Welcome...

The last couple of months have been very busy for the Special Constabulary as a whole. I know it seems like ages ago now, but only two months ago we were all dealing with initiatives within our towns and cities to target the seasonal spike in pickpocket and ‘dipping’ offences. It never fails to humble me as to the number of officers who volunteer their time over the festive period (probably to the disdain of family and friends), to help make our neighbourhoods a safer place to live and work.

In January, we saw the delivery of the first North West region Second-line Supervisors course, written and delivered by the training staff at Hutton in Lancashire. This was an eagerly-anticipated course, and from the feedback received, certainly delivered more than expected from the delegates who attended it. This course aims to increase the training available to our supervisors at all levels (or those aspiring to progress up the supervisory ladder), to ensure that they are properly equipped to deal with the responsibilities that are expected of them within an ever-evolving police service.

Praise and recognition is something that I (and my counterparts within other forces) are extremely keen on, and I was fortunate enough to attend GMP’s Chief Constables’ Excellence Awards last week held within splendid surroundings on Manchester Town Hall’s Great Hall, where two specials from GMP had been nominated for awards – alongside regular colleagues! This for me was a milestone event, as it highlights that the work of the Special Constabulary is recognised as being on a par with the efforts of regulars and PCSO’s, and certainly demonstrates that the Special Constabulary are well and truly embedded within the general policing body.

SC2012, the National Special Constabulary Conference is now only weeks away, and as one of the organisers of the event, I can truthfully say that this has been a mammoth task! We have delegates of all ranks and grades (regular, SC, and civilian) attending from most of the 43 Forces of England and Wales, Police Authority Members, delegates from the Fire Service, and also overseas delegates from the Cayman Islands and the USA – certainly very little pressure on the planning team to deliver!! We aim to deliver a diverse interactive conference, covering a number of different topics suited to all attendees, with 11 different workshops and 3 seminars available for the delegates. We also plan on Tweeting updates throughout the event, and have a number of dedicated tweeters on hand to ensure that tweets are available from all areas over the weekend.

I would at this time like to thank my colleagues not only from the North West regional forces, but across the country, who are assisting with the presenting of the conference workshops, all of the special constabulary officers who are assisting with the event over the weekend, the tremendous efforts of Tina Shelton in pulling the conference together, and the Sponsors and Supporters of the conference, without whose help we simply could not have delivered the conference.

Paul Whittam
Chief Officer, Greater Manchester Police

I am looking forward to the Special Constabulary National conference which is fast approaching and welcome the opportunity the event gives us to think about how we are going to support the Special Constabulary development going forward. We have had many new products and developments in the last twelve months such as the first supervisor’s course, and I was personally honoured to recently open the inaugural second line SC supervisor’s course. I was totally impressed, staggered and humbled by special officers giving up their weekend to develop themselves further to ensure that they are professional leaders within the Special Constabulary. It is important to value our special constables and I am pleased to be able to further SC management skills by laying on courses such as this one, and I am particularly pleased that it not only attracted regional officers, but that there were officers from the MSC, showing how well the SC is working together not only across boundaries but countrywide.

There has not only been a growth in the Special Constabulary, which is now at 19,500 officers nationally, but there has also been a positive growth in the professionalism and the reputation of the SC and this is down to how you conduct and develop yourselves.

We need to reinforce the fact that within the service we must recognise that managing and leading volunteers is very different from managing paid staff - Special Constables are in a great position of being volunteers themselves; however should remember that even though, as supervisors, they would want their team to follow and think well of them, it is important as a leader to give a clear sense of direction and to have the ability to challenge and encourage their team and continue to motivate and inspire other volunteers.

Chief Constable Peter Fahy
Greater Manchester Police

The 2012 SC National Conference is fast approaching and the planning team is extremely busy finalising the content and arrangements. One of the more popular workshop choices has been “Just Volunteering?” which has been designed by Warrington Voluntary Action and focuses on how we can empower volunteers, recognise the skills they bring and ensure that the police service has the right support in place for managing and supporting them. Plans are in place to start delivering this workshop throughout the North West forces to staff that manage our volunteers and this commenced in February with the first delivery to the GMP partnership team officers.

There will be many seminars/workshops throughout the conference weekend and the content can be seen on the conference website: http://www.sc2012.co.uk

On the Friday night, after an address from the Policing Minister, we have some exciting presentations - the Xcalibre Task Force who tackle gun crime on the streets of Manchester and a media presentation from the top BBC/Sky/Granada News producers. We also have a Q&A panel with representatives from ACPO, ASCCO and the NPIA with a live Twitter feed to share some of the questions and answers discussed.

Whilst we like all specials would be able to attend the conference – this is unfortunately impossible; however this years conference wants to widen participation of special constables throughout the UK, and I would urge you to join @sc2012conf via twitter to involve yourself across the weekend. There will be opportunities for you to add your comments, plus a chance to pose live questions to the Q&A panel Friday evening. If you have not got access to Twitter but wish to send in a question to pose to the panel please email sc2012@gmp.pnn.police.uk. This is your opportunity to ask that burning question that you may have to the people at the top.

Finally, we have run a readership survey on Special Impact. Results will be published in the next issue. Early indications show that you enjoy the content, however I am really pleased to see so many ideas from you about improving the publication, which I will ensure we put in place. So thank you to all those who participated, it is important to feedback as this is a magazine for the special constabulary. If you wish to complete the survey – it is not too late – access http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/specialimpact.

Tina Shelton
NW Regional Co-ordinator
Ellie Acton Chief Officer of Cheshire Special Constabulary gives Impact her account of what it was like when she joined the service...

I joined the Special Constabulary in Cheshire after being told “the police isn’t a job for women”. My father was an Inspector in Greater Manchester Police and volunteered the information that “the real police hated hobby bobbies”. I did, what I have done most of my professional career, i.e. ignored what was suggested, in this case by my loving father. Much to his horror in 2004 I joined this despicable breed of overtime stealers in Northern Division, Cheshire.

Following my training course at Constabulary HQ, I arrived at Warrington police station to discover that there wasn’t any other Special Constables left. They had all allegedly been sacked after selling their uniform on eBay. I never discovered whether this was true, or whether it was an urban myth to provide further examples of why specials were really useless.

On my first shift I presented myself at the Patrol Sergeants office with my sister hobby bobby Samantha, the Sgt was pretty amused as he knew nothing about our arrival. I was paired with an old school hobby in the crime car who’s opening line, as I buckled myself into the seat was, “I hate specials”... how about that for a welcome to team Cheshire! Anyway it all turned out well, we got involved in a fight at a domestic incident with the offender and my kung fu skills saved the day, as we travelled back to the nick he looked at me with a grimace and said “I still hate specials…. but you’re alright”.

I progressed quickly through the ranks due to the following facts 1) I am gobby 2) all the other specials had been sacked due to their “alleged” eBay antics.

I get asked sometimes what it is like being a woman at rank. I’ll be honest sometimes it has been hard and you have to be pretty thick skinned. I was asked at one senior officers meeting “who I had slept with to get promoted so quickly”. Whilst I am quite a driven character doing “a pretty woman” to get ahead as a volunteer is a step too far even for ambitious old me. Being a woman has also been of benefit, as one of a few, your opinion is sought more often, people make a special effort to ensure that you are included and I feel I have had a chance to make a real difference. I believe as a minority (whatever that minority is) you bring different thinking to the table, which is what is needed to ensure we represent our special constables both current and future in the best way.

When I joined in 2004 I didn’t expect to become Chief Officer, I looked at the people who held rank in Cheshire and thought, “I’m nothing like them”. Now I am Chief Officer I’ve recruited people like me, a bit gobby, professional and driven. I feel very privileged to hold the role of Chief Officer and would encourage men and women alike to strive to achieve the best they can.

I have been asked about how women can go about successfully achieving rank in the Specials Constabulary. I simply followed the guidance given by Jane Fonda.... "You can do one of two things; just shut up, which is something I don’t find easy, or learn an awful lot very fast, which is what I tried to do."
PoliceOracle.com is the busiest Police website in the UK with the largest online Police audience. Used by officers of all ranks from every UK Force.

- Latest Jobs & Transfers
- Breaking News
- Police Equipment & Books
- OSPRE Q&As

- Regular Features
- Exclusive Articles
- Police Forums
- Videos & Interviews

WWW.POLICEORACLE.COM

01737 648 438 - WWW.PATROLSTORE.COM/COMMAND.HTML
Police will have a Special eye in the sky as new initiative takes off in Cumbria

Cumbria Constabulary has introduced a new initiative that will allow police to have an ‘eye in the sky’ across the county - thanks to a talented Special Constable.

Special Constable Mike Carruthers, who serves the south of the County as part of his voluntary role, offered Cumbria Constabulary unique access to air support across the county without any of the associated costs as a result of his day job.

Mike, who has served as a Special Constable within Cumbria Constabulary for five years, is also a pilot and runs the Northwest Parachute Centre from Cark airfield in South Cumbria. Due to his specialist skills and experience, he offered to provide police with free support from the skies - allowing the Force to join a ‘Skywatch’ initiative which sees civilian pilots ‘observe and report’ on incidents as they unfold.

Cumbria Constabulary’s Chief Inspector Kevin Greenhow is the Co-ordinating Officer overseeing the ‘Skywatch’ launch. He said: “Many of the much larger police forces across the UK have access to their own air support units due to the demand from serious and major incidents. Running and maintaining these sorts of air support units incur very high running costs and as a smaller Force that is fortunate to see far fewer serious crimes, there isn’t a need for a full unit in Cumbria.

“However, thanks to Mike, this new initiative will allow Cumbria Constabulary access to an experienced Special Constable in the air, who, equipped with his own airwave unit and aircraft, will be able to provide running commentaries on incidents from his birds-eye view. He will have direct access via his radio to the Control Room Inspector who manages police resources while we are responding to incidents. This will be particularly useful during searches for high risk missing people for example, as Mike has the potential to search a large area of high land in minutes which will be far quicker than the time it may take on foot or for air support to arrive from neighbouring police forces.”

Special Constable Carruthers will be called upon if the Force Incident Manager requires air support and, if the aircraft is available; Mike has the potential to reach anywhere the county within 20-25 minutes and has the flight time endurance of between 4 - 5 hours.

Special Constable Mike Carruthers said: “I am delighted that this initiative is being launched in Cumbria as I get to combine my two passions – flying and policing - while also benefitting the community.

“I am familiar with police procedure and protocol which I hope will make the process of relaying immediate, detailed information about scenes or incidents back to the officers on the ground a lot easier.

“I am based very close to Morecambe Bay and have conducted a number of searches recently to help the Bay Rescue Team who were called to assist people who were out on mudflats. The aircraft allows me to search large areas of land quickly and easily so I hope that this will be a useful tool for the Constabulary to call upon in future.”

Assistant Chief Constable Michelle Skeer said: “I have no doubt that having air support on hand to assist us will help us to bring incidents or searches to a conclusion safely and quickly.

“We are very grateful to Mike who is volunteering his specialist skills and aircraft to enhance our policing service to the people of Cumbria.”
Transport for Greater Manchester are huge ESP supporters, allowing their staff who are special constables a minimum of 16 hours per month (but this can be up to 24 hours per month if a need is identified) additional leave to perform special constable duties on the Greater Manchester Transport Safety Scheme (GMTSS). This scheme was formerly called Bus Watch and was the winner of the Employer Supported Policing category in the 2010 Ferrer's national awards.

Steve Delaney joined the GMP Special Constabulary in April 2009. In his day job he is a Night Inspector for Stagecoach in Manchester where he works for the Service and Reliability Manager. He ensures that all bus services run on time, conduct revenue checks, assist the drivers when loading at busy stands, attend road traffic collisions and any anti-social behaviour issues on our vehicles and stations.

Steve says “The skills and knowledge I have gained as a police officer over the past three years have helped me in my role as a Night Inspector a great deal. I have attended road traffic accidents in my paid role and can use my police experience to manage at the scene. There was one incident whereby a female had jumped off a bridge and landed on a moving vehicle. I was three cars away from where she had landed. I dealt with this until the emergency services arrived. Without my specials training I would have not been able to take control of such a serious incident in such a calm manner. ”

Steve continues “As an Employer Supported Officer (ESP) I benefit a great deal, as does my company. I work on the Greater Manchester Travel Safety Scheme (GMTSS) where I travel on the buses and trams in and around Manchester. We are supported by Stagecoach, First Bus and Metrolink. We travel with the Revenue Inspectors and assist them when they find a passenger who may have used a fraudulent ticket. I will stop search any persons who I suspect has used such passes to have obtained travel and run PNC checks to confirm they are not wanted. During these operations, our team have found Missing Persons, Wanted Persons, Drugs, Weapons and articles of Fraud and arrested over 50 criminals. Crime on public transport has plummeted over the past three years and we won the Ferrers Award last year for our efforts, which we are extremely proud of.”

Paul Edwards also works for Transport for Greater Manchester as a Revenue Inspector and he joined GMP Special Constabulary in June 2010

“ Since becoming a Special constable I have the opportunity to develop my communication skills both in dealing with the public and relaying important information to other officers which is also important in my day time job as an revenue Inspector. I have learned negotiation skills which are imperative to the policing role and have been transferable to my day job in dealing with difficult or abusive people, conflict often occurs especially when dealings with passengers under the influence of alcohol. Being in the Special Constabulary has also enabled me to target issues at work such as ticket fraud, and help to reduce crime. It has also given me greater insight into why the crimes are happening as well as increasing my effectiveness in preventing crime. I regularly deal with incidents of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour in my day job, and feel that being a special constable has given me valuable experience to draw on, increased my confidence and improved my skills when dealing with challenging situations.

Paul goes on to say “Stagecoach have been a fantastic supporter of ESP and have enabled me to commit to duties by accommodating my police shifts on my rota. They have also supported me by giving me time to attend the necessary training and have shown a great interest in my role as a special constable also acknowledging that the training and skills I have acquired in the Special Constabulary have enhanced my skills as a Revenue Inspector and increased my effectiveness in dealing with challenging situations.”

David McNulty, Senior Crime Reduction Co-ordinator at TfGM, said: “The Greater Manchester Travel Safe Scheme (GMTSS) is a great example of what can be achieved through partnership working – all GMTSS Specials are volunteers taken from the ranks of the partner agencies, including TfGM, Stagecoach, First & Metrolink.

“It operates across all 10 districts and provides a reassuring, uniformed presence for passengers as well as a deterrent to would-be offenders. It has made a clear contribution to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour across the public transport network and we want to build on that success.

In the past year the scheme expanded to include Metrolink services and the number of Special Constables involved rose from nine to 12 – and we are working closely with Greater Manchester Police and operators to explore how this could be expanded further.”

GMP SC is utilising the new ESP function via Dutysheet and can report that via this system TfGM has contributed 274 hours of policing under the ESP scheme over the last 3 months.
AKW Group Limited are one of the latest companies who have joined the national ESP scheme at Option 2. The Group is split over 3 sites in Trafford Park, Greater Manchester, two of the sites are Warehousing and Contracted Packing and the other site is Transport based.

Special Inspector Donn Houldsworth works here as a Group Operational Compliance Manager, and heads up the IT, Health and Safety, Quality Assurance, Environmental and Vehicle Compliance departments which involves carrying out audits and training where required to ensure the Group remains compliant with legislation.

Donn states, “My role is multi faceted and I often find that I have arguments with myself as operational matters and compliance do not always meet in the middle. This is where I pull on the organisational skill set learned in the Police to bring order and clarification to priorities within my role balancing risk versus cost. I have been with the company for 10 years and started as a night supervisor counting stock, this came after I gave up a pressure vessel engineering job in the Middle East (Jeddah) based out of London alongside running my own company in order that I could spend more time with the family. From being a night supervisor I moved up to day supervisor and then quality and safety manager and then ultimately group operational compliance manager and now report directly to the board of directors.”

Tony Worthington, Chairman of AKW said, “I was more than happy for the company to join the ESP Scheme, partly because I was aware the of role the Special Constabulary played in the August riots having given Donn time off to police the disturbances, and believe it a worthy organisation to support, but also I believe that businesses need to give back the their communities and this scheme meets that need for me”

Whilst volunteering for the Special Constabulary Donn has completed an IT Degree at Salford University and is currently a Professional Member of the British Computer Society and a Chartered IT Professional. In the last 4 years he has also attended Bolton University to obtain a NEBOSH level 6 Diploma and attended Trafford College to obtain a lecturers certificate and attended Prague and London to obtain a IRCA approved Lead Auditors Courses - all this while holding a marriage of 22 years together and on top of being a Special Constable!

Donn has previous experience in the Military Police 20 years ago but is happy to serve as a Special Constable (he joined in January 2008). He likes to be able to have a busy life style balancing family life with that of the police, my second family.

Donn says. “I see my family life and regular job as normality, and I see the Police job as reality. With this in mind, I really have no interest in joining the Police full time as this would take away the ‘get out’ that I currently have from normality to reality, I do not think I would enjoy reality all the time.”

In his Special Constabulary role as Inspector, Donn works out of Greenhayes Police Station Moss Side and cover the whole of the Metropolitan Division with a remit of overseeing all of the Special Constabulary Sergeants and Special Constables on Division. “The admin is quite intense at times and I do not manage to get out and about as often as I would like, however I am not getting any younger and some of the Special Constables coming through training are younger than my children so office ‘admin’ is welcomed at times.”

The company website is www.akwgroup.co.uk
Policing qualifications from Bluelight

GET QUALIFIED
GET NOTICED
GET RECRUITED

OK, so you joined the Specials to give yourself the best chance of getting into the Regulars; but to be sure of getting noticed, getting ahead of the competition and getting recruited, you need more: you need the Diploma in Policing - the national minimum qualification for student police officers.

Which is what Bluelight can deliver - direct to you. Get it under your belt and the first thing it tells Police recruiters is that you’re absolutely determined to get into the Regulars, plus you’ve already got skills and knowledge that will make you a great police officer. More than that, your Diploma in Policing will save Forces 10 costly weeks spent on your training - which makes you an even more attractive recruitment proposition.

As an alternative, to enhance your chances of being recruited by the Regulars, Bluelight can also deliver the Police Technical Certificate - the only pre-join qualification recognised by the Association of Chief Police Officers, NPIA and Skills for Justice. Qualifying with Bluelight will save Forces four weeks on your training - another very good reason to get you noticed.

The only UK organisation offering this unique qualifications package (which also includes coaching for the assessment centre), Bluelight is Edexcel-approved - and since we’re backed by the skills, knowledge and experience of former police officers, you can be sure we’ll give you the best chance to become a Regular bobby on the beat.

So get ahead of the competition. Get qualified. And get a great start to your career in the Police - with Bluelight.

Get the Diploma in Policing.
Get the Police Technical Certificate.
Get assessment centre coaching.
Get qualifications approved by Edexcel.

Developing People - Enhancing Performance
Katy O’Connor is a Special Constable with Cheshire Constabulary and is taking part in the London marathon in April as part of Team PB to raise funds for The Prostate Cancer Charity and Breast Cancer Care. Katy has pledged to raise £2,012 and the monies she raises will be split between the two charities.

Katy says “This will be my first marathon and will be a major challenge for me as I only started running to pass the fitness test when I applied to join the Specials in October 2010 - until then I'd never even run for a bus! I've been following a rigorous training programme and would love to finish in under 4 hours.”

Katy went on to say, “Both charities are close to my heart as my mother died from breast cancer 18 years ago and my brother has terminal prostate cancer. Over the past two years I've tackled various new challenges - hiking the Inca Trail in Peru, white water rafting and skydiving from 15,000ft but this year I'm determined to complete my first marathon before I'm 50 in August”

We wish Katy all the best for her event.

If readers would like to sponsor please go to https://www.justgiving.com/KatyOConnor.

---

Cheshire Specials Working in Partnership

Cheshire Northern Division Special Constabulary assisted with ‘Warrington Magistrates Open Day’ an event open to members of the public where they came to discover the differences between the 19th Century and 21st Century justice system. The joint event organised by Cheshire Constabulary and the Magistrates Court also had interest from Fire & Rescue Services and St John’s Ambulance Services attracted many people.

Special Sergeant Anthony Mtitimila of Warrington Town Centre NPU said “The event was a great success and showed a real engagement between the local community and the police in demonstrating how over the years Policing has changed, we also used the event to show how volunteering as Special Constable can make a real difference in our local communities”.

The event saw an interest in a number of people wanting to join the Special Constabulary and members of the public had the opportunity to speak to Special Constables regarding the work involved and how to apply.
Greater Manchester Police are hosting the event this time round and Mr Peter Fahy, Chief Constable, says “This year conference has focused on learning; we want to get the delegates involved in thinking about subjects such as leadership and deployment, but also be given the opportunity to debate how they can take the Special Constabulary forward. The Special Constabulary has come a long way in the last few years and there is no doubt they are recognised as a valuable and professional resource within forces but we should also recognise the powerful link they provide between the police service and our communities. The conference organisers, particularly Tina Shelton, have done a great job in organising the event and I would like to thank the organisations that are sponsoring the event, from our main supporters; NPIA, Reserve Police Officer Association, Duty Sheet, Taribo Design, GMP and BT plus our workshops sponsors and exhibitors. Without their support the event could not have taken place and in these times of austerity I hope that delegates will appreciate the efforts of the conference team in making the sponsors support go a long way over the weekend.”

Tina Shelton, Conference Manager states, “I would like to send out a message of thanks to all our specials, not only in the North West Region, but to those specials across the country who have offered up their time and contacts to help make the event happen. I am, as ever, in awe of the commitment our Specials give—they are always willing to go that extra mile. “Tina went on to say “It has also been inspiring to see the willingness of our regular colleagues to offer up their own time and knowledge too. Many of them are facilitating the workshops and seminars and I would like to say a big thank you to them too.”

The SC2012 has taken a different perspective on the content this year and is keeping keynote speakers to a minimum. The Policing Minister has been invited to address the conference on Friday evening and on Sunday, Rob Jackson, one of the leading authorities on volunteering in the world, will run a plenary session followed by a keynote address talking about the wider volunteering agenda.

The rest of the time will be given over to bespoke seminars and workshops, all of which can be seen on the conference website http://www.sc2012.co.uk/sc2012-programme.html. There will be a Gala Dinner, which will raise money for Cancer Research and North West Breakthrough in Breast Cancer Care, and again, the conference team cannot thank the raffle donors enough for their generosity. A list of donors can be located on the conference website http://www.sc2012.co.uk/sc2012-charity-raffle.html, and include an I-Pad2, gift experience days, holiday breaks, gift vouchers, subscription to the PNLD, and a Policing Diploma. Our after dinner speaker Mr Gordon Burns, TV and News Presenter, will draw some of the top prizes out.

The conference has its own Twitter site, and throughout the conference weekend activities, views and comments will be tweeted. We hope that the Special Constabulary who are unable to attend the weekend will join us via this media. There will also be an opportunity to join the Q&A panel live via Twitter at 2000 hours on the Friday giving everyone the chance to submit your own questions to the panel, no matter where you are in the world!

For more information on SC2012 visit: www.sc2012.co.uk or follow us on Twitter: @sc2012Conf
On the 8th of November the Annual Merseyside Police Just Talk Awards took place at Aintree Racecourse. Special Sergeant James Jardine won the award for Special Constable of the Year.

James joined the Special Constabulary in November 2009 and has worked in eighteen different departments throughout the force. He is currently Special Sergeant at Copy Lane Police Station where he supervises 24 Special Constables.

When he started at Copy Lane James quickly identified the current issues within the area, arranging training for officers and supporting them towards level 3 independent patrol status.

He introduced new practice including the current briefing sheets for his officers to view when they arrived on duty. He has been involved in, and helped to set up and supervise numerous operations, including Operation Stay Safe supporting vulnerable young children who were drunk or who were at risk of committing offences.

James was also involved in Operation Acres, dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour and Operation Juncas, which dealt with youth on youth robberies in the Rimrose Valley Area.

In addition to the above, within the last twelve months he has completed the NPIA approved policing degree obtaining a high pass mark in the examinations.

Ultimately in his short time in the Special Constabulary James has shown himself to be a reliable and dedicated Officer and Merseyside police look forward to seeing what he does in the future.
Under-age drinking and subsequent anti-social behaviour has been put under the spotlight after the launch of a special scheme in Accrington.

Special Constables from Eastern and Pennine Divisions joint Special Constabulary Anti-Social Behaviour Response Team (SCART) have been supporting NHPTs and Trading Standards to deliver a Community Alcohol Network (CAN).

The CAN has supported local retailers and residents in Accrington’s Peel, Barnfield and Woodnook areas as part of a partnership approach by Lancashire County Council and Lancashire Constabulary to clampdown on those selling or giving alcohol to children.

Since the Community Alcohol Network was introduced, youth related anti-social behaviour has reduced by 45%, youth related anti-social behaviour (where alcohol was involved) has reduced by 51%, violent crime has reduced by 22% and criminal damage has seen an 11% reduction.

The project has seen a range of activity to crack down on alcohol misuse, including targeted police patrols in hotspot areas and trading standards officers speaking to local retailers to offer advice on the sale of alcohol. Officers have also visited schools to raise awareness of the network and alcohol harm and to promote diversionary activities available for young people.

Posters have been displayed in shops and pubs and leaflets were posted through people’s doors in a bid to raise awareness of the consequences associated with buying alcohol for children. Special constables from SCART have been on patrol across the area, seizing alcohol from underage drinkers whilst ensuring it is also being sold responsibly. Licensed premises in the area were recently subjected to a joint police and trading standards test purchase operation where all refused to sell alcohol to a 15 year old child volunteer.

During specific operations, off-licence staff were provided with a dedicated mobile number, which linked directly through to the police patrols, allowing them to quickly respond to any issues relating to underage drinking. The parents of young people who had been drinking alcohol were called to the scene to take responsibility for their children and follow up work saw many attend parent alcohol harm reduction workshops, delivered by the Action for Children charity at the town’s fire station.

In addition young people from the area have taken part in a national campaign, with SCART officers, aimed at reducing under age sales and adults who supply alcohol to children by proxy.

In its first year, SCART officers have been responsible for delivering over 60 operations which has resulted in 50 arrests, 19 cannabis warnings & 31 PNDs/FPNs being issued. Young people have been safeguarded by the seizure of over 600 litres of alcohol from under 18s, 197 youth referral forms were issued to under 18s, 58 young people were taken to a place of safety, 64 young people were either collected from the scene by parents or taken home and 3186 young people have been engaged during operations.
Up to 40% off Home, Motor and Motorcycle Insurance

Specially Discounted Insurance, NOW available for all Specials and Partners

Call 0161 762 4416 NOW!
or visit www.policeinsure.co.uk

Follow us on: www.facebook.com/PoliceInsure @PoliceInsure
People who reside, visit or socialise within Staffordshire are entitled to feel safe and enjoy nights out at the weekend. Staffordshire Police have recruited from the Special Constabulary a number of Specials who have shown a level of competence and an interest to become part of a specialist team.

Adopted from the basis of the Scarlet 100 team developed by the Metropolitan Police, Staffordshire Police force have developed their own unit that specialises in licensing around the county.

Overall in Staffordshire, there is 2,155 premises with a Premises Licence, 188 with a registered club, 949 with a TEN (Temporary Events Notice), and five sex establishments.

The Staffordshire Scarlet 100 unit was first developed in December 2010, beginning with a single team of one Special Sergeant and six Special Constables. These Specials were given additional training concerning the Licensing Act, licensing premises and dealing with disorder. The Licensing Act was updated in 2003 to incorporate continental drinking hours. The Scarlet 100 unit was specifically tasked to ensure the following key principles were met: prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

Following the completion of the additional training, the unit mainly working on Friday and Saturday nights, went into licensed premises and carried out more intrusive checks. Following their success around licensed premises, several prosecutions were completed with heavy fines subjected to the premise owners, or the designated premises supervisors (DPS). Some of the other success stories across the county over twenty Section 19 closure notices have been issued, over one hundred more intrusive checks were carried out and over fifty Section 27 notices were issued successfully.

The unit became well-recognised around the force and were requested by Trading Standards, Customs and Excise to assist on several operations around Staffordshire. The unit has taken the lead in Trading Standards initiatives such as proxy and test purchasing operations. These operations, which were mainly plain-clothed, saw Specials from the unit detecting offences and dealing with them either through arrest or fixed penalty notices. Trading Standards also developed an operation concerning the sale and possession of counterfeit goods at local car boots. The Specials unit completed a plain-clothed operation gathering intelligence and initiating arrests. The unit during this operation utilised the street bail process to release the pressure from custody suites around Staffordshire. During this operation over 20,000 counterfeit DVDs and CDs were seized by officers at a total cost to the industry of £205,000. Customs and Excise requested the support of the team when targeting counterfeit or illegal tobacco and alcohol within three main premises within Staffordshire.

The unit’s strength continues to grow now with four teams around Staffordshire, two teams covering the northern area and two teams covering the southern area of the county. With the continuing cost restraints across all forces, the Special Constabulary Scarlet 100 unit has played a key role in supporting their regular colleagues around the policing of licensed premises.
The aim of "Operation Gray Fox" is to bring down the number of nominal's that are Wanted on Warrant on the Salford Division, Greater Manchester Police. The initiative commenced in November 2011 but has continued into this year.

Ten Special Constables attended the inaugural Operation. The majority of these specials had less than six months service in the Police, and this was an opportunity for these officers to gain some confidence and experience in working on an operation and also, for some officers, this initiative provided their first-ever lock-up! (1 special was only attested two weeks previously)

The evening started at 17:30 where Special Constable 929 Stephen Gray gave an extremely detailed briefing. SC Gray works as an Intelligence Officer for GMP in his “day job” and produced plans that were thoroughly well detailed. These plans included important information on each of the nominal's that were wanted, a street map highlighting potential escape routes, and a list of possible excuses they are known to produce and evidence to disprove these (Birth Certificates/Passport details etc)

Specials attended a total of 9 addresses across the Force, targeting a mixture of Category A, B and C Offenders.

The first address that was attended produced a negative result, however intelligence gained from this address together with some further investigatory work gave information of where he could be found. Within half an hour this offender was traced and arrested.

The team hit some bad luck on the second address attended but they were informed whilst conducting house-to-house enquiries that the male they were looking for had left the address 30 minutes prior to their arrival. The team was able to gain valuable intelligence by linking him to a vehicle that was parked outside the address. This information is now stored on the ANPR database ready for an activation.

The team then attended an address for a male that has been wanted by police for Four Years!! The male was not in, however the team managed to obtain a telephone number for him. The male was contacted and after some negotiation was persuaded to hand himself in at Pendleton Police Station where he was arrested. It later turned out that he was about to move house to Northamptonshire that weekend!

Whilst en-route to check another address in Little Hulton, SC Gray spotted a vehicle being driven by a Wanted on Warrant male. The male pulled onto Tesco’s car park and then was extremely surprised when the team arrested him. A further three addresses that were checked throughout the night were unfortunately negative however this intelligence was passed back to the wanted desk where further enquiries could be made. At the end of the night a final address was attempted and a wanted female was arrested.

Due to "Operation Gray Fox" four offenders were arrested and further valuable intelligence was collated on a number of other offenders that will assist our regular colleagues in any further investigations into tracing these offenders.
POLICE COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER
Welcome to the second issue of Volunteering Matters.

Many organisations could not survive without the dedication of their volunteers however sometimes we get so busy in our day to day work we forget to take the time to say “please” and “thank you”, and I believe this is key to volunteer retention. Volunteer recognition and the act of saying “thank you” should be an ongoing process, not just at a reward ceremony, or on a yearly certificate, although these should still be part of recognising the value of our volunteers. Forces spend a lot of time thinking about how to retain their volunteers, and yet perhaps it is the simple act of saying “Thank you” and not taking volunteers for granted that is the key to keeping them!

I also believe that it is important to provide roles that meet not only the organisations needs, but also that motivate and give personal satisfaction to volunteers. If you read Alison’s article on why she volunteers this reinforces the need to have meaningful volunteer roles. The North West PSV practitioners met recently and are planning to run a day of workshops within forces which will talk about managing volunteers, why we involve volunteers, the challenges from both sides and also dedicate some time discussing volunteer roles. Keep a look out for further information regarding this.

I hope you enjoy the articles in this issue. I would really appreciate articles for the next publication and ask that you email me on tina.shelton@gmp.pnn.police.uk if you have a story for Volunteering Matters.

Tina Shelton
North West Regional Co-ordinator

Welcome to the second issue of Volunteering Matters.

“The Police are the public and the public are the police” – Sir Robert Peel’s most often quoted principle is as relevant today as it was in the nineteenth century and reminds us of the police’s need to reflect the communities they service.

This has been brought to the fore with the Governments “Big Society” agenda, which is open to interpretation and means many things to many people. As the national lead for ‘Citizenship in Policing’, I know the ‘Big Society’ is happening all around us and has been for some time. Advances with neighbourhood policing in recent years has proven that there is no disconnect between the police and public – in fact quite the opposite is true.

We currently have more than three million neighbourhood watch members across the country. These members support their communities by running community projects, securing funding, working with their local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) or simply looking out for neighbour’s homes and being the eyes and ears of the community. I am also delighted to see that Police Support Volunteer numbers are approaching 10,000 and that we have more than 19000 special constables.

Rob Beckley
DCC, Avon & Somerset
ACPO National Lead for Citizens in Policing

According to a new study in volunteering habits by YouGov More than one in two people in Britain volunteered in 2011.

Some 2,025 people were surveyed in the study commissioned by Zurich. It found that 55 per cent of those surveyed took part in at least one or more volunteering activity in 2011, with 47 per cent taking part in two or more. The age groups most likely to volunteer were over-55s (59 per cent) and people aged 18-24 (58 per cent). The most popular activities undertaken in the last year were neighbourly deeds (50 per cent), other unpaid activities to support local people (27 per cent), fundraising for a local cause (26 per cent) and giving time to help a local cause (22 per cent).

Hitting 1000 volunteer hours

Joanne Lewis has just completed 1000 hours of volunteering for Merseyside Police. Joanne is undertaking a Level 3 NVQ in Business Studies and is using the work she does as a volunteer in the Roads Policing Unit as part of the course. She is being helped to do this by Team Enterprises who are a local management development, training and consultancy company who already work with Merseyside police and the Truancy Officers.

Joanne will receive a certificate which will be presented by the Area Commander.
Farley’s Home Watch is situated in the Tameside West Neighbourhood, Droylsden East Ward and has 220 members to date. The scheme started in 2002 and has gone from strength to strength. With the help of local councillors, police and other agencies we have managed to ease a few problems mainly with anti-social behaviour and burglaries but as with many areas this is still a major problem. They have campaigned to have two problematic “hot spots” alley-gated and thus relieved some of the associated anti-social behaviour.

In 2007 Farley’s Home Watch, members helped to create another group called ‘Friends of Copperas Field’ and this group too has managed to make a difference in the area. ‘Friends of Copperas Field has recently held their 4th annual Fun Day event which was considered to be the best one yet with up to 1,000 people attending throughout the afternoon. The aim of Farley’s Home Watch and Friends of Copperas Field is to try to bring the community together and work towards making our local vicinity a safer and more pleasant area to live. It is felt that a feeling of safety and community is created, concentrating on the young people, people will be encouraged to be more involved and take pride in their estate and the surrounding areas.

Farley’s aim to get the community, including young people, involved in projects such as community art, nature trails, adventure playgrounds which will hopefully give them a sense of ownership and help combat some thoughtless anti-social behaviour. They are also involved locally in two youth projects based in the Concorde Suite in Droylsden, one being Delta which is a monthly disco which attracts up to 200 young people every month and Prime which is a youth club that is on a Wednesday and Friday evening which is relatively new but is also attracting 90+ each evening thus engaging young people in the area. Whilst these two youth projects are underway there is noticeably less anti-social behaviour and youths causing annoyance in the Droylsden area as a whole.

Another project Farley’s Home Watch and Friends of Copperas Field have recently got involved with is the “Adopt a Towpath” scheme where the community help to keep the stretch of canal towpath near to the estate clean and tidy which in turn also helps to make the area a nicer place to live.
Janet Gould is a volunteer for Greater Manchester Police and has been an essential part of the South Neighbourhood Policing team for a number of years; initially Janet was a Homewatch Coordinator in the Longdendale Ward. However, in 2006, Janet took on an additional role as one of the first GMP police support volunteers. Janet was recently nominated for the Tameside Excellence Awards where she was runner up.

Janet is a truly unique, caring and dedicated individual. Despite running a busy farm and business she still finds time to help all aspects of the Force. Without her personal support and drive the Tameside volunteer scheme would not be in the healthy state that it is. She now undertakes the daily administration for the scheme. She manages vetting, maintains the database, is the contact point for all the volunteers and keeps the Inspector on his toes!

Janet’s latest venture is to take on key tasks for “Club G4” the youth disco for Hyde and Longdendale. Her willingness to help the force and her community seems limitless.

Tina Shelton, Regional Co-ordinator states, “Janet is a truly remarkable person, she has also offered her assistance to me in terms of the Volunteering Matters publication on top of everything else she does and I would like to officially thank her for finding the time and commitment to do this as well as everything else she undertakes”

Inspector Terry Finn, Tameside

“Janet is one of those individuals who can never do enough for a good cause. She goes out of her way to think creatively about improving existing schemes and is truly passionate about communities being involved in policing”

Inspector Terence Finn states “Janet began assisting the Hattersley Police Team with PACT support and administration. This in itself has kept Janet busy but she had the drive to take on more responsibility. Since that date Janet has been exceptional in supporting all manner of neighbourhood events, not just on the South but has applied for and been granted funding for the Safer Homes initiative which culminated in 4 large community events during 2010 at Dukinfield Town Hall arranged and hosted by Janet. She still regularly assists all the Neighbourhood Teams in setting up new Homewatch schemes”

Janet works closely with Inspector Finn who is the Divisional Lead for Volunteer development. Both he and Janet recognised that the scheme was growing and there was a significant need for administrative support to maintain the scheme to a good standard. Inspector Finn continues “Janet has become, almost by default and because of her willingness to help, the Lead Volunteer for Tameside and works hard to ensure that the scheme remains effective and seen as a leading example across the Force. Tameside currently has 30 volunteers with a further potential 25 waiting for vetting! Due to the success of the scheme Janet is called upon by HQ to advise and assist on both Homewatch and Volunteer matters. Her views experience and knowledge are of real benefit in shaping the future of both schemes.

We talk to Alison who has been volunteering for GMP for over 12 months to ask her some questions about her experiences of volunteering within GMP.

**Why do I volunteer?**

**When did you start volunteering?**
I started volunteering in September 2010. I had just graduated from University that summer and wanted to be proactive so I applied to be a Police Support Volunteer.

**Why did you start volunteering for GMP?**
I decided to become a volunteer as I was contemplating a career with the Police. I thought volunteering would be the best way to get a feel for the organisation and see if it was really for me.

**What do you do at GMP?**
I have worked with GMP for over a year now and I have worked in several diverse and varied roles and projects. My initial work started with a neighbourhood team in Tameside where I completed mainly administrative tasks using the various GMP systems. I continue to work with the team by attending and recording minutes for the community and Local Authorities meetings. For the past 6 months I have been working at Chester House (GMP HQ) completing research for a project on Out of Court Disposals, I won’t delve into details but it has all been very interesting work. My newest GMP venture is with Tameside’s Child Protection Unit where I have been tasked to create a database to collate information and intelligence on current and cold cases. So to sum up, I have done a bit of everything!

**What skills have you learnt/what do you get out of it?**
Firstly I believe that volunteering with GMP has really boosted my CV. However (and may I apologise, I did try to avoid all the clichés), I must admit I really do enjoy the sense of satisfaction I get out of working with GMP, knowing that I’m doing my part for the community. GMP has given me first class training to complete my work; I love the responsibility, diversity of work and the people I get to work alongside.

**Would you recommend it?**
I would definitely recommend it, I already have!

**What are you looking to do in the future?**
Well my future has recently been determined as I have just passed my final selection board to attend the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to become an Army Officer. I am excited to start my new job but I have also decided that once I have finished my time in the Army I would love to join the civilian police, with GMP obviously!

**How has volunteering at GMP helped you get there?**
My voluntary work with GMP has given me a backstage pass in to what it is like to work in a professional organisation. Ultimately it has given me the confidence to pursue my career with the Army, as I am considering joining the Royal Military Police, what I have learnt whilst working with GMP is quite literally invaluable.