READ ABOUT THE LATEST EMPLOYER SUPPORTED POLICING DEVELOPMENTS
SEE CENTRE PAGES
National Volunteers Week runs from the 1-7 June, an event which is intended to celebrate and say thank you for the fantastic contribution that volunteers make across the United Kingdom.

This year the National Special Constabulary Weekend will run from Friday the 31st May to Sunday 2nd June inclusive. This will form and be part of the National Volunteers Week 2019.

The theme for this year’s Specials Weekend will be Employer Supported Policing (ESP), an opportunity to tell more people and organisations about the benefits of ESP and also an opportunity to publicly thank those organisations that already support ESP.

The NPCC National Lead for the Special Constabulary Deputy Chief Constable Richard Debicki said, “The Specials Weekend will celebrate the activity of our volunteer Police Officers and the outstanding contribution they make towards keeping our communities safe all year round, 24 hours a day. It will be an opportunity for us to say thank you to these officers for everything they do. But, it will also be an opportunity for us to say thank you to those organisations, big and small, local and national, that support us and in turn support their communities by enabling their staff to perform Special Constabulary duties as part of their paid role.”

T/Assistant Chief Constable Andy Slattery from Cumbria Constabulary, the North West Regional CIP Lead and the national lead for the development of the Employer Support Policing (ESP) initiative said, “I am delighted at the announcement of this year’s theme for the Specials Weekend, which coincides with the launch of refreshed national guidance for (ESP) which is due to take place on the 8th May at Sedgley Park. ESP is invaluable, a real partnership between employers, their staff and the Police Service and I would encourage Forces to use Specials Weekend and indeed Volunteers Week as an ideal opportunity to actively promote their ESP Scheme.”

Assistant Chief Constable Claire Richards said, “Merseyside Police Citizens in Policing Team have won a National Local Policing Award - Valuing Volunteers Award. The team have worked really hard over the past few years supporting the recruitment and development of Special Constables and volunteers right across Merseyside. The award demonstrates the quality of the work undertaken and is an incredible achievement. The team should be rightly proud of how they have represented Merseyside Police and how they are making a real difference to the communities of Merseyside.”

In recognition of International Women’s Day the above photo was taken at Merseyside’s attestation where 19 female Officers were attested.

42 Special Constables supported the main event and an additional 19 supported the night time economy.
The award was presented for 'Services to Policing.' Notably his voluntary policing targeting organised criminality in Oldham, his previous work reducing violent crime on the Night Time Economy and being one of the first responders at the Arena attack whilst off duty, performing first aid for many hours then returning to Oldham several hours later to assist with the reception of the mortuary.

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Katherine Hancock has been confirmed as the new permanent Chief Officer of Warwickshire Police Special Constabulary having served in the role on a temporary basis since September 2018.

Katherine said, “I joined the Special Constabulary in August 1993 after finishing school. I have worked my entire career out of Rugby Police Station. I joined the Specials because I have a strong family connection with Policing.

Over the years, as Policing has changed with the introduction of technology and the types of crime, so has the role of the Special Constabulary. When I joined Specials were used primarily for foot patrol, village fetes and community engagements and our uniforms had banana flashes on the arms along with other variances in uniform to identify Special Constables from their regular counterparts. Today, we have Special Constables who are assigned to our Force Operations Unit; we have officers that are trained to respond to incidents as standard drivers and officers who are public order trained. There is no distinction in the uniform that Specials and their regular colleagues wear which shows the levels of integration over the years.

During my career along with my day to day Policing of my assigned borough, I have policed the Ryder Cup, Global Gathering, Her Majesty The Queen’s visit to Stratford upon Avon, the Olympic Torch Relay, and received two Chief Constable Commendations for my actions at incidents.

The highlight of my career was being on the committee for securing a memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum dedicated to members of the Special Constabulary, protecting and serving their communities and to commemorate those Specials who have died in service to their country.

ACC Franklin-Smith said: “It is a pleasure to welcome Katherine to her new role. All our specials work on a voluntary basis and play a key role in protecting our communities. Katherine has a wealth of experience and under her leadership I’m sure they will continue to go from strength to strength.”

Mike is a lawyer by day but dedicates around 80 hours to the Police each month for free while also offering support to others doing such a valuable service.

The keen fundraiser also commits his spare time to raising money for charity - and in particular Compton Hospice in his hometown of Wolverhampton where his wife June is a volunteer.

The grandfather-of-one Mike was invited to Buckingham Palace.

He said: “It was an incredibly proud moment and something I will never forget. I take great satisfaction in being a Volunteer Police Officer and being able to make a positive impact. It has been part of my life for almost five decades and I hope to be able to carry on for some years yet. I feel humbled to get an MBE but consider it a reflection of what all Specials do and the sacrifice they make. There are many others who dedicate their spare time, while often juggling work and home commitments, and I applaud everyone else who volunteers this way.”

“The Special Constabulary has gone through huge change in recent years as have our regular colleagues who we support. Specials are now fully trained, empowered and equipped to make a meaningful contribution.”
Merseyside Special Constabulary conducted an insight shift and was joined by the Tesco Management Team. The aim of the shift was to provide the Tesco Management Team with an insight to the work undertaken by Merseyside Police, particularly the Special Constabulary and the contribution they provide on a daily basis.

Tesco’s attended Police Headquarters’ and was met by Constable 5198 Dan Holmes from the Special Co-Ordination Team and Special Constable 1518 Nathan Beavin, and after a quick briefing loaded the car ready for what was going to be a busy Friday Night.

They attended several emergencies throughout the shift and even got the chance to meet up with Merseyside Police Mounted Department and say hello to PH Major and PH Arnie who were patrolling the City Centre before deploying to an emergency incident to a report of a disturbance in a bar in town.

Tesco provided the following feedback from the shift:

“I would really enjoy the opportunity to come back out again in the very near future and thank you for giving me more knowledge of what I can do to help. This is something I would have no hesitation to when it comes to recommendation.”

Tesco currently give its employees who are Special Constables an additional five days leave per year.

Global Coach Tours, a small family company, run by Derbyshire Special Constable Geoff Monk won the Lord Ferrers Award - Employer Supported Policing Category – back in 2018. The company allows its employees five days per month in paid leave to volunteer in policing, which given the company’s size and resources this commitment goes above and beyond what might be expected, with contributions from Global Coach Tours employees equating to 25% of ESP hours in the Derbyshire area.

When considering joining the scheme, Geoff Monk who volunteers in the High Peak area said: “I see ESP as a win-win situation, which is why I have decided to take my business into the scheme. Employees become more aware of the law and acquire skills that can be brought back into the workforce. It improves morale and helps develop more well-rounded employees. On top of that the police get more support to keep Derbyshire’s community safe. It’s a no brainer.”

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We would like to congratulate Commander George J. Balasko who joined the Parma Reserves in January 1984 – Well done on 35 years’ service.

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE PARMA POLICE RESERVES?
I always had an interest in Law Enforcement. While in college a co-worker at my part time job was a Parma Auxiliary Officer. He got me interested in this Unit as a way to learn more about a law enforcement career, while making a positive contribution to our community.

After graduation, I worked in the Specialty Chemical Industry. At most of the facilities, safety and security were part of my duties. I was trained as an Industrial Firefighter and HAZMAT operator. I also helped set up security at the plants, such as access control. My experience as an Auxiliary Officer was a good carry over to my duties in the chemical industry.

Parma Auxiliary Officers perform many of the same duties as the full time officers except for writing tickets and carrying a side arm. Amongst our duties are riding on patrol with full time officers, security at school functions or athletic events such as football games. We do a lot of traffic control. We have several large churches in our city and we direct traffic there to keep thing safe. We also do traffic control at parades to ensure a safe event.

We have Emergency Call Outs (ECO) where available Auxiliary Officers are called in to assist with traffic control or security at major accidents, fires, downed wires, flooded streets, etc. This is one area that our on-Uniform Patrol like us to do the most. We take over on the scene and they can go back to their regular patrol.

We have three special patrols a year. We patrol all streets to look for malfunctioning street lights, patrol all streets to issue winter parking ban warnings, and the best one, extra patrols on Halloween to keep the Trick or Treaters safe.

I put in over 1,000 hours per year. Most of them are administrative hours to run the Unit.

In 2018, I had over 200 in-uniform hours. Auxiliary Officers are required to put in a minimum of 136 hours per year (total, in-uniform, training, admin, meetings, etc.) Amongst my duties are planning details, budgeting and personnel issues for the Unit.

I am also attached to our SWAT Team to take care of communications, technology and logistics.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR PAID ROLE?
After spending 20 years in the Specialty Chemical Industry as a Chemical Engineer, I moved into a full time position with the Parma Police Department as the Property-Evidence-Facility Manager. I oversee evidence brought into the department; manage maintenance and technology for the department. I am also our radio system administrator - kind of like the engineer for the Police Department.

HOW DO YOU BALANCE YOUR WORK/SOCIAL LIFE WITH YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES OF BEING A RESERVE?
This is the most difficult part of the volunteer law enforcement experience. We lose many volunteers due to the demands of their work/family/social life. We used to have 50 Auxiliary Officers, but are now down to 24.

I have good support from my family, my wife, Mary Frances and son, Brendan, and I try not to miss the important family events, although I have been to a few holiday dinners in my uniform!

I am also a soccer referee, refereeing everything from kids, to high school to adult amateur leagues. My son is also a referee and we have worked many matches together. On our slower weekends, we do watch Premier League games.

WHAT ARE THE BEST BITS ABOUT BEING A RESERVE?
The recognition we get for making a positive impact in our department and community.

Without our Unit, as an example, there would be no parades in our community. Without a good Unit, we cannot have that positive impact.

For me personally, being recognised for using my skills to plan traffic control for a VIP visit or large event, coordinating communications, and so on, is a great feeling and makes all the time and effort worth it.
NORTHUMBRIA SPECIALS LEAD THE WAY TO CRACKDOWN ON CAR CRIME

A weekend of action run by a group of Special Constables saw a massive crackdown on car crime in the region. More than a dozen Special Constables volunteered their own time to join the Operation Dragoon Team as part of a Drink and Drug Drive campaign. Operation Dragoon was set up in 2014 to represent the Force’s commitment to road safety.

The Special Constables were armed with a speed gun, a breathalyser and a drug testing kit in a bid to crack down on drivers who get behind the wheel while under the influence.

It also involved stopping vehicles across Newcastle and Gateshead and checking them to make sure that they are road worthy, taxed, fully insured and MOT’d.

It was the third year in a row that the Operation has run and, although regular officers joined them on patrol, it was fully led by the Special Constabulary.

Chief Superintendent Sarah Pitt, the Force’s Operational Lead for Volunteers, said: “The Special Constabulary play an important role in supporting our officers in their daily duties and I am really proud of the work they do. All of our Specials volunteer their own time to keep our communities safe and many of them are at university or in full-time employment. It is through their desire to keep local people safe that they come into the station at a weekend and run an Operation such as this one.”

“They will also have saved lives by tackling the ‘Fatal Four’ which are the four most common motoring offences that lead to fatal road collisions. I want to thank the Special Constabulary for the work they do here in Northumbria. They are a credit to themselves and to the people they serve.”

VOLUNTEER OFFICER CELEBRATES 30 YEARS SERVICE

One of Suffolk’s dedicated Volunteer Police Officers has served for 30 years with the Force. Special Superintendent Paul Booker reached the milestone on Thursday 29 November 2018 after completing over three decades of service with Suffolk Constabulary and the Metropolitan Police.

49-year-old Paul was inspired to volunteer from a young age but it wasn’t until 1989 that he began his career as a Special Constable for the Metropolitan Police at New Scotland Yard.

He said: “It was a very daunting experience, being only 18 and in front of so many highly decorated ranking officers. However, nothing prepared me for the first time I stepped out in full uniform with my new tunic and wooden truncheon.”

Paul’s duties varied over the years but he would often help with various large events and after a decade in the role, he was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to apply to become a Special Sergeant.

In 2006, after 17 years with the Metropolitan Police, Paul transferred to Suffolk Constabulary. He said: “From the very first time I walked into Lowestoft Police Station, I felt at home as both the Regulars and Specials were very welcoming but like most other counties, Suffolk has its challenges.”

A short time later, Paul applied to become a Special Sergeant and within the year, another opportunity came up and he was asked to become a Special Inspector at Lowestoft. He said: “I was honoured and privileged to become a Special Inspector after 20 years. It also had a fundamental positive impact on my career as I was promoted to Regional Manager in my day job within the construction industry.”

During the last 13 years, Paul has also actively assisted with recruitment evenings and tutoring new Special Constables. He said: “I found this to be a natural step, encouraging all Specials to embrace their roles. So much so, that many of those volunteers have gone on to become regular officers.”

Paul has also previously been given a Stars of Suffolk Award for Outstanding Bravery, which he said was a very “humbling experience”. It was awarded following a serious accident he was involved in.

He said: “I was on duty as a passenger in a stationary police car, when a speeding drink driver crashed head-on into my passenger door at approximately 70 to 80mph. I sustained substantial injuries, which included various broken bones and internal injuries.”

After the accident, Paul used a wheelchair for over three months and needed to learn to walk again however, it didn’t stop him reporting for duty and while still in recovery, he continued to organise many events in Lowestoft.

Karen Harris, Specials, Volunteers and Cadets Manager said: “Paul is a credit to Suffolk’s Special Constabulary. He is an amazing role model and offers his support to all of his officers and is extremely well-respected by everyone who knows and works with him. Paul also assists my team with the recruitment of new Special Constables and his enthusiasm, knowledge and experience shines through. He has a wonderful ability to engage with people from all walks of life, giving them a realistic view of what becoming a Special Constable is all about.”

Paul’s supportive family and the balance of his duties with work and his personal life have all played a part in him sustaining a long career as a Special. He said: “I would never have been able to complete three decades of service without the understanding and support from my friends and family.”
Volunteer Police Officers who each have to the Council funds the expenses of the three special Constable scheme. under the scheme, Officers as part of Essex Police’s Community Local Authority to fund its own Volunteer Police when Witham town Council became the first in June 2017, Jason, Lorne and Simon became special sergeant Jason Wintin, special awards for their dedication to policing the town. months in Witham have been recognised with almost 400 hours of their time in the last eight Three special Constables who have volunteered Sgt Jason Wintin and A/special Constable Lorne Campbell and A/special Sergeant Simon Jesse are Community special Constable Lorne Campbell and A/special Constable Simon Jesse became the winners.”

Chief Inspector Janette Rawlingson said: “Since joining Braintree in September 2018, I have been so grateful and impressed by the level of commitment from the local Special Constables who face the same risk and conditions as regular Police Constables. We have nearly 40 Specials serving across Braintree, Witham and Halstead. The Witham Community Special Constables provide extra visibility and reassurance in addition to the local policing presence. They have formed excellent local connections and relationships. I was honoured to be asked to attend the awards and present the trophies to all the winners.”

Tina Townsend, Chair of the Witham Chamber of Commerce, is an Active Citizen who regularly volunteers her time to help keep communities safe and is also part of Witham’s Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. She said: “We feel that since the Special Constables came to Witham that there has been a decrease in reported crime and that their presence makes a difference and we are grateful for their dedication as volunteers.”

Three Special Constables who have volunteered almost 400 hours of their time in the last eight months in Witham have been recognised with awards for their dedication to policing the town. Special Sergeant Jason Wintin, Special Constable Lorne Campbell and A/Special Sergeant Simon Jesse are Community Special Constables in Witham and were recognised with the Inspirational Role Model Award at the Witham Community and Safety Awards. They were also individually recognised with the Safety and Community Award. The officers attended the awards ceremony where they were presented with the award by Chief Inspector Janette Rawlingson, District Commander for Braintree and Uttlesford.

In June 2017, Jason, Lorne and Simon became the county’s first Community Special Constables when Witham Town Council became the first Local Authority to fund its own Volunteer Police Officers as part of Essex Police’s Community Special Constable Scheme. Under the scheme, the Council funds the expenses of the three Volunteer Police Officers who each have to volunteer a minimum of 16 hours each month in Witham to target and disrupt anti-social behaviour, respond to community concerns and carry out high visibility foot patrols in the town. Since June, Jason, Lorne and Simon have volunteered almost 400 hours of their own time to help keep Witham safe. They’ve made arrests, carried out speed checks in the area and patrolled the town on foot and in the car to provide a high visibility presence. They’ve worked with the Local Policing Team and other Special Constables from across the county on their duties and have spoken to lots of members of the public about their roles.

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GMP’s senior Special Constables held a leadership conference at Manchester Airport on Sunday 10 February 2019.

The event was opened by Chief Officer Mike Walsmsley, who introduced Chief Constable Ian Hopkins. The Chief Constable talked about the vital role Special Constable’s play and the development of the role in the future. The day consisted of a variety of other speakers, one of whom was Willmott Dixon Director Michael Lane BSc (Hons) MCIOB who delivered a leadership input, and activities focussing on developing leaders at all levels to ensure Special Constabulary Officers remain engaged.

“we would like to pass on a massive thanks to all the Specials for volunteering their time to take part in our night time exercises throughout the five weeks. Without their participation it would be very difficult to run these exercises. We had some very good actors - and hope that they enjoyed the exercises as much as we enjoyed them being here. We look forward to seeing the Specials again on future exercises.”

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Manchester Airport conducted five Marauding Terrorist Firearms Attack (MTFA) Exercises throughout January and February 2019 located in Terminal 1. These annual exercises are conducted to assist Armed Firearms Officers with emergency preparedness in a realistic, real time environment.

Special Constables from Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside and GMP took on the role of passengers either fleeing from the scene, injured, hiding or able bodied. The feedback from the Special Constables was very positive with comments such as, “Great experience witnessing the Firearms Officers at work”. “Great fun and brings other Forces together too”. “Was a great experience providing you with an insight into an area of policing not many people get to see.”

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