READ HOW SPECIAL EMLYN HUGHES BALANCES HIS THREE ROLES
See Centre Pages
DCC Michael Banks retires from the Police Service on 19 June and I am sure you will all join Special Impact in wishing him all the best for the future. DCC Banks has been a strong supporter of the Special Constabulary, and has been truly committed in his role as ACPO Lead for the Special Constabulary National Strategy.

Chief Constable Dave Jones, from North Yorkshire Police, will be taking over the portfolio from Mr Banks.

Special Impact had the pleasure to view the stunning venue for the next Special Constabulary National Conference which is taking place at the St Pierre Marriottt Hotel & Country Club in Chepstow on 22 – 24 April 2016.

Pictured are the conference organisers, Specials Coordinator Emily Godsell, and Chief Officer Richard Jones from Gwent Police.

Keep a look out for updates on the SC2016 conference website: http://www.sc2016.org.uk/ or follow events on @scconf2016.

Special Inspector Maureen Conwell, from GMP has been awarded ‘Volunteer of the Year’ by the British Association of Women in Policing (BAWP).

Maureen was nominated for ‘making a significant contribution to policing through her commitment and enthusiasm, and for making a measurable difference to the Force and the community she serves.’

This year the British Association of Women in Policing awards received an unprecedented number of nominations and the standard was exceptionally high. Maureen will attend an awards ceremony in June where she will be presented with her award by the new President, Chief Constable Dee Collins.
**ASCCO UPDATE:**

Charitable Incorporated Organisation - ASCCO is becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation has progressed with the Council deciding that the best option for making the application would be to commission solicitors to prepare and manage the process on our behalf. The rationale was: that it would save us time and we did not really have the time/expertise to complete this successfully. Solicitors have now been instructed and are now in the process of filling in the application prior to submission.

Chief Officers Conference – This is scheduled for 16th/17th October at Ryton although we are still awaiting confirmation of funding from the College. Feedback from last year requested a more interactive format and this is now in planning under the theme “The Special Constabulary: before/now and the future”. Once we have confirmation of the funding we will be in a position to offer bookings. The AGM will be held at this event.

Promoting membership – as agreed at last year’s AGM membership is now open to all at SC Chief Inspector level and above or equivalent ranks. Whilst this has seen a number of applications already, it was agreed the time is right now to promote this to all forces through ACPO and NPCC. This will take the form of a letter from the Chair and include an update of where we are now and direction of travel.

Marketing and Communications – your Council considered a proposal to seek to recruit an individual from within the membership to take responsibility for this important area – this was agreed. Initially the position will be co-opted onto the Council with a motion going to the AGM seeking formal acceptance of this position as an elected role.

Treasurers Position -The Treasurer has recently resigned as SC Chief Officer, leaving a vacancy. Chief Officer David Pedrick-Friend, Gloucestershire, has agreed to be co-opted as Treasurer with immediate effect. The position will of course be open for nominations/election in advance of the AGM. We welcome David to the ASCCO Council and thank him for his willingness to step into the breach.

ASCCO Representation -ASCCO has a place on the College Professional Committee meeting and on the Police Advisory Board for England and Wales (PABEWW) which ensures that the Special Constabulary is represented on important areas of police decision making.

Nigel Green MBE, Chair ASCCO
A former Police Officer with over 30 years’ experience has taken up the mantle of North Wales Police Special Superintendent. Mark Owen, who retired as a Chief Inspector from the Force three years ago, joins the North Wales Police Special Constabulary as the new Superintendent. His regular job is now as a civilian member of staff and is one of two of North Wales Police’s Missing Persons Coordinators.

Mark said “serving as a member of the special Constabulary is an excellent way of putting something back into the community. Utilising the skills and knowledge of Specials through volunteering benefits both the Force and more importantly the communities it serves,” said the Specials Superintendent. “I decided to join the Special Constabulary as I am proud to have served as a Police Officer. Over the course of my entire service I have had positive contact with the Special Constabulary and my interest was renewed when I attended as a speaker at the Special Constabulary Seminar held last October.

“In truth, since retiring I have missed being a Police Officer more and more. Therefore, when the opportunity came up to apply for the Superintendent role I saw it as an excellent opportunity to take on a role which I consider will give me personal satisfaction whilst at the same time, putting my policing experience, knowledge of North Wales Police and the work I already have done within volunteering to positive use, assisting to further develop the North Wales Police Special Constabulary.”

As part of his new role Mark hopes to assist the Force towards its recruitment targets, increase the number of Special Constables within specialist roles as well as streamlining the recruitment and training process.

Immediately prior to retiring he was in charge of the Force Control Room. He started his police service on the beat in Wrexham and during his career, served in most areas of the Force. In addition to Local Policing roles, which included being the Temporary Superintendent Operations covering Anglesey and Gwynedd, he worked in Operational Support, Roads Policing, Community Safety and HQ roles. He also served a period of secondment to ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) at national level and served abroad, in the Balkans, as part of a secondment to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

In his spare time he volunteers for BikeSafe, a scheme in which he played a part in setting up many years ago. He is also current Chair of the Institute of Advanced Motorists group, North Wales Advanced Motorcyclists, a group whose volunteers help to improve riding standards and work towards motorcycle related road safety throughout North Wales.

Chief Inspector Simon Barraford, Specials Co-ordinator for North Wales Police said: “We are very pleased to have selected Mark Owen as our Special Constabulary Superintendent. He brings with him a wealth of policing experience and shares our ambitions to make North Wales an even safer place.

“Becoming a Special Constable for North Wales Police is one of the most rewarding and exciting voluntary roles possible. Specials come from a variety of different backgrounds, which means that they bring with them a whole host of skills and abilities which complement those of their regular colleagues. We hope to recruit many more to join North Wales Police.”
‘A HORSE, A HORSE, A KINGDOM FOR MY HORSE!’

Leicestershire’s Special Constabulary added valuable support to regular officers and event organisers as King Richard III made his final journey through Leicestershire to his ultimate resting place in Leicester Cathedral.

Lining the streets of Leicestershire, 26 Specials made history by policing the worldwide event as the cortège carrying King Richard III’s mortal remains, discovered in a car park last year, was greeted by thousands of members of the public paying their respects.

Over 500 years ago, King Richard III died in battle in Bosworth, Leicestershire during the second year of his reign over England. Richard III supposedly took to the throne following rumours the king had killed his nephews, successors to the throne, to remove any threat they may have posed to his reign. Following the Battle of Bosworth, Henry Tudor took to the throne as Henry VI.

Specials were deployed across Leicestershire to ensure the event ran smoothly and the safety of visitors, with the record-breaking crowds, was guaranteed.

Amongst the hordes of visitors was Special Chief Inspector, Phil Smith, (pictured above, right). He said: “Thank you to those who gave up their time for free. We’re all extremely proud to be a part of such a prestigious event.”

The once-in-a-lifetime opportunity received national coverage on Twitter, and @LeicsSpecials reported on the event by the minute.
Bolton Division has praised the help of 16 Special Constables who supported the regulars with carrying out a raid on a Bolton pub. Officers executed a warrant at The Victory pub in Chorley Old Road — one of several visits Police made to pubs and clubs on a recent Friday night.

Given the pressures faced in policing Friday and Saturday nights in Bolton, the presence of so many Special Constables helped to carry out the visits. Sergeant Jon Seeds, of Bolton North Neighbourhood Policing Team, said: “Our Specials are a great asset to us. There were just over 20 on duty on the Friday, so to get 16 on this job was impressive. Without the help of our specials it would have been much more difficult to deal with this job.”

Special Sergeant Jared Simpson has the honour of an invitation to the Royal Garden party on 20th May. Jared says “I’m very excited, and consider this a real honour. I have walked past the palace so many times, but to able to go in on the merits of work I’ve done as a Special Constable means such a lot.”
Volunteer Police Officers from North Wales Police’ Special Constabulary have recently been thanked for their dedication and service. Members of the Special Constabulary were recognised during the annual High Sheriff of Gwynedd and High Sheriff of Clwyd’s awards evenings held at Caernarfon and Mold.

Special Chief Inspector Susan Williams, who has been a member of the Special Constabulary for over 20 years, and Special Constables Geraint Roberts and Vicky Hill were awarded by the High Sheriff of Gwynedd, Mr David Lea-Wilson during a ceremony held at Caernarfon Crown Court.

The officers were nominated by Anglesey District Inspector Kevin Bratherton with recognition being given to SC's Roberts and Hill who have volunteered over 1,700 hours between them over the last 12 months.

SC Vicky Hill is a young mum who is currently studying for a degree at Bangor University. She regularly volunteers on Friday and Saturday nights and has recently undertaken some analysis work for the local CID team. SC Geraint Roberts has also shown exceptional commitment to the role and has been involved in a number of successful operations across Anglesey.

Based at Bangor Police Station, Special Chief Inspector Susan Williams manages a large volunteer workforce, always ensuring that the area always has a strong contingent of Special Constables available to support their regular colleagues in day to day policing, and at large scale events such as the Anglesey Show and Copperfest.

Special Chief Inspector Carl Williamson, who covers the Wrexham and Flintshire area also received an award during the High Sheriff of Clwyd’s Awards Ceremony, held at Mold Crown Court.

Presented by the High Sheriff, Mr David Meredith Jones and John Leece Jones, Chair of AVOW (Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham), Carl was given recognition for his many years of service.

He joined the Special Constabulary almost 20 years ago and he currently manages a team of 46 Special Constables. He has been instrumental in the policing of the night-time economy in Wrexham and in 2014, volunteered almost 900 hours.

Specials Superintendent Mark Owen said: “The awards are an important way of saying thank you to the officers, and reminding them that they are all valued members of the Force. They all make a vital contribution every day to cutting crime and making their communities a better place to live, work and visit. They really do make a difference to the communities in which they serve and I congratulate them all for their achievement.”
Specials Chief Officer Ian Miller recently met his counterpart in Dallas, and also had the opportunity to meet the Chief of the Dallas Police Department, David Brown,

Chief Officer Miller was invited to address the Command Team.

“The team were interested in the security situation in London, on how we use technology like Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and CCTV, as well as how we brief officers on risk management. The obvious questions were about how we managed to police without being armed and how individual officers could protect themselves against attack. I gave all the standard replies about awareness, cordons and containment and ARVs, of course, but I
FACTS & FIGURES
DALLAS POLICE RESERVES

The Reserve Battalion was started in 1953 as the “second person” in the squad car to assist the primary full time officer. Reserves were not armed until 1981. Today, the Reserve Officers are fully sworn members of the Dallas Police Department with full powers of arrest and carry firearms. Our officers are able to work in a “one man” patrol capacity if they meet certain additional standards and maintain the required number of hours.

The number of officers in the reserves currently stands at 81 it is hoped to recruit, train and place into patrol an additional 60 officers by 2017-2018.

Rick Anderssen is the Commander and Assistant Chief of the Reserve Battalion; and, Steve Brody is the Deputy Chief and XO of the Reserve Battalion. Under their command, they have two Majors and 12 Lieutenants who serve in various capacities of the Department, including, but not limited to Patrol, Intelligence, Teaching/Training, Bike units, Special Events, Auto theft, Investigations etc.

The Basic Peace Officer course is approximately 800 hours and upon completion of the State Certified peace officers licence at the end of the program, the new reserve officers make the transition to the Dallas Police Academy for additional training, driving skills, city code, legal, pistol range etc. They attend four nights per week and some Saturdays during these six weeks and have approximately 160 hours of training.

There are three SWAT Reserve Emergency Medical Doctors and one additional Doctor currently in training. They have attended to several officers and have saved lives; one of which was a Lieutenant on the SWAT team.

It should also be noted that due to variances from year to year in City budgets, the Dallas Police Reserve Foundation has been established to in order to further the future continuance of reserves in Dallas by raising the necessary funds for advertising, training, equipment and other needs of the Battalion.
Fabian Murphy tells Special Impact why he joined the Special Constabulary and how his employer, Lex Autolease, (part of Lloyds Banking Group) supports him in this unique volunteering role.

Why did you join the Special Constabulary?
I have always wanted to join the Police however as you go through life different situations and experiences often take you down different paths. I have always admired the famous line from John F Kennedy that “ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country”, and I apply this to my community.

I have many different life skills that I can apply to the role of Special Constable to resolve often difficult situations, and I wanted to help in my community by making it safe for people to go about their daily business without fear of being a victim of crime. Being a Special Constable allows me to concentrate on my career in Lloyds whilst honouring my commitment to my community.

What are the best bits about being a Special?
The most enjoyable part of being a Special Constable is that you are seen as part of the Neighbourhood Policing Team. You can get involved in all aspects of policing from day to day neighbourhood duties to response or traffic duties. It all depends on how much commitment you have and how much time you are willing to give. Since joining the Specials I have learned so much about dealing with individuals from many different backgrounds. These skills can be utilised in my day to day job with the Bank where I speak to a wide spectrum of people.

How do you balance your work/social life with your responsibilities of being a Special Constable?
I would not have been able to become a Special Constable without the support of my family. My wife has had to sacrifice different things at different times for me to honour my commitment to the Special Constabulary and my community.

All staff at Lloyds Banking Group are proactively encouraged to undertake volunteer
projects whilst at work. In addition the Bank has given me a further three days off a year to carry out my Special Constable duties. The Bank is very keen in supporting the local community which goes hand in hand with my own commitment.

What skills do you think that you bring from the Specials into your paid work role and vice versa?
Joining the Special Constabulary and having life experiences has helped me to treat individuals as individuals and have no bias towards anybody. From the Special Constabulary I have become used to dealing with large and sometimes hostile crowds of people, and I have developed a talent for dealing with very sensitive and difficult situations which also has benefited me in my day job.

What was the reaction of your friends and family when you decided to join the Specials and volunteer to undertake front line policing?
My family and friends have been very supportive and proud as they all know that this is something that I have always wanted to do and helps fulfil one of my dreams. A lot of people cannot believe that I work all day on a Friday and then complete another working day until the early hours of the morning as a volunteer; however it is what I love to do because I enjoy the challenge.

Would you recommend this volunteering opportunity to others?
For those people who want to experience a whole spectrum of emotions and experiences when dealing with individuals from all different areas of the community I would recommend it 100%. The challenge is that you do have to be committed. It is also an excellent way to stay fit as this is a requirement of the role.

“Lloyds Banking Group encourages its colleagues to support their local communities. We recognise the significant benefits of such activity to colleagues, communities, and indeed to Lloyds Banking Group itself. Colleagues return inspired and motivated and communities are transformed by the contribution colleagues have made. Through our Helping Britain Prosper Plan, we have committed to deliver more than 2.3 million paid volunteering hours by 2020. Fabian’s dedication will help us to reach that goal and make a visible and lasting contribution in communities across the UK”

Damian Leeson, Director, Group Responsible Business

Fabian pictured at Lex Autolease where he is a Customer Resolution Executive
Special Impact learns about how Special Inspector Emlyn Hughes from North Wales balances his voluntary role as a Special, with the Coastguard Cliff Rescue Team and his paid role as Beaches Officer.

Special Inspector Emlyn Hughes from Morfa Nefyn, North Wales joined North Wales Special Constabulary in June 2007. He was promoted to Special Sergeant in September 2011 and then to Special Inspector March 2013. Emlyn's day job is with Gwynedd Council as a Beaches Officer. He also volunteers as a Coastguard Rescue Officer.

Emlyn says “I’m busy at work in the summer, especially at weekends so I’m on the beat midweek. But during the winter I'm on the frontline at weekends. As a Special Inspector I also have a lot more paperwork to do, but on average volunteer 40 hours per month”

“I joined the Specials thinking that it would be a good insight into becoming a regular before committing to the lengthy process of training and getting a feel for the role of constable therefore deciding which career path to take. In the past several years I've done pretty much everything. The role can be so different, no day is the same. You can have a quiet shift with nothing going on or it can be busy the whole shift” he said.

Emlyn said he gets a huge amount from the role. “As a Special I have developed skills such as communication and body language and these have been transferable into my paid job; for example there are times when beach users report their child(ren) missing to beach staff, it is a dangerous environment especially the sea and with everything that people get to hear about these days with abductions and so forth they panic. This is where all three roles amalgamate and become one as I know what information is required by...
Emlyn says that the Council are extremely understanding of his voluntary roles and are supportive.

Bryn P Jones, Maritime Officer Beaches from Gwynedd Council says “Part of Emlyn’s duties include enforcing coastal by-laws, Council policies and advising the public on coastal safety matters. I believe that Emlyn’s confidence, character and diplomatic skills have developed significantly over the past few years, which I partly associate with the time he has spent as a Special Constable with North Wales Police. His knowledge of the law and training have been a great asset to the Council (and to me personally), often being able to deal with potentially dangerous situations on his own, such as managing anti-social behaviour on the coastline or calming tensions between beach users.

Emlyn Hughes is a very dedicated, dependable and committed employee, always enthusiastic and completely competent and reliable in performing his duties. His work is always of the highest possible standard and his attitude is always positive and optimistic – in fact the Maritime Office received numerous correspondence from members of the public commenting on his excellent standards of work and his approachable and friendly personality.

His compassionate nature and capacity for diplomatic dialogue with members of the public, often during difficult circumstances, are exemplary – being able to remain composed and mature throughout; a level of self-control that commands my respect and admiration - he has never been known to divulge any information to anyone concerning private / personal matters. Although Emlyn works mainly as part of a team during the summer season he is always able to work competently, capably and more importantly safely on his own. He is always aware of his and others safety and wellbeing when performing his duties.”

Emlyn is also a designated Personal Watercraft patrol officer at Abersoch and neighbouring beaches during the summer season. His tact, aptitude and expertise in dealing with water users are exemplary. Part of his role is enforcing IRPCS standards and COLREG regulations. I consider him to be a valuable member of the team, who consistently achieves good results and delivers all expectations.”

I feel that I am in a good position with my day job for the Council in that the knowledge I have can contribute to the policing role by passing on information and guidance to beach users. This not only promotes security and hopefully reduce crime but also in the same way is showing that the area is a safe place to attend therefore promoting tourism which we depend on.

I became a volunteer of the Coastguard Cliff Rescue Team at Porthdinllaen in 1997. This role is varied and works closely with other agencies, mainly the RNLI, Ambulance and Police. It’s a role that requires discipline and trust in colleagues as when you are tied on to a piece of rope 200m down the side of a cliff you need to trust that they are keeping your safety in mind with inspection/monitoring of equipment as its being used whilst you can concentrate on the casualty.

When asked how he balances the 3 roles Emlyn says “At times it can be challenging to balance as well as have a home life, but I thoroughly enjoy all roles and believe that they all amalgamate very well into each other as they tend to crossover quite frequently for example when the Police require assistance of the Coastguard for a coastal search for a missing person or the Coastguard require Police assistance with crowd control at an incident.”

The different organisations and can extract details from worried individuals by talking to them in calm but at times an assertive manner to allow a prompt response and appropriate resources. By calming and reassuring the worried individual/group I can show that we are helping and ensure that the correct information is gathered and disseminated to the correct resource. My knowledge of the emergency response also allows me to communicate with the resources in a way that is understood.
EMPLOYER SUPPORTED POLICING

Wendy Pope, age 33, has been a Special Constable in Bowthorpe, Norwich, for three and a half years. Wendy is a divorced single mum, with a son, aged 15, and a daughter, aged 12.

Wendy works for Norfolk County Council as a cook/manager at a Norwich first school and cooks around 70 lunches a day. She also orders the ingredients to make the meals and does the accounts and budgets.

Wendy fits her Special Constable hours in with support from her employer who is part of the STEP scheme [Specials Through Employers Partnership] that allows employees who are Special onstables to have paid time off work to carry out police duties. Wendy said “I don’t take my supported time in a large lump, as this would be difficult at work as there’s only myself and another lady. So I take mine in small bits at the end of the day before going on duty as a Special.”

When asked what she has gained from joining the Specials, Wendy said “My confidence has grown and the pleasure you feel when you walk away from somebody’s house or a job knowing you’ve helped is unexplainable. Before you turned up someone was troubled, scared, hurt or just didn’t know what to do. I’ve suffered domestic violence. I know what it’s like to feel fear when your husband’s come home from the pub and had one too many. Being able to advise someone in the same position and tell them what they can do is all the payment I need. This does work the other way too with women beating up men.”

She continues “Some people think I’m mad for doing this job for free but they can’t understand what I feel because they are not me.”

Wendy says the biggest challenge she dealt with as a Special was a domestic incident she attended. “When we arrived whilst speaking to the lady a message came over the radio to get the lady and the officers out of the house as it was reported that a man had a gun. I grabbed the lady, put her in front of me and ran with her down a passage. My only thought was, ‘I’ve only had my body armour three weeks and I’m about to get a hole in it!’ When the lady and I were safe in the car I got her to draw a picture of the gun and a plan of the house. When the firearms squad arrived I briefed them all. I could not believe I did all this, as I was only a Special. I felt all the way through that somebody was going to take it all away from me. I thought the regulars would take over, but they left me to it.”

Wendy concludes by saying “To think only a few years ago I was that shy girl in the pub not saying much. Not now!”
Greater Manchester Police attended The Nubian Times Annual Hands on Hare Easter Egg Hunt at Alexandra Park in Moss Side. GMP and The Nubian Times have recently formed a partnership looking to build relationships with the communities of Moss Side, Hulme and Whalley Range to promote support any volunteering roles in GMP and recruitment opportunities.

The Special Constabulary had a recruitment stand promoting what the Specials Constabulary do; both SC Gemma Jackson and SC Ola Ajani did a fantastic job at the stand, both actively took part in the 50 metre dash, interacted with the other activities and also promoted volunteer

The Moss Side Cadets helped with registration and assisted with the activities on the day which included, hop scotch, skipping, football skills, face painting, bowling and assisted the youngsters with the Easter Egg Hunt.
The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has confirmed, that all serving Special Constables who live in the capital will be eligible for a £150 council tax cut, as he delivers on his pledge to reward those uniformed volunteers who support policing.

The Mayor of London committed in his Police & Crime Plan to reconnect the police with the public by boosting volunteering and rewarding those who offer their time in service. This follows his 2012 manifesto pledge to offer Special Constables a 50 per cent rebate on the Mayor’s share of council tax.

In a letter sent to all 4,000 Specials in London, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Stephen Greenhalgh, sets out the details of the scheme and how to apply. The new scheme is the first of its kind in London and has been designed by the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the Greater London Authority.

The payment – which is worth up to £450 to those Special Constables who already have three years’ service – will apply to all those who have completed their minimum monthly service of 16 hours and who live in a London household that pays council tax. The payment also applies to Specials living in London serving with the British Transport Police and City of London Police.

Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London, said: “My manifesto promised a council tax discount for Special Constables and this payment delivers on that pledge. Special Constables are a vital link between the police and the community whilst representing the very best of London’s volunteering spirit. This payment goes some way to recognise the huge contribution that Specials make to keep our city safe.”

Stephen Greenhalgh, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime said: “Special Constables will continue to volunteer, unpaid, in support of regular Met Police Officers, but we hope this council tax rebate demonstrates how the Mayor values their efforts. I especially enjoyed observing their contribution up close on the recent Big Wing Day involving Specials across London. We want many more people with diverse backgrounds and expert skills to step forward to support the police as volunteers, and I am delighted that members of our Special Constabulary are now getting the recognition they deserve.”

John Conway, Chief Officer of Met Special Constables, said: “The MPS welcomes this new initiative from MOPAC and believes it will act as a positive incentive to encourage more new Specials to join the Met. Special Constables are a vital and valued part of the wider Met family, giving up their own time and contributing valuable professional skills in order to help provide a high quality of policing services to the public and their communities. We will be encouraging all those existing and new Specials who qualify for the rebate to apply for it.”

### HUMBERSIDE

Two of the unitary authorities in Humberside give Council Tax support in the form of a 50% reduction to their Specials.

- **The criteria are:**
  - Must be the named council tax payer
  - Must work the minimum number of hours (this is calculated on 4 weekly periods-so 16 per 4 weeks, if any fall below then the rebate is reduced by 1/16th)
  - Paid in arrears as a rebate not a discount
  - If officers get the council tax rebate that will make them eligible to pay tax on all expenses as this changes their status to being in an “office of profit”

### TRAFFORD COUNCIL (GMP)

In recognition of the valuable contribution special constables make to Trafford’s significantly reducing incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour, special constables living and volunteer in Trafford can get a 50% reduction on their council tax bill

Trafford Council introduced their scheme in 2011 which is for Specials who:

- Are liable to pay Council Tax
- Live in Trafford
- Volunteer in Trafford
- Have completed one year’s probation and at least one year of SC Service in Trafford
Under the new leadership of Temporary Special Chief Officer Wayne Humberstone supported by the Force Lead for Volunteers Superintendent Paul Schoon, a mentoring programme has been launched to help identify leaders of the future and to nurture and develop their potential, along with that of existing Special Constabulary leaders within the organisation.

Sixteen Special Constables (ranked from Special Inspector to Chief Officer) have been paired with senior Police Officer mentors to develop their leadership skills in a policing context.

Superintendent Paul Schoon said “When this program was devised we wanted to ensure that the process was not wholly one way, as Special Constables bring their own skills, experiences and perspectives to the force. It is therefore an opportunity for an exchange of information that will benefit and develop the mentor. As the relationship matures I see this approach becoming mutually supportive.”

SC Chief Officer Wayne Humberstone said “With the dramatic increase in our establishment from our target of 330 by April 2015 and 500 in the longer term, it is vital that all volunteers are integrated into the wider policing family, their skills are fully utilised and the volunteering experience is both rewarding and worthwhile.

As Bedfordshire Specials establishment continues to increase over the next 12 months, the importance of an effective leadership is essential to ensure that Specials makes a valuable and valid contribution to the aims of the force. The longer term desire is to achieve inter-operable working practices on a rank by rank basis.

The mentoring programme attracted considerable support from senior Police Officers within the regular service, with many more mentors coming forward than initially required that the programme has been extended allowing more Specials to have access to a mentor.

In addition to the mentoring programme, The College of Emergency Planning will be delivering accredited training modules between now and January to this group of officers.
When Roy Tongue was growing up he always dreamt of becoming a police officer but in 1971, with a passion for newspapers, the 19-year-old was enjoying his job at the Birmingham Post and Mail. Despite weighing up the pros and cons of both career paths and sticking with the media, the teenager managed to get the best of both worlds by joining the special Constabulary.

He's now served for 43 years and – to mark the force's 40th anniversary and national Volunteers' Week – has been reflecting on his life and the evolution of the Specials over the last five decades. “I had a well-paid job at the paper,” he said, “but I knew I wanted to experience the life of a policeman, so I joined the Specials. There was always a plan to become a regular officer but my love of the media took over and the Specials meant I could do both. “I think I'm probably the only one still here who was in Birmingham City Police before it changed to West Midlands Police and when I started you were thrown onto to the streets with hardly any training and they just expected you to get on with it! “We've come a long way since then and things have changed massively. The induction programme wasn't half as good as it is now – Specials are better trained, attitudes have shifted and we are treated a lot more equally alongside the regulars.

After 43 years in the Specials, Roy is now thinking about retiring to spend more time with his wife Gill and to focus on one of his other favourite pastimes – flying. “The thing is you've got to do as much with your life as you can, because the time soon passes by – and I know people always say that, but it's true.

And on making the decision all those years ago to join the Specials over the regular force, he said: “If I could do it all again, I'd do exactly the same thing. I've loved every minute.”

Special Constable Roy Tongue is still a serving officer and is based on the Community Action and Priority Team at Erdington police station.
NORTH WALES SPECIALS GET ‘TWEETING’

North Wales Police Special Constables from local Neighbourhood Policing Teams are now using Social Media to communicate with their local community. The officers are the first Special’s in North Wales to use Social Media as part of their role and are keen to adopt all methods to engage with as many in the community as possible.

Chief Inspector Simon Barrasford North Wales Police lead for the Special Constabulary said “It is hoped that the Team’s Tweets will be informative and give the community a real sense of Policing activities in their neighbourhood.”

CI Barrasford, who himself tweets under @NWPSBarrasford concluded “The first four Specials to engage Twitter during work are Special Sergeant Neale Lewis-Jones at Llandudno (@NWPNLewisJones), SC Charlotte Groom at Wrecsam (@NWPCGroom), SC Steffan Cooling, Llangollen (@NWPSCooling) and SC Gruff Owen at Bangor (@NWPGOwen).”

North Wales also hosted a successful web chat recently offering the public the chance to ask questions about the role of a Special, using their Internet or via Twitter with #AskNWP or #BeSpecial tags.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE OFFICERS HELP SAVE A YOUNG MAN’S LIFE

PC Joshua Deville and Special Constable Mark Whittlestone were deployed to St Pauls Parade, Ardsley where upon arrival they found a male hanging from the frame of a children’s swing. Josh quickly acted to release the male and assisted the lone paramedic to administer CPR. Mark meanwhile was providing much needed illumination of the male, poised to take over the chest compressions if necessary. After five sets of chest compressions, the young male began to breathe and was transported to hospital where he has since made a full recover.

PC Deville received a Commander’s commendation for his efforts at the scene, and Special Constable Whittlestone revived a Good Work Notice.

District Commander Liz Watson commented “I have no hesitation in awarding you both these certificates in recognition of your professionalism and commitment to save the life of a member of public.”

SC Mark Whittlestone
Lancashire Cricket Board’s Women’s 1st team captain, Jasmine Titmuss, is used to pitching in her skills and keeping fit to stay at the top of her game.

Capped several times by England A team, the 25 year old follows a healthy diet and works out regularly at her local branch of PureGym near where she lives in Cheshire.

Jasmine, Clubs and Leagues Officer at Lancashire County Cricket Board, also volunteers as a Special Constable with Cheshire Constabulary.

Usually she finds her leadership, conflict management, problem solving skills and people skills are called upon when she clocks on for duty at Wilmslow Police Station.

But one event recently saw her match her sporting skills with her police work when she was asked to help promote International Women’s Week at Cheshire Constabulary.

The sportswoman donned her sports kit and trainers and joined around 20 other women to take part in a women-only practice bleep test at Police HQ in Winsford.

Needless to say Jasmine completed the test with flying colours and was delighted to take part. She said: “It was great to be asked to take part in the fitness test. I
really enjoy my work as a Special Constable.

“The satisfaction I get out of helping people in the community, who are often in a time of need, is similar to that of winning a cricket match.

“It's not as different as you think. For example the banter that goes on during the course of a cricket match is like dealing with somebody who has had a few too many drinks on a Friday night.”

Jasmine, who began playing cricket when she was eight, says that her team-mates are constantly intrigued about her work as a Special Constable. “My team mates are really supportive of what I do. They often joke that they know they are in safe hands on the field.”

When Jasmine toured China for cricket, former Ashes-winning captain Mike Gatting who was accompanying the tour joked that they would be in safe hands after reading about her work as a Special Constable.

“It’s helped me in so many ways. The discipline and teamwork that’s involved with being a Special Constable has helped me out,” she said.

Jasmine has also found her love for cricket has brought calmness and resolved conflict in difficult situations in her work as a volunteer Police Officer.

“I saw a cricket kit in the hallway at one house we went to. I was able to find some common ground. We started talking about cricket which made the situation so much easier.”
Leeds City Neighbourhood Policing Team received reports that someone had jumped into the River Aire. Officers arrived on scene and found the female in the river with a member of the public who was struggling to hold her up. The female was losing consciousness and starting to slip under the water.

Special Constable Lee Deighton then put his own life at risk and jumped in to help save the female’s life. He pulled the female to the side and held onto her. Fire crews then arrived and assisted in getting the female out of the river. The female was then attended to by ambulance staff and taken to hospital where she stayed overnight for observations. If Lee hadn't done what he did then the outcome would have been very different.

Chief Superintendent Paul Money, Leeds District Commander, said: “Lee clearly made a split-second decision in a fast-moving situation and put thoughts of his own safety to one side to help save this young woman’s life with the help of an equally brave member of the public. I am incredibly proud to have officers like him helping to keep our communities safe, particularly Special Constables who are private citizens by day and give their spare time to work as police officers. His actions demonstrate the commitment police officers and police staff show time and time again to come to the fore in dangerous situations to protect the public from harm.”

Seven Special Constables from York supported a joint operation to target alcohol-related antisocial behaviour on trains, at York station and in the city centre. They worked alongside dozens of their regular colleagues from North Yorkshire Police and British Transport Police to ensure that people could visit York, enjoy themselves, and feel safe. The day of action also saw officers work alongside a passive drugs dog to identify problematic groups and individuals coming in and out of York. Support to patrolling the city and engaging with people, licensees and door staff was also provided. Temporary Inspector Andy Godfrey, of York Police, said: “This is yet another successful operation in the city centre thanks to the support of our Special Constabulary who provided valuable resilience helping to keep the city as safe as possible.”
In a recent training event, DutySheet engaged a number of core administrators and power-users with a one-day intense workshop.

The objective of the event was two-fold; to demonstrate and share best practice use of the current modules and introduce and some of the newer features just released in the latest version, DS3.

Tina Shelton, Regional Coordinator said, “Attending this event was really invaluable; I have been to many training events, but have to say the DutySheet training was without doubt a really worthwhile use of my time. I learnt more about the new role based permissions, as well as the other upgrades that have come in recently, which will help to ensure we are getting the most out of DutySheet. We also had the opportunity to ask questions, and DutySheet took on board suggestions the attendees made, and are going to look at implementing these in the future – which was really positive.”

Ben Hayes of DutySheet comments, “It was great to see our customers come together and share their feedback. It has always been our belief that force driven development is integral to DutySheet’s success and this event just strengthened that.”

DutySheet provides Cloud based software for Volunteer Management and currently supports 15,000 users across 33 Police forces in England and Wales.

‘The DutySheet conference was a valuable use of my time. It has enabled me to have a clearer overview regarding the functionality of the overall system and has highlighted options we were not using as a Force but will be doing so in the future; this unused functionality will provide savings for our Force and ensure we comply with legislation whilst doing so.'

Inspector Colin Daley, Specials Lead, West Yorkshire Police

‘As the first customer of Duty Sheet Humberside have been using the system for some 7 years but I still learnt lots on this course and can see even more ways of making use of a great system. A really useful and informative event, well worth the time spent.’

SC Chief Officer John Philip, Humberside

‘It was great to meet with colleagues from around the Country and to share experiences and solutions in relation to the use of Duty Sheet. It has certainly raised our awareness of the availability of additional and enhanced functionality since we started using it some 8 years ago and we are already making plans for the implementation of some of the facilities on return to Essex.’

SC Chief Officer Derek Hopkins, Sussex

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DUTYSHEET ADVANCED TRAINING TOPICS

- Understanding the custom fields
- Moving from Access Levels to Roles based permissions
- Importance of Rank order
- PDP
- PDR
- WTR
- Messaging System
- Reports
- Admin functionality
- Document Library
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