



East Sussex 2013-14

48 Hours in East Sussex

19th Thursday

15.00 Chief Superintendent Neil Honnor here, regular briefing. Discuss impact of Balcombe fracking protest on resourcing policing in Sussex. Discuss possibility of analysis of 'pinch points' on East Sussex roads and impact on the economy. Hear that Sussex Police is first force in UK to win White Ribbon Award in recognition of commitment to global campaign for men taking more responsibility to reduce violence against women. Discuss exciting cooperative pilot projects in mental health arena and its interaction with policing.

17.30 leave for Glyndebourne with large quantities of flowers in boot of car.

19.30 Glyndebourne: With Patrick Burgess (West Sussex) have organised 26 past High Sheriffs from East and West Sussex plus spouses for dinner and presentation to His Honour Richard Brown for distinguished service to Courts in Lewes and his tremendous support of Shrievalty. President of High Sheriffs' Association Julian Avery makes excellent speech and presentation. High volume level in dining room.

23.45 Home

20th Friday

09.30 Home. Representatives of Charity4kids: grassroots community-based charity in Hastings who have raised £35,000 in two years for profoundly disabled local children by ever more extreme athletic endeavours: this year, there and back Channel relay followed by a bike ride and a run. Discuss making connections for them.

13.00 Lunch with the Rother Valley Railway to celebrate building the first stage of extension from Robertsbridge to Bodiam. Excellent lunch, interesting



The High Sheriff processing before the Speaker's Day service at St Mary's Church, Rye.

PHOTOGRAPH: PIXELS PHOTOGRAPHY, RYE

and informative speech by chairman. Make new charitable contact. High Sheriff has footplate ride on first train: pulls whistle: schoolboy fantasies to the fore.

15.30 Home - vain attempt to catch up with emails.

16.45 arrive Hastings Police Station for Response unit briefing. Tasked to patrol car with PC Jo Seabridge; tour of Hastings station first then patrol interesting parts of Hastings. Stop while Jo talks to a man behaving very aggressively to girlfriend. Emergency call to domestic incident with serious potential. Very confused story from mother, wringing wet son and his articulate Polish girlfriend. Jo and colleague shuttle between parties with great patience. Girlfriend leaves for that night at least.

Next call to very confused old couple being intimidated by children. Patient reassuring calming, Jo settles them down promising that patrol officers will watch out and PCSOs visit the next day. Buy team unhealthy supper of pizza (delicious) and sweet tea at

station. Out again with Jo to assist mental health worker arrange for disturbed woman to be removed to a place of safety. Enormously impressed by PC's compassion and humanity tempered with necessary firmness.

22.00 Meet Street Pastors in Baptist Church, Hastings. Multi denominational. Prayer before starting. Cruise with Pastors, talking to street people enquiring after missing persons, giving soup, water comfort and sometimes a lifeline. Later on Pastors will relieve police of burden of incapacitated drunks giving water, support, flip-flops and counsel, relieving many officers to carry on 'proper' policing not waste time hanging around A&E or looking after drunks. We don't need drunk tanks, solution already provided by local churches: fund Pastors better.

23.15 picked up off street by Operation Marble officers. This is the firm face of policing at night. Visit new night club, discuss actions taken to prevent drugs getting into club. Club owners very proactive and cooperative: their licence at risk: taken down to dance floor.



News from and about Members

Deafening: vow last-ever visit to night club.

Deal with altercation between two girls; one, a known heroin addict given order to stay away from town centre until 9am tomorrow and transported away

01.45 Home: reflecting on how such a large part of modern policing is far closer to social services; police are the first port of call for so many who do not consider/understand system. Mostly peopled by decent caring humane people with real inner character.

21st Saturday

09.15 On parade in full uniform for Federation of Cinque Ports (est. 1155) Speaker's Day in Rye. Lord Warden of Cinque Ports, Admiral Lord Boyce, Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex, Peter Field, 20 or so mayors and their mace bearers, self and various hangers-on parade around the streets of splendid historic Rye preceded by drum band.

11.00 Church service, all favourite hymns, first-class sermon on community from Bishop of Dover: more parading

12.00 Lunch at the ancient Mermaid Inn one of most haunted places in Britain. Great lunch, no wine, short speeches, home by 3pm, sit and read newspaper.....

17.30 Wake: exhausting yes, but what a range of contrast and people. In awe of the people working to protect and improve our already Big Society. What a privilege to be a High Sheriff. □

Graham Peters DL

High Sheriff of East Sussex 2013-14