Welcome to the Autumn issue of Special Impact. Volunteering can offer a great experience that can enhance your employability, benefit your personal development and help you make informed career choices, none more than becoming a Special Constable. The Special Constabulary attracts more and more people who want to gain an insight into the police service, and in many forces, being internal staff is the only way into the regulars at present. Being a Special gives both the officer and the force the opportunity to see if this is the right career choice; and evidence of this is shown in the Cumbria Pre-join article on Page 17. However, I think it is really important that forces also give some thought to attracting the “long term” or “career” special, not only to ensure the longevity and sustainability of the Special Constabulary, but to remember the history of the Specials which is to encourage and empower members of the community to step forward to give something back to their neighbourhood and just as importantly, it is a way for the police to further develop links with its communities.

With this in mind Cumbria, GMP and the Welsh regions have devised an advertising concept to attract the long term Special Constable. One of the visuals is displayed below, and it is hoped that other forces will adopt the concept, which can be made bespoke with the relevant force logo, and even have the photos replaced with their own force officers.

If you are interested in seeing more of the campaign concept please contact me.

I hope you enjoy Issue 11, and please keep the contributions coming.

Tina Shelton
Editor

The Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW) has launched a survey asking members of the Special Constabulary whether they wish to join the Federation. The survey can be found at http://7125967.polldaddy.com/s/policing-federation-survey-of-special-constabulary

The survey will close at 11.45pm on 9 October

Mike Lane has retired from Staffordshire Special Constabulary having served for 24 years, the last 9 years as Chief Officer. Mike has said: “Starting at a time where the Special Constabulary officers were used mostly for public reassurance it has been a varied and interesting journey watching the Special Constabulary role evolve and being involved in the many diverse specialist roles that our Specials have become involved in over the years. The role of Chief Officer was a most enjoyable time, working with Staffordshire Senior Officers both regionally and nationally on various committees. I will retire from the Specials with some wonderful memories but am looking forward to assisting Staffordshire Police as a volunteer in their Police Support Volunteers programme.”

Special Impact would like to apologise for the print error in Issue 10 within the Lancashire’s Operation Aslan article

If you would like to get on Special Impacts emailing list please email the editor:
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Special Impact is produced by Tina Shelton with support from College of Policing, Special Constabulary and practitioners. Design support from SC Graham Holmes
Changes to the policing approach in the Metropolitan Police Service will see Specials primarily assigned to new Neighbourhood Policing Teams with local policing priorities.

In line with the Commissioner’s vision for Total Policing the MPS has established a new approach to local policing called the Local Policing Model (LPM). The LPM forms part of the Neighbourhood Policing segment of the One Met Model which was implemented in two tranches at the end of June 2013. The One Met Model is the MPS vision for the future - to be the best police service in the world.

LPM will involve a big change in the way boroughs operate and will ensure that the MPS delivers a high quality and consistent service to Londoners. LPM is designed to move resources to the front line, increase visibility and flexibility and improve quality of service to increase public confidence. Neighbourhood policing will be the foundation of LPM.

5,000 MSC officers and 2,000 regular officers across the MPS will be re-aligned to local Neighbourhood Teams which will reinforce existing ward-based policing. The Neighbourhood Teams will be led by an Inspector and dedicated to working in communities. They will continue to respond to local priorities, provide reassurance and continue to engage with local people. They will enhance coordinated activity across ward boundaries for more effective community problem solving.

As part of the commitment to Total Victim Care, all victims of crime are offered a visit from a police officer or, under LPM; appointments will be made to meet the victim. Neighbourhood teams will investigate all low-risk, high volume crime that affects the day to day quality of life of local people on their ward. In addition to the changing operational focus, Specials will also be managed in a different way in particular with the redeployment of the dedicated regular Police Sergeants (MSC Managers) currently assigned to oversee Specials at Borough level.

Metropolitan Special Constabulary Chief Officer, John Conway explained the differences: “The main benefit of the planned changes under LPM is a closer integration of the MSC to Neighbourhood teams to deliver neighbourhood policing. Until recently, each Borough had MSC Managers; however, these roles will cease to exist as individual Boroughs go live with the new LPM from the end of June 2013 and a handover plan is currently in progress to facilitate this.

Special Constables will continue to be line managed by MSC Sergeants and Inspectors who will work closely with the Neighbourhood Inspector and Sergeants to ensure effective alignment of the MSC to the Neighbourhood Teams. Tasking and deployment of Specials will be the responsibility of the Neighbourhood Police Inspector and Sergeants.

MSC Inspectors will report directly to the borough SLT lead for the MSC and will be line managed by an MSC Assistant Chief Officer. The change will see an increased importance to the work that MSC Inspectors and Sergeants undertake and this will help to raise their profile. Promotion processes for MSC supervisors are now scheduled on a regular basis: “This is to ensure we achieve our new supervision ratio of a minimum of one Special Sergeant for every ten Special Constables, and a minimum of one Special Inspector for every 10 Sergeants. “We also plan to introduce a Special Chief Inspector rank to work closely with the Borough Senior Leadership Team to deliver continued performance improvement and aid growth plans” explained Chief Officer Conway.

To support these changes to supervision, the MSC Senior Leadership Team has recently been strengthened with the appointment of five Assistant Chief Officers, with both area and portfolio responsibilities, who will work closely with Area and B/OCU Commanders to ensure effective alignment of the MSC to Neighbourhood teams and to continue the professionalisation of the MSC.
MERSEYSIDE ATTRACTS EX-REGULARS INTO THE SPECIAL CONSTABULARY

Last year the NPIA (some of whose functions have been transferred into the College of Policing) developed guidance to fast-track ex-regular officers into the Special Constabulary. Pictured with the Chief Constable Jon Murphy and Special Constabulary Chief Officer David Burgess-Joyce, is the first of those officers, Stephen Kelly. Stephen retired as a regular officer at Sefton last year and having had a year off felt he had skills from 31 years as a police officer to give back to the Force.

David Burgess-Joyce commented “When I joined 30 years ago my Chief Inspector had been a paratrooper at Arnhem, my Inspector a Hurricane pilot. This was indicative of the breadth of ages at that time. Over the years the average age of a special constable has reduced to 24. Though that brings vibrancy to the organisation we do tend to progress many of them to the regular force whenever we recruit. I have wanted to broaden the appeal of the Special Constabulary to include more 30-somethings, so the return of retired regular officers as specials (especially as they can retain their rank) brings both the maturity I’m seeking and enormous skills we as a Force can ill-afford to lose. I feel the Special Constabulary has grown in stature over the last few years and is now an attractive second chapter in a regular officer’s career”.

There are a number of other serving regular officers who have shown interest in joining the Special Constabulary when they retire later this year.

Operation Exodus
A Forcewide joint operation involving the Gwent Special Constabulary and the Gwent Welsh Government Community Support Officers took place back in the summer. The date had been identified as the last day of school prior to the summer holidays a date that had traditionally seen an increase in anti-social behaviour across the whole force area. Operation Exodus provided a highly visible presence to deter anti-social behaviour and to act as reassurance for residents in areas that had been troubled in previous years.

The 32 Special Constabulary officers took the lead in the operation by conducting briefings in all the LPU’s. They briefed not only their own staff but also briefed and tasked a large number of Welsh Government Community Support Officers. The aim of the operation was to put officers and CSO’s in known ASB hot spot areas to ensure that the ASB was reduced or stopped at a very early stage.

The Community Support Officers liaised with the local schools, asking them to send out text messages to parents and pupils to make them aware of the operation, reducing the potential for ASB through early intervention. On the night there were 46 ASB calls received in the Force Control Room, showing an approximate 30% reduction in ASB across the Force against the same period last year.
EMERGENCY SERVICES DAY
Specials from Wigan recently attended Wigan Emergency Services Day at Wigan Fire Station. The event was attended by all Emergency Services including Mountain Rescue, and was well attended by the public throughout the day. Specials involved gave out Crime Prevention Advice, did Property marking and also hosted a mini recruitment event for the Special Constabulary.

LIFE SAVING SPECIAL CONSTABLES RESCUE A SUSSEX PENSIONER

Two Sussex Special Constables saved the life of a pensioner who collapsed in the back of a car. Special Constables Alex Brown and Robert Teear came to the aid of an unnamed 84-year-old whose heart had stopped in the back of his daughter’s car. The officers were on patrol in Richmond Road, Worthing, as part of the town’s carnival procession on Monday when at about 3pm a car stopped in front of the constables’ vehicle and a woman ran to them for help. The officers parked their vehicle and rushed to help the woman’s 84-year-old father whose heart had stopped. They got the man out of the car and began performing CPR on him on the side of the road while his family called for an ambulance. The two Specials accompanied the family to the hospital to support them while the man was being treated. The pensioner had a history of heart problems and is waiting for an operation to fit a pacemaker. He remains in a seriously ill condition at Worthing Hospital.
SC Brown, 21, from Sompting, who works full time for an online retail company, said: “He was unconscious and wasn’t breathing so I began doing CPR. “By the time the paramedics arrived he was starting to breathe on his own.”
SC Teear, 20, from Worthing, whose day job is at a tree nursery, said: “We had been saying that morning how rarely it was that we got to use our first aid training and then that happened. “We just helped in any way we could.”

SPECIAL IMPACT
Children from Springvale Primary School in Penistone, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, joined Police Community Support Officers from the Penistone Safer Neighbourhood Team and the Deputy District Officer, Adam Faunt, from the Barnsley Special Constabulary, to conduct speed checks outside the school on Sheffield Road, which has been identified as a Partners and Community Together (PACT) priority. The children wanted to get involved as part of a project they were running on the environment and the dangers of speeding. On the day, none of the vehicles passing were found to be speeding, however the children were still able to record the speeds of the vehicles and collate the results for their project.

Special Constable Adam Faunt said: “Part of my work as a Special Officer is to work with the local communities and local police teams to look at issues that matter to people in the area. Sheffield Road was set as a PACT priority after people complained about speeding on the road. Although on the day there was nobody found to be speeding, it was still really nice for the local school to be involved in the operation. It gave the children an insight into the work the police do and also enabled them to understand the dangers of speeding, while helping them with their school project.”
GMP were called to intruders on site at the Animal Sanctuary at Barfoot Bridge. This is an isolated property to which the only vehicle access is down a canal tow path. Regular officers, including response and Vortex teams, made for the road and one vehicle covered the motorway bridge above the property.

Special Constable Craig McCabe and Special Constable Carla Pasiero also responded to the incident. Both these officers took the initiative to walk in to the incident from the A56 along the side of the Mersey River and aiming to cut across fields towards the Sanctuary. As they did this they came across two males.

It became quickly apparent that these two males were in fact the intruders from the site and detained them and a search in the immediate vicinity resulted in finding stolen property from the Sanctuary and thus arresting the two males for burglary.

They escorted the males back to the main road where they were met by van patrols.

PS Dave Birchall said “These officers should be formally recognised for their initiative in relation to this incident. Considering these are not regular officers I was impressed with their professionalism, initiative and enthusiasm. They both completed their own file work with very little help from regular officers and are a credit to the force and the Special Constabulary.”

The newly attested MSC officers will now undertake duties across London’s 32 Boroughs, working alongside their full-time colleagues providing a visible presence to the local community and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as policing many of the city’s major events such as The Notting Hill Carnival. Speaking after the ceremony, Chief Officer Conway said: “This is a historic event for the Metropolitan Special Constabulary as it is believed to be the largest attestations of Special Constables in peacetime in the UK with 137 officers being sworn in today. “It also marks a significant point as more officers are joining the front-line of the Metropolitan Police to join the fight against crime and add to Mayor Boris Johnson’s pledge to put more police officers on the streets of London.”
FOOTBALL MATCHES IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
GETTING ‘SPECIAL’ TREATMENT.

Special Constables in Nottinghamshire are providing support at football matches enabling regulars to be deployed to other demanding areas of policing.

The scheme, supervised by senior officers, uses a neighbourhood approach to policing games and works hand in hand with fan liaison to promote Nottinghamshire as a safe place for football fans and others to visit. It also sees Specials increasing their interaction with regular officers and developing their skills. Nottinghamshire Police plan to train between 15 and 20 Specials a year to help reduce the cancellation of regular officers’ rest days for football duties and maintain a visible presence in Nottingham’s communities.
Met Specials haul in two prestige cars during a series of operations tackling uninsured drivers, street robberies and drug dealing. Recent operations involving officers from the Metropolitan Special Constabulary proved successful as two high value vehicles were taken off the road in ANPR deployments across a number of the London Boroughs.

In Newham, East London, a Porsche worth more than £90,000 was seized by Metropolitan Special Constables in the operation, a day of action to identify and confiscate uninsured vehicles and to deny criminals access to their vehicles thus disrupting their activity.

Operation Nimbus was organised and executed by MSC Assistant Chief Officer Fred Ahmed MBE with support from officers from the Safer Transport Command and the ANPR Bureau.

The operation, with an MSC operated ANPR site in North, South, East and West London, resulted in a total of 14 vehicles seized and resulted in two arrests. These results add to the success of Operation Cubo, the MPS’s corporate operation to seize uninsured vehicles.

Commenting on the success of Operation Nimbus, Assistant Chief Officer Fred Ahmed said:

“Metropolitan Special Constables achieved some fantastic results during Operation Nimbus including seizing a large amount of vehicles which in turn denies criminals the use of the roads and therefore contributing to making our capital even safer.”

Elsewhere, special constables took part in the nineteenth Operation Cubo across London and played their part in netting a total of 105 arrests and 663 seized vehicles. This operation saw hundreds of officers from Boroughs, Traffic, and Safer Transport Command take part in a co-ordinated series of operations in early May 2013. These included ANPR operations at roadside checkpoints, and officers offering tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of vehicle crime.

One of the most notable successes of Operation Cubo took place in Lambeth where Special Constable Christian Passaglia (pictured) seized an uninsured Lamborghini. In addition to road-based elements some boroughs also worked with local authority partners to execute bailiff warrants and recover unpaid fines: including Wandsworth, where there were six bailiff seizures and £1,600 fines recovered; Islington where there were 50 bailiff warrants, and £13,000 unpaid fines recovered; Greenwich where there were £10,000 fines recovered; and Sutton where a large amount of unpaid fines were recovered, including £1,400 from one individual.

Operation Cubo runs on a regular basis and was originally set up to tackle uninsured drivers, many of whom have a criminal record and actively use their vehicles to facilitate their offending. Uninsured drivers are also five times more likely to be involved in collisions and less likely to have vehicles in a roadworthy condition.

Chief Officer Conway said: “Special Constables regularly take part in Operation Cubo, alongside their regular colleagues and other partner agencies. It was particularly gratifying to hear of the seizure of two super cars by MSC officers which goes to show that uninsured drivers come in all shapes and sizes and cannot escape the grip of our operations. Well done to all concerned.”
Bedfordshire Specials Join Roads Policing

A team of Specials has joined the Roads Policing Unit in Halsey Road as part of a wider integration of the Special Constabulary into units across the Force.

The team comprising a Special Sergeant, Mick Cronin, and four Special Constables, Andrea Armstrong, Natalie Chimes, Craig Thompson and Ryan Ulmer, became operational earlier this year in the collaborated unit and has been a great success.

The benefit of having Specials attached to the unit is the enhanced resilience and capability of delivering an improved service to the public. Additional vehicles can be deployed by the Specials, which can reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on the roads.

The Roads Policing Specials have all been skills matched and completed enhanced training including: working at scenes of serious and fatal collisions, intoxyliser and LiBiS training, fast roads training, Taser awareness, training in awareness of pursuit management techniques, enhanced law input on traffic law, as well as Stinger deployment.

Sgt Craig Baker, of the Roads Policing Unit, was asked to lead the project and was responsible for putting together the successful recruitment and training package. He said: “It’s been a great project to develop. Having previously been a Special myself, I was aware what a great opportunity this would be for my Special colleagues’ development.

“It also gives them the opportunity to help their regular colleagues support Force priorities in a pro-active manner. It’s also been valuable for myself and PC Andy Scales who has been responsible for training the officers, all of whom have been fantastic and have committed many hours to the unit.”

Special Chief Inspector Derek Grey said: “The support given by officers of the Roads Policing Unit has been invaluable. Our team are fully engaged and motivated, and the experience they gain now will support their development into the future within Bedfordshire Police.”

Special Sgt Mick Cronin added: “The variety of work we undertake is limitless, we can be dealing with collisions on the M1 or speed detection and casualty reduction, whilst also responding to incidents as they happen throughout the county. I can only describe the experience as amazing.

“I have been in the Specials for nearly 20 years and it had always been my ambition to join the Roads Policing Unit. I can honestly say that it exceeds my expectations and I love every second of being part of the Roads Policing family.”

KENT SPECIALS RESPONSE COMMAND PILOT

The Specials Response Command pilot is continuing to make a strong impact in Medway and Canterbury, with over 300 duty hours now recorded. The special officers are being trained to a standard expected of a response officer in order to assist with the day-to-day response work and emergency calls as required.

Special Sergeant Jay Gray, who is part of the pilot, said:

“During a recent shift I assisted with the management of a vehicle collision, searched for a vehicle of interest using the ANPR cameras and finished the night by helping to handle a domestic disturbance and a fight between two men.”

“Working with this team has been intense but also rewarding and a fantastic opportunity to expand my skills.”

Once the pilot has concluded after the initial six months, the aim is for dedicated Response Command officers to be available countywide.
Members of Kent Special Constabulary continue to play a vital role in helping Kent Police disrupt anti-social behaviour as Special Constables joined neighbourhood officers in a targeted road check operation in Medway.

The operation was held to combat reports of anti-social behaviour on the Medway City Estate. Scores of vehicles were pulled over by officers who carried out checks, provided education on road safety and ensured cars were roadworthy and had no illegal or unauthorised modifications.

On the night, as a result of the police presence, there were no reports of anti-social behaviour but a number of tickets and warnings were issued to drivers.

Many of the Special Constables involved in the operation were from the Special Constable Road Policing Unit.

Special Constable Joe Cockell said: “We have had a number of anti-social behaviour calls and issues reported of vehicles racing along the roads on the Medway City Estate.

“Some of them don’t understand the implications of what they are doing and the operation was about engaging with drivers to provide education regarding their behaviour and enforcing road traffic legislation where necessary.”

He added: “I became a Special because I wanted to help people and I think that being able to speak to some of these motorists about their actions, they realise we are not here to spoil their fun but to prevent serious collisions and ensuring road users, residents and businesses are kept safe.”

PC Wendy Knight, North Division Specials Co-ordinator at Kent Police, said: “It was a successful operation in which Specials from Medway supported neighbouring and traffic officers.

We weren’t interested in those motorists there to appreciate their cars and who are generally law-abiding citizens; instead it was those racing their vehicles around the estate and nearby roads that were of most concern.

We’ve had reports of oil being poured on the roads in an attempt to make it easier for drivers to perform skids and turns. This is clearly dangerous - only a couple of weeks ago a female passenger had to be cut out of a car following a collision on the estate - and could lead to a serious collision in the future.

The message during our night of activity was that this will not be tolerated and our Specials will continue to provide support in policing this area of Medway.”

In West Kent Special Constables were on patrol across Maidstone, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells during the evening.

Targeting areas where anti-social behaviour had been reported, the Special Constables made four arrests and conducted nine licensed premises checks.

In Maidstone a 17-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply ecstasy, three men were arrested on suspicion of assault and officers seized alcohol from underage drinkers.

In Tonbridge and Malling officers targeted anti-social behaviour, speeding drivers and areas that had experienced burglaries in recent weeks. One man was issued with an order to leave the town following drunken behaviour.

In Tunbridge Wells a driver was reported for driving with no insurance and no licence.

PC Sharon Turner, West Division Specials Co-ordinator at Kent Police, said: “The Special Constabulary allows us to put in place additional patrols to supplement day-to-day policing and to proactively target local policing issues, whether that be excess speed or offences such as burglary.

“Once again, this operation was scheduled for the pay day weekend, which is traditionally a busy weekend. The 15 additional officers on patrol all made a valuable contribution to keeping Kent a safe place to live and socialise.” she added.
Brighton & Hove Travel have nominated their employee, Gary Foster, for the Bus & Community Award. The Award is designed to recognise and reward a scheme or a project which provides benefits to the local community.

Gary has consistently worked with Sussex Police for over 6 years. He is utilised as part of a team of officers who tackle anti-social behaviour as a result of Brighton & Hove identifying that there was a lack of information sharing between them and Sussex Police. Gary is deployed as a first response for any disorder on the buses.

The company firmly believe they are responsible for passenger safety and satisfaction levels. They have been working hard to provide excellent customer care and safety.

Gary has built a great reputation within Sussex Police, assisting with patrol and operations to working with specialist areas such as Road Traffic Collisions, the City Council’s Anti-Social Behaviour Team and carrying out reassurance patrols and engaging with the local community. He is a member of the Brighton Crime Reduction Partnership, which is an organisation for shop owners in the city centre to work together to reduce crime. He has joined the Disability Awareness Group in the city and has even been in a Police football team playing against the local youth team in order to promote better understanding.

Passengers on the buses now have the benefit of much closer police support should an incident arise, but Gary’s work involves the wider community too as very often people who cause trouble on buses cause trouble elsewhere in the community and they now have the benefit of being able to link this up. Since 2012, a large group of youths have been involved in anti-social behaviour on the buses and in the community too. Incidents escalated into crime such as assaults on passengers and damage to the interior of the buses. It was becoming increasingly difficult for bus drivers challenging these youths including the intimidation that ensued.

Sussex Police decided the best way to tackle these problems was to create “Operation Blower” and Gary has been central to that operation. Since “Operation Blower” began in December 2012, 52 arrests have been made in an effort to stop offenders continuing to cause criminal damage to buses and engaging in anti-social behaviour generally across the city, thus
making the city a safer place for everyone.
Gary is also involved in a plain clothes officer deployment on Brighton & Hove’s buses in order to keep an eye on anti-social behaviour and deal with this where necessary.

Here are some statistics of crime reduction on the buses...
Since 2008 there has been a reduction in theft from buses of 4%  
Since 2009 there has been a reduction in criminal damage of 38%  
Since 2008 there has been a reduction in assault without injury on buses of 42%, assault with injury has seen a reduction of 41%

Gary himself has been able to progress within the Police too. He started by volunteering for the Police two days a week, but now wears his Police uniform full time supported by his employer. Gary is continuing to learn new skills: a year ago he was allocated the “Red” permit card to allow him to drive a police car or van, and more recently he trained for his “Amber” permit which now allows him to respond to “999” incidents in a police vehicle. He is one of only two special constables in Sussex who have been awarded this permit.

Gary is also about to embark on his “Level 2 – Public Order Offence” training – something Special Constables are never normally involved in – however, Gary is one of the selected few to take part in this training to handle situations of disruptive behaviour and public order offences.

Through continued relationship Brighton & Hove and Sussex Police work together to protect passengers and improve customer satisfaction levels. They continue to monitor crime statistics on the buses and reduce these levels. Gary has passion for the role he does; it’s his way of giving something back to the community and continuing to make the City a safer place for colleagues, friends and family.

Gary is always flexible in his role, there’s no guessing what may be around the corner and it’s always important for him to focus on the task at hand and continue to deal with it appropriately and efficiently.

We wish Gary the best of luck with the award nomination.
Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, North West Ambulance Service and other emergency organisations joined together to host an Emergency services open Day at The Trafford Centre recently.

Specialist vehicles from GMP were on display all day, alongside vehicles from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue, North West Ambulance Service and the Army and Mountain Rescue Teams.
The event was a perfect showcase for the services to demonstrate the wide variety of work they do with activities to engage members of the public, such as an accident reconstructed by GMP officers from the Collision Reconstruction unit.

Members from the Special Constabulary and Cadets supported the event and Specials also ran two recruitment stands where over 80 expressions of interest to join were recorded.
Brittany MacRae and Michaela Roy who are in their second year studying BA Television and Radio, and Dahlia Aljanabi who recently graduated with BSC in Professional Broadcast Techniques, have volunteered their time over the summer, along with Special Constable Sean Bowler, filming the GMP Special Constabulary for a DVD which will be used for recruitment, as well as for short clips on the force website.

Brittany said “Working with the GMP has widened my skills massively; not only have I learnt extra techniques to help pursue my film making career but also it’s helped me grow as a person. I’ve worked with some amazing people and experienced more than I thought I would. I would be more than happy to do it all again.”

Dahlia added, “I’ve never worked on a project like this one before so it’s been interesting taking part. It’s amazing the amount we’ve learnt whilst going out on patrol with the special constables and it’s an experience we’ve all enjoyed. I think I can speak for all of us when I say we will miss filming with the Greater Manchester Police once the DVD is completed.”

Sean, who serves at Hyde police station in Tameside, and works in TV production, had previously supported the production of the Specials Olympic DVD, and was keen to produce a more local DVD that featured specials from his force. Sean said, “When people find out that I’m a Special Constable, they ask me what the role involves. I thought that making a video about it would be a good opportunity to demonstrate what Specials do and hopefully encourage anyone interested in joining to do so.”

Tina Shelton, Regional Coordinator and Sean put together a DVD Brief which targets the career special to compliment the new specials advertising campaign that has been created. As well as filming training and an ESP angle, the team have been out on daytime and evening patrol throughout Manchester for the last four months.

The DVD is in editing stage now, and Gordon Burns, retired newsreader and TV Presenter has kindly volunteered to participate with the voice-over for the DVD.

It is hoped that the DVD will be launched to coincide with the force Gala Awards event in December.

You can follow Brittany and Michaela on Twitter

@brittanym21
@michaelamakestv
Cumbria Police’s pre-join program was reported on in Special Impact last year when the first batch of successful candidates was recruited. This report highlights some of the key benefits of being a Special Constable as well as the recognition Cumbria give to their Special Constables who want to become paid police officers. Cumbria’s recognised route into policing recruits directly from the Special Constabulary and in the last year 23 Special Constables have gained employment as a police officer, showing that volunteering can be a way into employment.

The first group joined as regular police officer’s in November last year and amongst this group was Callum Young. Callum joined the Specials in January 2011 and was based in Carlisle. He is now a full time officer in Workington. Callum said “I thoroughly enjoyed being a special constable and would recommend it to anyone who wants a challenging and exciting volunteer job. Being a special constable has allowed me to work with some fantastic people and experience things no other job would allow me to. Being a special constable gave me a fantastic insight into what I was letting myself in for as a regular, and a good grounding to the way Cumbria Constabulary works as an organisation. It allowed me to “try before I buy” and make sure this was the career that I wanted, even though from day one of being a special constable I knew I wanted to progress to becoming a PC. I am grateful my experiences as a special have enabled me to get the career that I always wanted”.

Rob Ewin said “Overall I’d say that the Specials is a fantastic opportunity to develop policing and people skills, and for any future employment perhaps the people skills is the most relevant. It’s not just the fact that you’re trusted to handle sensitive information and deal with dynamic challenging situations, it’s the fact that you do it all for free which is another personal credit to each individual.

The Specials is also the best route into gaining experience of the life and duties of a Police Officer, providing duty hours are maintained, and the officer is open-minded. My skills in restorative justice, Police cycle training and negotiating Police systems has helped me greatly in my role as a regular. Not only understanding the pre-join course itself but also having the ability to use other disposal methods which are not normally available to Student Officers due to training constraints. The advantage of pre-join is definitely reduced training meaning you can refresh the knowledge you need, gain some more knowledge and quickly put that into practice. Pre-join is extremely demanding and should be approached wholeheartedly as there are lots to recap and learn in a short space of time. However, as a former Special Constable I found that I was able to negotiate pre-join and get through my in company period on the knowledge I had and the knowledge I gained.”

Another successful candidate was IT trainer Nick Oliver “My groundings in the Police came from being a Special, I wouldn’t be where I am today without it. The Special Constabulary allowed me to develop many skills such as team working and inter-personal skills. I was also offered the opportunity of promotion which allowed me to develop my management skills. I am now a regular constable and believe I wouldn’t be in that job today if I hadn’t had the help and support of other officers and colleagues.” Nick used to blog on the Cumbria Specials Twitter account and now “tweets” his student officer experiences on the @Copeland Police Twitter account.

Mike Kirkham was a Special Inspector for South Cumbria who is now a regular constable based in South Cumbria. Mike says that “I had always wanted to work with the police, I don’t know what sparked the interest in the first place it was just one of the interests that never went away. Leaving school everyone in my family said for me to get a trade so I followed in the footsteps of both my father and grandfather and became a plumber. I am glad that I did the trade offered me a lot of opportunities and secured me continuous work from leaving school. However, I always found that there was that one regret and an interest that had remained.”

Mike’s journey to being a paid police officer took 4 years and offered him varied opportunities along the way.

Volunteering can be a route into employment; in Cumbria this is increasingly the case as being a Special Constable is recognised as a route into policing.

You can read more about Cumbria Polices pre-join options by visiting: http://www.cumbria.police.uk/join-us/police-officers

To find out what Cumbria Specials get up to you can view their “tweets from the beat” by following them on Twitter @CumbriaSpecials.
On Tuesday 27 August Sussex PCC Katy Bourne was joined by ACC Robin Merrett, Special Constable Colin Tribe and local media at Brighton Police Station to launch the recruitment of 120 new special constables.

By Katy Bourne

“I was delighted to open recruitment for 120 special constables as I am a huge advocate of the benefits of volunteering and of communities getting involved in keeping their local areas safe. These volunteer officers are a unique group of people who give their time for free to help keep Sussex safe, and they bring experience and diversity to the workforce.

“It was my election pledge to further increase and encourage volunteering in Sussex and increasing the number of special constables is a significant part of this. Greater police visibility is one of the things the public speak to me about the most. These officers will help to achieve the objectives within the Police & Crime Plan of building safer communities, increasing police visibility, improving public confidence and focusing positively on victims.”

“On Tuesday (27 August) I had the pleasure of spending a few hours with Special Constable Colin Tribe, as we were being interviewed by local media as part of the recruitment launch. Colin volunteers with the Brighton and Hove Neighbourhood Policing Team and works full time for the Brighton Marina Estate Management Company. He became a volunteer as part of the Employer Supported Policing initiative and told me the following about his unique role: “I joined Sussex Police as a special constable five years ago because I wanted to contribute to making Sussex a safer place and have always wanted to see if I could meet the challenge of being a uniformed police officer. I volunteer regularly in my own time because the satisfaction I get out of making my community a safer and more pleasant environment is immeasurable. The thing I enjoy the most is knowing I am making a difference to the quality of people’s lives.

“The support I get from my employer to volunteer as a special constable shows their dedication to giving something back to the community that we live and work in - this is further repaid by the enhanced training and professionalism that I then bring back to my day job.”
Members of Cheshire’s Special Constabulary were in attendance to ensure the success of the Wilmslow Show.

An estimated 1000 people attended the annual event, which featured a Classic Car show, a RAF display, and various performances from local bands.

Special Constable Alex Drumm said: "Being at events like these is really rewarding as it allows us to show a presence in the community and interact with the public."

“We often get told a lot of information that we wouldn’t have normally found out about, so from a policing point of view it can pay dividends.”

Paying tribute to the Special Constabulary, Wilmslow resident Samuel Johnson said “I think it’s brilliant that Specials give their own time to make our community a safer place.”

“Seeing and talking to them at events like this provides a lot of reassurance.”

Three Special Constables, whilst working on a plain clothes off-road bike Operation with two Community Support Officers came across an encampment in Rogestone Forest, next to 177 cannabis plants.

The plants were pulled out, bagged and dragged 150 metres through the forest to the nearest vehicle access. Accommodation for the would-be farmers, compromising of camping gear was also removed. There were no ‘owners’ around at the time so officers kindly left them a note asking them to contact Newport Police Station for further information about their missing plants!

Newport Superintendent Mark Warrander said “Great result, well done all! Though judging from the smiles I suggest you were stood too close to the plants!”
New Address for the College of Policing London based office

The College of Policing London based office has recently moved locations. The new address is:

College of Policing
10th Floor, Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA

Contact telephone numbers and email addresses remain the same.

National Special Constable Application Form

The updated national special constable application form was launched on 3rd June 2013 in conjunction with the refreshed specials recruit assessment exercises.

The specials application form has been updated to take into account the Special Constables Amendment Regulations 2012, and the Competency Based Questions (CBQ) section has been updated in line with the refreshed specials recruit assessment exercises.

A brochure “Becoming a Special Constable” has also been produced as a separate document to the application form. This can be used by forces as promotional material at recruitment events.

The brochure and the application form are available on POLKA under the “Special Constabulary” community. There are various versions available:

- Application form - PDF with CBQ section
- Application form - Word with CBQ section
- Application form - PDF without CBQ section
- Application form - Word without CBQ section
- Brochure - PDF format

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