

**MR SIMON EDENS,
QGM QPM BA**

**The Chairman
of the
Police History Society**

Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police since July 2015, Simon Edens has had a distinguished career in the police service, with experience in four previous forces. A native of Belfast, he attended the Belfast Royal Academy, taking both 'O' and 'A' Levels, before joining the Royal Ulster Constabulary in June 1981. A Higher National Certificate in Police Studies from the University of Ulster soon followed, together with promotion to Sergeant.

It was whilst a Sergeant that, together with five colleagues, he was awarded The Queen's Gallantry Medal, 'For Bravery in Northern Ireland' (*London Gazette* 25 May 1989 p6218). Two years later, in March 1991, he transferred to the Cambridgeshire Constabulary where in September 1998, he was promoted to Inspector, at the same time enrolling with the Open University, from which he gained a Bachelor of Arts degree with honours (2:1) in sociology and criminology.

Whilst with Cambridgeshire, he trained as a search co-ordinator, and led the force's search for Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman in Soham in 2002. When his teams found the first evidence that they had both been murdered, the strategy was changed to focus on the search for evidence.

In June 2008, with the rank by then of Chief Superintendent, he transferred to the West Mercia Police as Assistant Chief Constable (Territorial Operations).



A change of role followed in November 2011, when he was placed in charge of Local Policing in the West Mercia/Warwickshire Strategic Alliance. And in May 2012, he was promoted again to be Deputy Chief Constable in the Leicestershire Police, where he stopped for three years.

As Deputy Chief Constable of Leicestershire, he was awarded the dignity of the Queen's Police Medal for Distinguished Service in the New Year's Honours List of 2015 (*London Gazette* 31 December 2014 pN35). He also holds the Royal Ulster Constabulary Service Medal, the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, and the Diamond Jubilee Medal.

He lists his interests as 'spending my free time with my family, and I enjoy walking, reading, history, Ireland and Scandinavia'. His interest in the Police History Society is welcomed, and the Society wishes him many happy years in his role.