and will be at the service of both. The Strategic Alliance between our two forces will only work if it is done as a collaboration.

I then had my usual performance briefing but today it was held before the Commissioner's Monitoring Board (CMB). After the briefing from the performance team we discussed a new template for the meetings as CMB will no longer be held in my office but in a larger room to accommodate more people.

The board and I reviewed the budget spend to date and internal audits and I completed the auditors' questionnaire. The meeting discussed the blue lights regional technology strategy and I accepted many of the recommendations. We also discussed a collaborative procurement exercise for a new geographical information system for Wiltshire Police, Avon & Somerset Constabulary and Wiltshire Council; business case approvals included funding for the emergency services mobile communications programme.

We went on to discuss the Innovation Fund Evaluation Report which has been done by The Community Foundation. Overall the fund has been very successful. The full report will be published soon.

I also had updates on the relationship between Action Fraud and Horizon and on our joint enterprise, Zephyr followed by an update on operational matters. CMB was a very busy and productive meeting.

At 4 o'clock I was in the car and driving to Bristol to the SS Great Britain at the Great Western Dockyard for a reception held by Historic England. It was an interesting evening and a wonderful opportunity to revisit Brunel's masterpiece. It was 40 years ago when I first visited the ship, shortly after it arrived back in Bristol, and it has changed since then.

Tuesday 7 July

First thing in the morning I was on Swindon Radio 105.5 with Sergeant Dave Ibbott of the Swindon town centre team. The Neighbourhood Policing Team have an hour's programme every two weeks and it is proving very popular. As ever, it was a pleasure to visit the studios which do such a good job to support so many people with difficulties.

In the afternoon I went back to the office for briefings on complaints and the local policing project which is being developed for the west of the county and which will be launched in September.

Wednesday 8 July

I had the Swindon Health and Wellbeing Board in the afternoon, but no matters for me on the agenda this time, although it is good to hear what is happening. Mental Health is on the next agenda.

In the late afternoon we had a press call in Trowbridge about the new operational policing pilot. The pilot launching on 14 September will trial a new way of working for Wiltshire Police. It fits in well with one of my four priorities in the new Police and Crime Plan: to secure high quality, efficient and trusted services. It is an operational model I have been striving towards for the last couple of years as it places victims and witnesses at the heart of Wiltshire police.

A single team of local police officers, police community support officers (PCSOs), response officers and investigators will be based within the community. Using new technology, including laptops and 3G phones, the team will be able to bring their office out into the community. Officers and staff will be more visible and accessible to the public.



Angus with Chief Constable Mike Veale and Inspector Chris Chammings

Thursday 9 July

Went to Bradford on Avon market this morning with my marquee for a public engagement event and I was joined by the local Neighbourhood Policing Team. Members of the public know their policing team very well and it was a very positive and enjoyable morning. I couldn't resist the opportunity to buy some juicy strawberries from a nearby fruit and vegetable stall to share with the team. I was due to be in London in the afternoon and evening but, due to the rail strike, I stayed in Wiltshire.



Angus at Bradford Upon Avon market

Friday 10 July

Today I visited Stowell Farm in Pewsey to look at the milking unit as part of the National Farmers Union (NFU) Countryside Day. It is a very impressive unit with a process from birthing to milk production with a rotating milking unit for around 60 cows. The most remarkable thing for me was the biodigester. It makes the one we have installed at Dauntsey's School, where I'm a governor, look very small. You put left over food, cow poo and grasses in at one end and electricity comes out at the other end. They just need to find a use for the excess heat, and it will be really working well.

Saturday 11 July

I attended the Wiltshire and Swindon Neighbourhood Watch Association annual meeting at Devizes headquarters today. I was pleased to thank Gwyn Comley, Ian Mase and Sue Stoker, for the work they have done for Neighbourhood Watch and I gave them a certificate of appreciation. We then had an update on Community Messaging which now covers the whole county. The association is looking for new volunteers to keep it moving forward.



Angus with Sue Stoker, Ian Mase and Gwyn Comley

Monday 13 July

This morning I met with the Community Foundation to do some planning for a Jazz lunch I am holding in my garden on Sunday 27th September. The lunch is to launch the Foundation's 'Surviving Winter Campaign.' Last year the Foundation distributed over £70,000 to 348 households. With the holidays upon us it is surprising how time will fly between now and September.

Afterwards, I had briefings in the office from Finance and went through the papers for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioner's (APCC) meeting in London on Wednesday.

In the afternoon I was honoured to meet Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall, (who is patron of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust) , at the opening of the new Wichelstowe landing stage. Her Royal Highness arrived at West Wichel - on a disappointingly damp afternoon - aboard the trust's narrow boat, Dragonfly where they unveiled a commemorative plaque.



Angus being introduced by Lord Lansdowne, Vice Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire. Looking on is Robert Buckland, MP for South Swindon.

Some 40 years ago I played a small part in preserving the heritage of the then derelict canal. I wrote to press the council to save the towpath stone declaring "Semington 26 miles" during the development of the town centre. I am pleased to record that the milestone was incorporated into Canal Walk.

I am delighted that the canal is now being restored as a waterway for the 21st Century.

Tuesday 14 July

This morning I was at Oxford Airport (or, more correctly London Oxford Airport) where I was the guest of 9-line Oculus for a demonstration of fixed wing aircraft capability. Readers may remember that we no longer have dedicated Wiltshire Police helicopter as there is now a national resource. We are a part of the National Police Air Service that serves Bournemouth, Bristol and Benson.

It was useful to understand exactly what a fixed wing aircraft can do. I was impressed by the cameras and by the quietness of a fixed wing. I'm sure that fixed wing has a part to play within the fleet, and both the capital and running costs are so much less than helicopters. It was a very informative and useful day.

In the evening I headed to London to be ready for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioner's (APCC) meeting in the morning.

Wednesday 15 July

The APCC held the meeting at the Royal College of General Practitioners in Euston Square. If any one is looking for a conference facility, this is a very good venue. I have to say the day was not without its challenges, and there was a great deal of talking in groups and corridors as the organisation grappled with itself and the politics of a chairperson. In the end the AGM was opened and adjourned to another day. We did however have an interesting presentation by Kevin Hyland, the UK's first Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. It should be remembered that only a few weeks ago an operation was undertaken in Wiltshire to support those subject to human trafficking and modern day slavery and I'm sure that there will be more.

Thursday 16 July

Tony Hogg, the PCC for Devon and Cornwall Police, is promoting a drink awareness campaign 'Drunken Nights Out Campaign' in the South West. I'm very happy to support this, especially over the summer when people are on holiday, whether that's in Ibiza , Devon or Purton, they still need to be aware of the dangers.

Next month the Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for Disabled People is visiting the Constabulary and my office, so we have been putting together a detailed programme for the one hour he will be here, and planning started today.





Over the lunch hour I had a briefing for the Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board which is being held at Headquarters this afternoon. The meeting had an agenda item community led actions. It was pleasing to see how many communities have taken up some of the initiatives I support like Safe Places which is now widely embraced.

In the evening I attended the Trowbridge Area Board. I was on the agenda last by which time the public, and those getting grants had left, so I'm afraid not much public engagement achieved. Good thing that I'm in the town on Sunday and Monday!

Friday 17 July

I had a 1-2-1 with the Assistant Chief Officer Zoe Durrant, which enabled us to discuss the building blocks of the future. We have to align our terms and conditions, as well as our technology, across the region if we are going to work more closely with other forces, so the discussion provided useful background for next week's regional meeting.

Saturday 19 July

Ramadan ended yesterday, and today I was invited to join the Muslim community in Trowbridge for their celebration. The Eid is celebrated by Muslims around the world to mark the end of Ramadan (fasting), and it was a pleasure to join in the party. It is not a large community but I believe it is so important to be involved.

Monday 20 July

It is very apparent that we are now in the holiday season, as many of my regular meetings have disappeared from the calendar. Performance briefing survived for today which was followed by a full Commissioner's Monitoring Board, although we were a bit short on attendees due to holidays. No matter, business was still done.

In the evening I attended a Magna Carta event at St James' Church Trowbridge. We were entertained by the Magna Carta singers, a group formed to celebrate the event and to remember Henry de Bohun (one of the knights who witnessed the signing).

Tuesday 21 July

This morning I had a meeting with Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC), Wendy Williams. As well as covering some of the themed inspection that are planned I was able to talk about some concerns I have which HMIC may be able to help with.

In the evening I attended a meeting of Swindon Conservative Councillors and gave them a briefing on the last year in office and on the draft Police and Crime Plan for 2016/17 which is out for consultation.

Wednesday 22 July

I had a meeting arranged at County Hall with Councillor Humphries to give a briefing on custody and the new operational model. I was joined by Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Paul Mills, but our best laid plans went awry and the Councillor was at my office. The situation was saved by the use of technology and the meeting was conducted over a video link. I had a further meeting in County Hall with the local inspector and residents before returning to Headquarters in Devizes to prepare for the regional meeting tomorrow.

Thursday 23 July

In the morning I drove to Bridgewater for a South West Regional Meeting. It had to be recognised that elections are upon us, but even so it was a positive meeting. The relationship with Avon & Somerset Police is strong and it was good to be updated on some of the work that Dorset and Devon & Cornwall are undertaking. I always feel a bit sorry for Gloucestershire. They must feel a bit left out when we get excited about our collaborations, but then it is their choice to go it alone.

This evening I was due to attend a reception given by the High Sherriff Lady Gooch in aid of the Community Foundation's "One Degree More" programme. As it happened I spent the evening chatting with an RAC man at the side of the M4 as I waited for a recovery truck!

Friday 24 July

A further briefing on custody today, this time for Trowbridge MP, Dr Andrew Murrison. In actual fact my meeting followed one he had with Chief Constable Mike Veale, so there was a merging, which worked well and I hope we



were able to cover all matters he wanted to raise with us as well as updating him on operational and strategic matters.

In the evening I presented to the Conservative Chairmen the review of last year and my Police and Crime Plan for 2016/17.

Saturday 25 July

My wife Sara Jane and I attended a lunch party given by the High Sherriff, Lady Gooch at her home. It was a very jolly affair, and a good opportunity to update a wide variety of Wiltshire's leading people.

Sunday 26 July

Back to Chitterne today for a further party at the High Sherriff's, this time the Magistrates. I was there in a personal capacity, and it was a good opportunity to meet up with those I used to work with when I was on the bench. I have to say that rumours about the possible closure of Chippenham Court House rather dominated the conversations, but it was good to catch up with former colleagues.

Monday 27 July

The Constabulary has a quarterly internal magazine called 'Firstbeat' and I have been invited to do an interview for the next edition. So I spent some time in the morning planning the messages that I want to get across. Then my office launched my new, refreshed PCC website. The original website was no longer fit for purpose as we have a lot more content than we did a year ago and the site needed to be easier for readers to navigate around. Please let me know what you think.

In the afternoon I was pleased to meet with a representative from Wiltshire Search and Rescue (WILSAR). WILSAR are a group of volunteers who can be called on to help search for missing people. They are first aid trained and water awareness trained. The representative was able to give me an idea of their resilience and challenges as well as their hopes for the future which I would like to help with where possible. This fits well with the volunteering priority within my Police and Crime Plan. It is worth noting that they have spent over 14,000 hours on search activities in the last year, across Wiltshire and in support of neighbouring counties.

Tuesday 28 July

In the morning I had an update from the Speed Watch coordinator and was pleased to hear that the 136 teams are still active across Swindon and Wiltshire. I believe the dedication of the teams is worthy of note. Most of the roads monitored by Speed Watch are 30mph limits but increasingly they now monitor 20mph zones. It made me think that we should examine some of the 20mph zones, as they are supposed to be supported by engineering that make speeding difficult for motorists. I just wonder if the engineering is robust enough? I'm pleased that Speed Watch will be at the Emergency Services Show on Sunday 13 September at Hullavington Airfield, and I'm sure they will be recruiting more volunteers.

In the afternoon I attended a meeting with colleagues from Avon & Somerset Constabulary as we reviewed the progress on our Strategic Alliance. It is early days, but I'm glad there is a team in place and our two forces are beginning to speak the same language. What will be essential to common standard and style of governance for both forces from the two PCCs. It is not impossible but developed over time rather than imposed is the best way forward.

In the evening I met with the Conservative councillors in Swindon and I presented the annual review and my draft Police and Crime Plan. I will be meeting the Labour councillors in a couple of weeks to do similar.

Wednesday 29 July

I had an early photo call in Salisbury for the CCTV scheme first thing in the morning. I was joined by Steven Godwin from BID and Councillor Andrew Roberts. The CCTV system currently in place in Salisbury is quite old and funding to keep CCTV running with staff has cut by Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Council will be installing a new state of the art CCTV system and the responsibility for staff will be managed by the City Council and supported by Salisbury BID Company.

I understand that the cameras will be monitored by trained volunteers, but they need to be recruited and trained. In order to keep the scheme up and running whilst the changes take place I have made a grant of £25,000 (matching that of the BID's and City Council grant) to maintain the service until volunteers are found. This is a one off payment, but it is worth saying that I will look favourably on meeting the cost of getting the pictures from Salisbury to the control centre in Devizes; an offer I have made to all the town CCTV systems working in Swindon and the County.



Steve Godwin from BID, Angus and Councilor Andrew Roberts

Thursday 30 July

I had a briefing on front counter services and public access this morning, followed by a meeting with the Head of Victim Support. Mark Castle used to be the Head of the Association of Police Chiefs Council but recently took over as Head of Victim Support. It was good to meet up with him and have the opportunity to introduce him to staff members who sit in the Horizon Victim and Care unit here in Devizes who contact victims and refer victims to Victim Support.

In the afternoon I had a briefing meeting with the new MP for Chippenham, Michelle Donelan at the Monkton Park site, before heading to Swindon for an evening's duty with the Filling Station.

Friday 31 July

I attended the Commissioner's Monitoring Board this morning. I'm pleased to have approved a further funding of £170,000 for the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in Swindon, which will be put on an equal footing with the MASH team in County Hall Trowbridge. I also had an update on the learning outcomes from the recent employment tribunal in which the Force was criticised. The terms of reference are now agreed and I look forward to some real progress.

I also had the Health and Safety Performance Report for 2014/2015. I remember from the past that this is a really well written piece of work and this year's report did not disappoint in that respect. There were some uncomfortable statistics, such as an increase in assaults on police staff of 43%, from 8 to 14, but there were some positive improvements around operational injuries and road traffic collisions.

I was made aware on Monday 3 August of the IPCC's intention to announce an investigation into Wiltshire Police's handling of allegations of offending in the 1990s. As you will all now be aware, this announcement featured Sir Edward Heath and suggested that he may have been involved in offending that Wiltshire Police failed to investigate properly at the time

I have been aware of the matter for some months and investigations are continuing. I understand that the Force had conversations with the IPCC in relation to the announcement and the management of all the stakeholders involved. However, the IPCC made it clear that they were naming Sir Edward Heath in their statement at midday on the Monday.

I spent the afternoon with colleagues putting together a press strategy and communications to all the other concerned parties who were to be told just before the IPCC released their statement.

I am not sure that the IPCC's decision was the right one but it is important to stress that they are independent and they wouldn't seek the Force's approval for this decision. However, it was right that the Force appealed for any victims to come and speak to us; giving the right advice and ensuring any vulnerable people are supported is key to getting this right.

Holiday Week 3 to 9 August

I'm not doing a daily blog for this week, but rather a reflection of the week. I thought I would look up in a dictionary what holiday means; "day of exemption from labour", but derived from a "Holy or sacred day". My diary says "annual leave" and for that I found "liberty granted". This week I am at Marlborough College for a week's tutoring in water-colours. I've been doing water-colours for about four years but I want to perfect some skills. In the past I have done Scottish Country Dancing and a master class in solo singing.



Angus painting

The other thing about being in Marlborough is it is local and with our mobile and remote working I am able to view work emails and keep in touch, visually, with the office and colleagues through Lync.

On Monday 3 August the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) decided to announce their investigation into allegations relating to the handling of child abuse allegations involving Sir Edward Heath back in the 1990s.

The media established camp outside Sir Edward Heath's home in Salisbury where they interviewed the lead investigator Temporary Superintendent Sean Memory, following the IPCC press release. This led to the force being accused of 'grandstanding' by The Times newspaper, which I think was extremely unfair. The message was very focused; the Force wish to hear from anyone who thinks they might have information and in particular from any victims. This message marks an important switch in emphasis - the service is now victim focused. It was a priority to ensure that those who did make contact were properly supported via the NSPCC who are assisting us. Believe it or not, the service has changed in the last 20 years, and even in the last three.

On Wednesday I had to leave Marlborough to attend a BBC interview at Headquarters. Somehow the reporter had got it in mind that Wiltshire Police was in crisis and melt down, not least as both the Chief and I were on leave. It was worthwhile appearing on BBC Points West in person to assure the public that nothing was further from the truth, and that even whilst painting in Marlborough I'm fully briefed and in touch with my office, whilst the Chief's senior colleagues cover all operational activity, all of whom have his confidence, and in turn, mine.

Thursday passed relatively quietly as we prepared pieces for the exhibition tomorrow, and in the evening I had Filling Station duties.





Angus's watercolour painting

The last day painting and at last the sun has come out, but unfortunately we are in the studio, followed by an exhibition of our work in the afternoon.

Interesting data published by the Taxpayers Alliance today.

This will take some analysis of the detail, but I think it shows Wiltshire in a good light, with good value for money and reduced costs of governance. Worth a read, especially for those who mistakenly believe that the OPCC is costing more than the old governance.

In the evening I attended a meeting of members of the Conservative party from across the seven constituencies at which I was readopted as the candidate for the elections in May 2016. It is a great honour and I look forward to the challenges to come.

On Saturday morning I attended the Swindon Pride parade through the town and the event at the Town Gardens. It was a very good opportunity to support the LGBT staff within Wiltshire Police as well as sending a positive message to the wider community we serve.

So in summary a week's holiday, but far from restful!

Monday 10 August

I was very pleased to see my Chief Executive, Kieran Kilgallen back from his holidays this morning and suitably refreshed. I then welcomed three members of the youth parliaments into my office. I am working in partnership with them on a survey for secondary schools on the content and provision of Personal Health and Social Education (PHSE).

I'm interested in what schools think they are delivering and what is being received by students and I'm delighted to be supported by the Youth Parliament in this project. It follows the good work they are doing about mental health amongst young people. We hope to have the survey ready for the beginning of next term, and who knows, it may be picked up in the region.

Tuesday 11 August

Following up the headline that Forces will no longer investigate burglaries, I'm pleased to confirm that this is not the case in Wiltshire. Just looking at one of our hubs in the quarter that ended on the 31 July, of the 237 reports of dwelling burglaries in Wiltshire, 214 were attended by the Crime Scene Investigators. All dwelling burglaries in the sector were attended and investigated by a specialist team or by response police, who pass the matter to the specialists. I think these figures show that not all Forces are the same!

I then attended a briefing from Assistant Chief Officer of Business and People Development, Zoe Durrant before her leave, in which I was updated on the estates issues, legal and employment matters. I can understand the frustration of those looking on, but I'm content that all is progressing well, given the constrain of diaries.

Wednesday 12 August

In the morning I had a meeting with the Volunteer's Manager, Andrew Murray who has been in post for just a few months, but is full of enthusiasm. It is always interesting to hear of the many people and groups that aid policing in the county. I hadn't previously heard of a group of 'Humane Animal Dispatchers', who can be called on to put down injured animals, typically those injured on the roads. I also had an update in relation to volunteers in



Community Speed Watch and the use of the Volvo car that Volvo has provided the Force for free to be used by volunteers.

Stop and Search data is back in the news. It is presented in a very misleading way, but on examination of the data I am satisfied that the local police are using their powers properly. I believe that it is the outcome that is important and we must keep challenging the Force over the use of powers.

In the afternoon I was asked to join a judging panel for a logo designed by students for the CyberbeeWise Campaign, which is concerned with raising awareness about browsing the internet safely.

Had the dentist in the late afternoon. Ugh! Followed by a trustees meeting of Big Breakfast.

Friday 14 August

I met with Unison representatives. This is always useful, and whilst my office does not act as the employer for police staff, I am interested in the issues that are being addressed by both sides within the Constabulary. I'm pleased to say that the relationship seems to be constructive, and appreciate that we are all going through times of change. I think that the Force generally has a good approach towards involving staff in structural decisions. Obviously Unison's concerns revolved around announcements made in other parts of the country by PCCs and Chief Constables. I was able to reassure them that there are no similar plans in Wiltshire.

In the afternoon I visited Booth House In Swindon. This is a hostel for the homeless run by the Salvation Army, but alongside the hostel it also operates two social enterprises, 'The Sandwich People' and 'Recycle'. Both these projects offer training and qualifications to those without work and these opportunities provide an important addition to the base levels of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. This has at its base the physical requirements for human survival, life sustaining things such as food and water. The next block in the pyramid is concerned with safety needs such as health and wellbeing, and financial security. According to Maslow, without these basic blocks in place you cannot achieve esteem (confidence, achievements, respect for and of other) or self-actualization (morality, creativity, spontaneity, problem solving, lack of prejudice and acceptance of facts). It was good to see the service offered and to meet both staff and clients.

Saturday 15 August

Having spent nine hours in the garden; weeding, mowing, and intermittently repairing the mower, I then joined the Street Pastors of Chippenham on night patrol. It was an open evening, when new recruits are taken out to see if they want to join. Two teams did three patrols during the evening, the first leaving at around 10pm for an hour and a half, followed by two further patrols. We visited much of the town, the railway and bus station, car parks and licensed premises, including the Palace, a newly opened establishment.

The patrols carry a first aid kit, bottles of water, flip flops and jelly babies which are excellent as an ice breaker in conversations. As the evening progressed, the level of drunkenness increased, and by the time I left at about 3am there were four police units tasked in the centre of the town and the pastors were busy with those lost or distressed. We see it all on TV but it is a reality on the streets of the market towns of Wiltshire and I'm pleased that those who volunteer as street pastors are there to help and support.