

RSN EXTILLATION SPEECH 24TH April 2018

My Lord Lieutenant,
High Sheriff (I haven't said that for a year!)
Your Honours
My Lords
Chairman of Surrey County Council Mayors, Mayoresses, Chairmen
Chief Constable, Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Fire Officer.
Other distinguished guests.

Thank you all for joining us today for this important civic occasion, the installation of a new High Sheriff, Dr Jim Glover..... and by default, my Ex-tillation or Demission.

A year ago the Cathedral was in the throes of a major refurbishment. Photographs of my installation had the unusual, dramatic and "perhaps" memorable background of a building site.

A year later...what a transformation. I congratulate the Dean and Chapter on what has been achieved in the renewal of the fabric and of course the refurbishment of the pipe organ. The former looks fabulous and the latter sounds magnificent.

Today I would like to thank the Dean and the Revd Canon Dr Paul Smith for hosting the Installation of the new High Sheriff in your Cathedral within Evensong and making us all so welcome. Thank you also to Sir Andrew Edis, The Honourable Mr Justice Edis, a High Court Judge, for presiding over the Installation of Jim Glover as our new High Sheriff of Surrey.

It was an enormous honour to be installed a year ago as the 796th named High Sheriff of Surrey.

I suggested at that time that the honour needed to be earned and justified by a year of activity that, to some degree, made a difference to the well-being of the people of Surrey.

I said and I quote from my notes of twelve months ago, "I hope that, in twelve months' time, I can report to you that I will have earned the honour of being High Sheriff".

That was a bit presumptuous. As only all of you and others and the passage of time can make such a judgement. So, I won't try.

Instead I would like to thank so many people and organisations with whom I have had the pleasure of meeting and working.

My efforts to shine a torch into the troubling issue of pupils being excluded from Surrey schools has brought me into contact with many outstanding individuals.

School exclusion leads to social exclusion, 63% of prison inmates will have been excluded from school. I would like to thank in particular Denis and Louise O'Connor who inspired my interest in this topic. Also, Kerry Randle and Anne Halliday of SCC, the heads of the 5 PRUs, many mainstream head teachers and the staff of the charities working in schools.

It has been humbling and amazing to meet you all and to know there are so many individuals who really care about the imperative of inclusivity in our schools. They recognise that such good practice can be more widely spread. It may be invidious to name one person but I will never forget David Blow Head of Ashcombe School saying to me "you can't delete a child".

=====

One of the many organisations which indirectly is reducing the risk of a child being excluded from school is the Surrey Volunteer Police Cadets scheme. I am delighted that Jim Glover as HS is now the Patron of the Police Cadets (I was for 24 hours). Jim I hope you last longer.

Yesterday evening we had a great HS Award Ceremony recognising many of the outstanding cadets and also the officers who largely give of their time to lead weekly unit sessions.

There are now 6 such units in Surrey with 198 cadets, with the aim to grow to 11 units across the County. I would like to thank the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner for their support of this High Sheriff Police Cadets role. A particular thank you to the ever-energetic Sergeant Graham Kerslake who co-ordinates everything.

I could relate many other memorable activities of my year, visiting the charities supported by the HSYA, laying wreaths for the Surrey regiments at the Menin Gate, being with the LL presenting "Peggy Archer" (aka Jean Spencer) with her CBE, a very special Fire Service war memorial event, ...I could go on.

Finally, thanks to my support team. I must start with the LL and his wife Sarah. It has been a real pleasure to do so much together. We have stories we could relate.

Thank you to my Chaplain Peter Wintgens for his memorable sermon at the Judicial service and for joining me on many visits especially to prisons.

Caroline Breckell the Under Sheriff has been a tower of strength in helping me avoid banana skins.

I am very grateful to my very patient PA Gill Pearson organising events with Caroline and managing my diary.

My media advise, Andy Newbold has introduced me to modern media and, apparently, my regular blogs have gone into the cloud via Facebook and twitter. In the process, I hope helping to spread the word of the work of the role of a HS.

My ADC Colin Tilley has driven me we think some 16,000 miles around Surrey during my year and we were only late once for an event and that by only three minutes. Sarah Goad. HS cant be late. Lots of time in laybys. But he has done so much more. He is a dab hand in dealing with my sword, in finding my daily FT, in sourcing emergency food supplies and in ensuring my attire is correct and we have remembered the badge.

A huge thank you to all of you. And more especially to Patricia who has been a fantastic support throughout the year with lots of good ideas. We have had a great year together.

Jim, I hope you have as a fulfilling year as I have enjoyed

Ladies and gentlemen a toast to the new High Sheriff.

RSN

Draft 24 April 12.43

