SPECIAL CONSTABLES HELP TARGET METAL THEFT
See centre pages
2012 was an exceptionally busy year in policing, not least due to the Olympics, Paralympics and Her Majesty’s Diamond Jubilee. It also saw the advent of Police and Crime Commissioners and the promise of an influx of Special Constables in various locations across the country. It will be imperative that both newly recruited specials and those already serving in their local communities have the support and infrastructure within their forces to allow them to thrive and contribute fully. Relationships between force Specials and Police and Crime Commissioners will need to be established and built upon over the term of office. The first meeting of the Association of Special Constabulary Chief Officers took place in January with the opportunity to both reflect and look forward. It has been decided to undertake a review of the Association in order to set the direction for the next few years at least and ensure that we are fit for purpose. We are also trying to ensure that all of our internal policy and procedures are in keeping with our legal and professional requirements.

One important development for us all is our inclusion in the Professional Committee of the newly formed College of Policing. The launch took place recently and ASCCO will represent all Specials within the service to ensure that our needs and those of our forces are met in terms of training, development, policy and procedure. This will give us a real voice and a chance to shape the future of the Special Constabulary in the years to come. We make a massive contribution to the policing of the country, supporting our regular colleagues and keeping our communities safe and we need to ensure that we are able to participate fully in setting the direction of the professional policing service of the future. Participation in the College will give us the opportunity to make this happen.

Debi Potter
Chair, Association of Special Constabulary Chief Officers

If any readers would like to know more about ASCCO please go to: http://www.ascco.org.uk/

Special Impact is produced by Tina Shelton with support from Special Constable Graham Holmes, College of Policing and the Special Constabulary.
You will see a strong relationship with academia where the College makes very good use of academic research. And you will see the best aspects of policing being shared by the College to give everyone the opportunity to roll these out within their force.

**How will you and the College ensure that the Special Constabulary remains a supported and sustainable resource for police forces?**

I know from my time in force how important it is to have a strong, dedicated and motivated Special Constabulary. Members of my staff are already working closely with forces and key stakeholders to reinforce this message. We aim to help facilitate the ongoing education and professional development of special constables as a means of achieving excellence in delivery of operational policing at a local level and in identifying and sharing best practice widely.

**How are your days different now from that of Chief Constable of Hampshire?**

I am now working across 43 forces and looking to drive improvements everywhere. As a Chief in a single force I had a day-to-day relationship with my officers and staff. As the Chief at the College of Policing I will be setting standards and issuing guidance in forces where I do not have the same close relationship. I do have ‘levers’ nationally but the best lever is acceptance that a new approach will improve policing, cut crime and protect the public. If we reach this level of agreement, implementation becomes easy.

Special Impact wishes Mr. Marshall all the best in his new role.

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**A VERY SPECIAL WAY TO KEEP SUSSEX SAFER**

When Katy Bourne was elected as the first ever Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner high on her agenda was to develop and encourage volunteering within the criminal justice system in Sussex. This is particularly related to the number of Specials in Sussex Police.

Since the election Mrs Bourne has embarked on a fundamental review of the recruitment, training and retention of Special Constables in Sussex: “We will start the recruitment of an additional 120 Specials in April and I want people to be attracted to join, train and stay with us. To recognise their valuable contribution, I will offer all Specials a refund on the policing element of their Council Tax (at Band D level).”

Over the next two years Mrs Bourne will follow a cohort of Specials from recruitment to training to going out on shift. Mrs Bourne said: “I’m so excited to be going on this journey with some soon-to-be recruited Specials here in Sussex. I’ve long been a supporter of volunteers and I truly believe the diverse skills and experience they bring to the workforce can only enhance and improve our organisation.”

Watch this space over the coming months to hear more about Mrs Bourne’s plans for recruiting Specials and to follow their journey as they embark on their training and begin working.
Operation Storm involved the Tactical Aid Unit, Traffic and ANPR teams as well as partners such as Manchester City Council, Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs (HMRC), Vehicle and Operators Service Agency (VOSA) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the DVLA. The initiative commenced at 07:00 hours on the South Manchester Division of Greater Manchester Police. The South Manchester Special Constables were involved in the planning from an early stage, with 13 Special Constables taking part on the day.

They also had a special guest; Special Inspector Peter Luscombe from Cheshire Police joined GMP on an attachment so that he could observe how GMP Specials interacted with their full time colleagues.

During the planning stages, it was decided that the Special Constabulary would take part in the ANPR side of the operation, which involved turning the local university car park into a staging area where the various agencies involved could carry out checks on vehicles coming through.

Four teams of Special Constables were set up for the event each comprising of between two and four Specials in each. Team 1 carried out PNC, Lantern checks and breath tests. Team 2 were the agency liaison team, assisting and protecting the agencies as they carried out their various checks.

Team 3 were the dedicated search team, who would be brought forward to search any suspicious vehicles stopped on the car park.

Team 4 contained two SC’s who were the arrest team. These officers would carry out any arrests meaning that other officers could stay on the ground and carry on with their various roles.

These teams meant that each special had a specific role to play, putting a fair deal of responsibility on each officer. Each officer performed their roles to their full potential, which is reflected on the results from the day. Credit goes to Special Sergeant Nathan Pollitt who braved the cold weather and arrived early, he was there from 6am setting up the site.

Credit also goes to Special Sergeant Gary Watkinson who, along with Sgt Nicholas Bamber organised the specials into their various teams and supervised the officers on the ground to ensure the smooth running of the day.

The operation had its share of probationer officers take part that, as a result completed competencies for their PDPs, gained valuable experience which can no doubt be used in future operations. Also as a result of the operation…..

• The VOSA issued immediate prohibition notices to 10 vehicles that were deemed so un-roadworthy they had to be taken off the road
• DWP has now begun four new fraud investigations on the back of intelligence gained during the day
• A quantity of cannabis was found at one address and one man was arrested on suspicion of burglary.

During the day of action the area was made a hostile environment for criminals and students were encouraged to do their bit to make their homes safe.

Other activities throughout the day included property marking at students’ addresses, increased patrols in student areas, checks of licensed premises and vehicle licensing checkpoints.

• Court bailiffs also recovered £9,683 in outstanding fines and seized seven vehicles

warnings for vehicles being used in a way that was not permitted by their licence

• Manchester City Council’s taxi licensing team examined 43 vehicles and found eight drivers guilty of licensing offences. Four taxis were seized at the scene

• Trading standards officers issued 51
Police and Partners stop 75 vehicles and seize £140k counterfeit goods in Specials led cross border operation

Police stopped a total of 75 vehicles on the roads around Wellesbourne, Warwickshire in a recent joint operation with Warwickshire Trading Standards, VOSA, and Customs aimed at targeting the illegal use of the county’s roads. The operation also sought to identify fraudsters selling counterfeit goods at Wellesbourne Market.

The whole operation was led by Specials from both the Warwickshire and West Mercia forces, supported by regular officers from the Warwickshire Operational Support Unit (OSU).

What was unique about this operation was that Specials took the lead in many roles, from identifying ANPR hits, to officers with the appropriate driving authority stopping the vehicles identified. Vehicles were escorted to a check site where other Specials took the lead in identifying offences and then progressed the prosecutions accordingly.

Commenting on the operation, Specials Chief Officer for Warwickshire, Glyn Gardner said “We have had a specialist roads policing and motorway team within Warwickshire Specials for nearly fifteen years now, but this sort of operation also opens up a valuable learning opportunity to officers more junior in service.”

“Given the “safe” working environment of the stop site, it means we can deploy a large number of officers, irrespective of their normal role. Given our ongoing development of an alliance with West Mercia Constabulary, I am delighted that teams from both forces were able to work so closely together, and with such impressive results”

Officers from Warwickshire Trading Standards inspected 52 vehicles and seized counterfeit designer clothes and footwear worth £140k retail value from two of them all destined for Wellesbourne market. One of the vehicles that were carrying counterfeit goods was also prosecuted for carrying excess weight.

• HM Customs & Excise prosecuted one person who was found to be using red diesel in their vehicle. Enquiries are ongoing in relation to a second vehicle.
• Eight vehicles were seized for a variety of offences relating to insurance or driving licenses.
• Twenty-one vehicles out of the 75 vehicles stopped were found to be unroadworthy by VOSA due to problems with their construction and use.
• Six vehicles were found to have defective tyres or lights and the drivers were given 14 days to get the defect fixed under the vehicle defect rectification scheme.
• Four drivers received endorsable fixed penalty notices, three where their tyre grooves were less than 1.6mm and one for using a vehicle in a dangerous condition.

They received £60 fines and 3 points on their licenses.

• Four non endorsable fixed penalty notices were issued for no MOT resulting in a £60 fine for the driver.

Specials Inspector Ben Agar from the Incident Resolution (Roads Policing) team said, “Our aim is to make the roads safer for the majority of law abiding citizens by working alongside partners to identify vehicles being driven illegally. This was a great opportunity for my team to be able to share some roads policing skills and experience with our colleagues – with results that speak for themselves!”

WARWICKSHIRE AND WEST MERCIA POLICE SPECIALS STRENGTHEN THEIR ALLIANCE IN JOINT OPERATION
Special Constables wanting to increase their experience of undercover work are being invited to become part of a unique team that oversees the transport network across West Yorkshire.

Safer Travel West Yorkshire is one of only two teams of Special Constables in the Force with a county-wide remit and they are currently recruiting new members.

Specials joining the team do not need to be ‘signed off’ for independent patrol as training will be provided with career development opportunities for those taking part.

Superintendent Keith Gilert, head of Safer Leeds, who oversee Safer Travel West Yorkshire, said: “This is a fantastic opportunity for those who want to develop their skills while helping to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour across the transport infrastructure of West Yorkshire.

“Specific training will be given to work on a variety of plain clothes and reassurance operations on public transport and in the stations and interchanges across the county.

“This also provides officers taking part with a chance to develop their skills in the area of partnership working alongside British Transport Police and external organisations including transport executive Metro as well as train and bus operators First, Arriva and Trans Dev.”

Anyone applying will have the opportunity to work across the Force area on weekday evenings and Saturday day times.

During a recent operation in Bradford, officers from the team used a single decker Trans Dev bus as a Trojan vehicle to place them unnoticed in the heart of Bradford Bus Station. This allowed officers to identify and speak to three youths who were acting in an anti-social manner. After having their details recorded they were advised to leave the area. The bus then travelled along Lumb Lane to an area identified by a local officer as being synonymous with anti-social behaviour. Four men who were acting suspiciously on a back street were stopped and spoken to and commented they couldn’t believe “undercover” officers were working on the streets of Bradford.

Following up on intelligence reports the team visited Oak Lane, Duckworth Lane and West Park Road where a cannabis warning was issued to the occupant of a stationary vehicle.

The shift ended with reassurance visits to shops and transport sites in the Frizinghall, Shipley and Keighley areas where valuable intelligence regarding drug dealing was recorded.

Superintendent Gilert, who accompanied the Safer Travel West Yorkshire Team during their evening shift, added: “I have seen at close hand the public appetite for this kind of proactive policing and I am pleased to see a number of specials developing their skills as part of this specialist team.”
This issue we feature Delivered as our latest organisation to join the national Employer Supported Policing Scheme.

Thames Valley and Chiltern logistics company Delivered has joined the national Employer Supported Policing (ESP) Scheme and already has a member of its staff on the Slough beat, Alex Woodage, who works in the customer service team at the company’s Reading depot, has just completed his first year as a Special Constable with Thames Valley Police.

“Volunteering as a Special Constable enables me to give something back to my community. I’m very grateful that my employer, Delivered, recognises volunteer policing as a worthwhile use of my time - the management and my colleagues are very supportive. Although completely different from my day job, where I’m sending out parcels and pallets of goods for our customers, I use many similar skills in dealing with the public to ensure they get help when they need it.

“Delivered is an Option 3 registered ESP member. This means the company allows me to take at least four hours paid leave each month throughout the year to do my policing work and any training I need as a volunteer police officer. I’m sure that a lot more people would join the Special Constabulary if they had supportive employers like mine; it certainly is a good initiative that benefits everyone,” says Alex Woodage.

Jon Barber, Delivered’s MD, is very enthusiastic about the company’s contribution to the community and says Alex is a great example of positive influence on local society.

“We are pleased to be supporting this initiative and Alex in particular. The ESP Scheme is a good way for businesses throughout the UK to help their local police forces and communities on a voluntary basis. Delivered is now on the UK Home Office register that lists British businesses that actively support the Special Constabulary.

“In his demanding day job within our customer service team, Alex is diligent, amiable and skilled in providing help and advice to our clients. He has a good attitude and is popular with his colleagues; we all wish him well in his policing endeavours.”

Delivered provides nationwide parcel and pallet services as well as international delivery and warehousing. The company offers APC Overnight parcel and TPN pallet services and services Thames Valley and Chilterns businesses from its local distribution centres in Reading, Slough and High Wycombe.
Trafford Special Constabulary invited officers from the Cheshire Constabulary led by Special Superintendent Adam Langley and the Oldham Division led by Special Inspector Jason Needham to assist with policing the Old Trafford Football Club MUFC v Arsenal football event. Old Trafford has a proven track record of staging large scale events and the emphasis on the Specials was to assist members of the public with their queries and be a point of contact to those in need. The Special Constabulary were responsible for an ‘outer zone’ surrounding the stadium, namely covering public transportation and major routes to and from the stadium. They also covered surrounding car parks in the vicinity of Stretford and Old Trafford as a crime operation initiative. The officers were split into three Tiers covering 3 main areas each led by a SC Supervisor. All officers were asked to parade on with Regular officers and were briefed by Superintendent Retford. One of the obstacles prior to the event was that Cheshire Constabulary use Captor2 and not CS Spray, therefore, communications and custody were made aware and it was essential that a “Subject Information Following Exposure to P.A.V.A.” form was received should any officer need to deploy their incapacitant.

Special Chief Inspector LorraineBillingham said, “This exchange presented an ideal opportunity to develop links with neighbouring forces, and share best practice - a key aim of the SC National Strategy.”

Hampshire Special Constabulary & Metal Theft

Alton Special Adam Walch recently used his expertise as a Police Staff Intelligence Researcher for Winchester & East Hampshire to execute a text book quality arrest. Part of Adam’s Intelligence role is to identify crime series or trends in his area, and try and link them to any potential suspects. Combining his research skills, local Specials’ knowledge and the co-operation of local Sergeants, Adam managed to identify a likely suspect for recent metal theft offences in and around the Petersfield and Liss area. Adam created a briefing tool slide highlighting the offences and suspect. Shortly afterwards while on Special’s duty in Petersfield, lo and behold he noticed the said individual acting suspiciously near an alleyway. Due to the time of day, the recent intelligence and the fact that the alleyway led to a telephone exchange containing lots of metal Adam and his crewmate stopped for a chat. Clearly realising the game was up, the suspect opened a bag he was carrying to reveal a pair of heavy duty wire cutters; thus booking himself a trip to custody on suspicion of Going Equipped to steal.

The man was subsequently charged, remanded and has pleaded guilty at court. Adam says of his experience: “Not only was this a very positive job based upon my dual roles within Hampshire Constabulary, but also highlighted a fantastic one-team approach whereby everyone’s contribution resulted in a charge, remand and resulting guilty plea from a well known offender.”

Special Chief Inspector Lorraine Billingham said, “This exchange presented an ideal opportunity to develop links with neighbouring forces, and share best practice - a key aim of the SC National Strategy.”
Special Impact was invited to observe first hand Operation Thunder, organised and implemented by the Operation Alloy team, to have numerous days of action across the week to combat Serious Acquisitive Crime, Violence reduction and wanted persons as a result of DNA Technology & Metal Theft. The operational objective was to visit, with partners and local divisional officers, high risk suspect scrap yards, plus undertake a number of roadside operations throughout the force, targeting vehicles being used to transport stolen metals that are approaching the high risk scrap metal dealers.

Superintendent Craig Thompson, Silver Commander, delivered the 0800 briefing to an audience of regular officers, special constabulary and partners before they were deployed to either Scrap Metal Dealers or to roadside check points throughout the force. Greater Manchester partners would also be working alongside officers and staff in the Silver Control.

At one of the roadside locations three special constables had had success with Special Constable Haigh seizing a Subaru car under Section 165 for no insurance, and Special Constable Ann Muldowney out with Sergeant Robinson in the motorway enforcement vehicle having reported for several offences.

Metal theft has reduced by over 59% since Operation Alloy was implemented in summer 2011.
OPERATION ALLOY

including mobile phone mis-use, no MOT and a prohibition issued for mechanical faults.

At one of the Scrap Metal Dealers, Special Constable Jack Rotherham and Special Sergeant Christie Steele were working with the partners to search the premises, with some successes, locating BT telecommunication wire which were bagged and tagged, and cable joints, cable, switch gear and link box identified as Electricity North West property.

Since Special Impacts observation on this operation, the GMP Specials have participated in a number of force wide days of action to target metal theft and illegal road users under Operation Alloy. The most recent one this month saw visits to all Scrap Metal Dealers, ANPR Operations near to high risk locations and 8 vehicle check sites set up across the force.

Throughout the day, 260 vehicles were stopped and 100 persons searched. 30 vehicles were seized for being driven without insurance, tax or in an anti social manner. 3 offenders were arrested for Theft of catalytic convertors and possession of drugs. A significant number of stolen property was recovered from Scrap Yards & Itinerant Collectors including TNT boxes, roll cages and Electricity North West Cabling.

A total of 206 Traffic Offence Reports were issued for Road Traffic Act Offences.

John Woods, Assistant Co-ordinator for the North West Regional National Metal Theft Task Force said, “I would like to pass on my thanks onto the Special Constables involved in the days of action. Without their assistance we would not have the results that we had.”

Partners working with GMP were from VOSA, Environmental Agency, BT, Smartwater, Electricity North West, & Customs
The introduction of Integrated Neighbourhood Policing Teams (INPTs) in Greater Manchester Police sees neighbourhood and investigation teams working jointly to share knowledge, expertise and experience. Their main focus will be to reduce crime, demand and reoffending, and work more closely with partner agencies to help solve problems in communities. The Special Constabulary are very much part of the new INPTs, and a demand distribution formula has been applied in the same way as with the regulars to ensure that the Special Constabulary resources are placed where they are needed throughout the Force within their INPTs – the greater the demand, the more resources are allocated.

Now DutySheet is helping to take the GMP Special Constabulary resource planning one step further. A report has been prepared by DutySheet, at GMP’s request, showing peaks and troughs throughout the week, hour by hour, of when GMP Specials are volunteering their time in each Division/INPT. This will then be matched to an in-force report which shows the force demands in terms of incidents. It is envisaged that this information will allow the force to deploy the Special Constabulary when demand is greatest, not just where. That said, it is important to still recognise that the Special Constabulary members volunteer their time, and the Force will of course, still be flexible to receive Special officers when they are available. However, it is hoped that some Specials will have the flexibility to deploy when resources are needed the most.
Birmingham Airport is the UK’s seventh largest by passenger numbers, with around nine million passing through every year. It has over 30 airlines offering scheduled and charter flights and this number is augmented during the main summer holiday period. Its runway is currently being extended to allow aircraft to fly direct to destinations in the Far East and the west of the USA. In addition a large new maintenance facility is being built for Monarch. It has recently seen investment in excess of sixty million pounds on the new International Pier and improved landside security facility. It has on-site hotels, a cargo facility and five on-site car parks; it is connected to the West Coast main line by its Air-Rail Link and is a short distance from the M42 motorway so is one of the easiest large airports to get to by road or rail.

Until 2009 the West Midlands Police presence there consisted of Regular officers, PCSOs (many of whom were formerly Traffic Wardens at the airport) and CTU; however, early that year it was decided to advertise for Specials to join the small Neighbourhood team. Such was the interest shown that around 30 attended an open evening and nine were ultimately successful in the selection process.

As a Neighbourhood, Birmingham Airport is like no other. As well as the arriving and departing passengers a large number of other visitors either come to say “goodbye” to departing passengers or to greet arriving ones or pass through to and from the adjoining National Exhibition Centre. Official airport figures show 1.5 “meeters and greeters” per passengers. This means over 22 million people visit the site every year. Many of these require assistance, even if it is simply “pointing in the right direction” and the presence of the Airport Specials, with their encyclopaedic knowledge of it, has helped the airport to be twice voted Friendliest Airport by readers of Travel “Which?” Magazine. In addition 7000 people work here, either for the airport itself or the many contract companies and retail outlets.

For many arriving travellers, the first police officer they see (which is very likely to be in the Immigration Hall) is likely to be a Special Constable or a neighbourhood officer. The Specials pride themselves on their appearance to make sure they show the appearance of the British Bobby. Police Sergeant Debbie Cain (the Specials’ manager) says, “The British Bobby is well-known the world over and it is our responsibility to ensure their first impression is a very favourable one as we are ambassadors for the British police.”

The Specials and Regulars are frequently asked if they can have their photos taken with visitors from abroad and the requests are never refused. Such photos can now be found in all corners of the world.

Visitors from abroad naturally speak many different languages, so SC Clive Buckley maintains a list of all airport employees who have good knowledge of foreign languages and who can be called upon in the event of interpreter assistance being required. Working at the airport has helped SC Buckley – a veteran of forty years – to hone his French skills, skills he last used, prior to working at the airport, back in his school days.

The working relationship between the police and staff, and between Regular officers and Specials, is second to none, and this makes for a really good atmosphere. The duties aren’t simply a PR exercise, though. Officers have to remain 100% diligent at all times and are involved in many security and anti-crime duties, which help to reassure everyone using the airport, as well as helping to keep recorded crime levels very low. It helps that the Specials have full airside access so can go anywhere on the airport site and the airport specials have predefined tasks to perform in the event of an incident occurring.

With new airlines and new destinations, the airport is looking to expand greatly over the next few years and with it, the Specials team is due to expand also. But it is not for everyone. As SO Martin Kadir says “If any would-be Airport Specials are looking for blues and twos, large-scale disorder and domestic incidents they need to be aware that, although the place does have its moments, it takes a certain type of person to enjoy the unique challenge that policing the airport poses. The Airport is a busy and friendly place to work and a pleasure to police assisting our regular colleagues who see us as an integral part of the Airport team.”
As well as police related activities and inputs I took part in the Duke of Edinburgh award, First Aid and other courses that developed me further.

When did you decide to move into the volunteer programme and what tasks did you do?
When I had finished my 42 week course as a cadet I was fortunate to be named best cadet and invited back to help with the following year as a mentor. I wanted to continue learning and was keen to have more of a role within the Police so decided to become a Police Support Volunteer as well.

As a Police Support Volunteer, I was attached to the Radcliffe Neighbourhood team and performed a mostly administrative role, although at times there was the opportunity to work with PCSO’s helping with community surveys and meetings.

Do you think your experience as a cadet and police support volunteer helped you get into the Special Constabulary?
I applied and joined the Special Constabulary as soon as the opportunity arose. As well as experience from my full time job where I worked as a Customer Service Supervisor at Dunelm Mill’s Contact Centre, experiences and qualifications as a Cadet and Volunteer definitely helped me join the Specials.

As well as having access to invaluable advice I had already began to learn and develop the core values that the Police Service looks for when recruiting officers.
Not only did it help me get in but when I did my first tours of duty it was much easier to integrate into a front line role as I was going on duty with officers who knew me from my volunteering role.

What was the reaction of you friends and family when you decided to join the specials and move to front line policing?
I had a very mixed response when I became a special both positive and negative. Primarily my family were very proud and supportive although a little worried about the dangers of the job. Along with my family I quickly discovered who my true friends were. Some no longer wanted to associate with me while others were very supportive although there is no question my role now had more of an impact on my social life.

What were the best bits about being a Special?
Being a special was a fantastic experience. Every weekend I would come on duty with regular officers on the neighbourhood team. It gave me an opportunity to gain invaluable experience in a front line officer. It made me even more certain that this was the career for me.

My role as a special eventually led to the opportunity of applying to be a Regular Student Officer and it was situations that I had dealt with as a Special, along with all the time I had invested volunteering, that got me through the most challenging application process I have ever undertaken.

Would you recommend this whole volunteering experience to others wanting a career in the police family?
Volunteering gives you the chance to show how committed and dedicated you are, the more you are willing to put into volunteering, the more reward you gain from it.
I now currently help run the Bury Cadet Scheme and constantly encourage the cadets to continue onto the police support volunteers and special constable roles.
I would recommend anyone who has the opportunity and who wants a career in the Police to get involved in volunteering.

Would you do it all again?
All my roles so far have allowed me to learn the role of a Police officer from the ground up. It let me lay strong foundations in which I can now build my career as a regular Police Constable on.
The Met has pioneered what is believed to be a national first after more than a dozen specials attached to the Traffic Operational Command Unit ran a shift themselves.

In a statement, the Force confirmed that 15 volunteer officers dealt with 26 incidents as they took the helm – freeing up regular colleagues for a separate operation.

They also assisted in dealing with collision between a motorcyclist and a car in Islington, during which the biker suffered serious injuries and was taken to hospital.

The shift was the first time Met Special Constabulary officers have tweeted about their experiences on duty from the @MPSOnTheStreet account.

Ch Supt David Snelling, Traffic OCU commander, said: “The Traffic OCU MSC unit is made up of a team of officers who all contribute far in excess of their required hours.

“If some have specialist skills from their day jobs that are relevant to our field of work, such as engineering, collision investigation and law, which enables them to provide similar specialist support to that of their regular Traffic colleagues.”

“This MSC shift enabled the re-tasking of the regular team to an operation targeting illegal vehicles in support of the Commissioner’s Total Policing pledge.”

“It was a great experience for the MSC, and also helped to reinforce that we are competent to deal with all types of incident”

SC Chief Officer John Conway

 Acting Superintendent Ray Rogers of the MSC and Volunteers OCU said: “This initiative really highlights the fact that specials

have the same responsibilities and powers of regular officers and can be relied upon to deliver results.”

Special Inspector James Smith who participated in the initiative said “The level of training the Traffic specials receive allows them to afford support to the regular service all year round. This initiative provides a brilliant demonstration of these skills, and the on-going contribution the officers make to the Met’s Total war on crime. Being able to provide the resources for a whole shift shows that the regular service has trust in the abilities of the Special Constabulary.”

The team brought a motorist to safety after a serious crash on the A40.
After months of working together with World Horse Welfare, three specials and a Police Community Support Officer carried out their first patrols on horseback.

The aim of the new mounted officers is to help tackle rural crime in the county and will be used as part of the Constabulary’s successful Operation Randall.

Temporary Chief Superintendent, Nick Dean, who leads the operation, said: “The scheme will make a real difference as the mounted specials will offer a visible yet reassuring presence in the local communities where they will be patrolling. There is also no additional cost to the Constabulary as the specials use their own horses.”

The initiative will see three officers covering the South Norfolk area and one officer patrolling the North Norfolk area and it is hoped, if successful, to be extended to other areas.

The officers were assessed by World Horse Welfare staff at the charity’s Hall Farm Rescue and Rehoming Centre in Snetterton in February. Field Officer Jacko Jackson and Hall Farm Assistant Centre Manager Justina Smith carried out the assessments which involved the officers undertaking a competency test to ensure their suitability to perform the role, and their own horses were also assessed.

Jacko Jackson said: “We were really pleased with how the assessments went and the final outcome. They all achieved the required level of competence and we hope that the officers will now go on to be a real asset to the Constabulary. Re-introducing officers on horseback is a positive move as it allows them to be seen in areas of the countryside where they traditionally may have not been seen.”

A horse that was rescued following one of the RSPCA’s biggest ever equine investigations is now set to patrol the streets of Norfolk in his new role as a “special constable”. Bert was just one of more than 100 horses, ponies and donkeys who were rescued by the RSPCA and other equine charities from a farm in Amersham, Buckinghamshire in 2008. It was one of the largest equine cruelty cases the country had ever seen. Sadly 30 horses were found dead alongside an array of injured and neglected equines. Those that were saved were taken in by the RSPCA and a host of other horse welfare charities.

Bert was among 65 which were offered a loving new home at the Redwings Horse Sanctuary in Norfolk. Following his rescue and recovery Bert was rehomed through the Redwings Guardianship scheme. And amazingly despite his awful past, he is now set to patrol the streets of South Norfolk with his Guardian Nicola Rix. Nicola is an equine staff member at Redwings and also a special constable for Norfolk Constabulary.

Nicola said: “I am so proud of Bert. His turnaround is remarkable and to be able to serve the community as a Special Constable – and to have Bert with me – is fantastic.”

Special Impact featured the Hertfordshire Specials on Horseback back in Issue 3...

and was pleased to see these rural special constables starring in BBC One’s Countryfile TV Programme in January.

The magazine show, presented by Julia Bradbury and Matt Baker, featured Special Constable Kate Solomon, who patrols on horseback, and Richard Downs, a local gamekeeper. Hertfordshire was the first county in the UK to introduce ‘Rural Special Constables’ - volunteers specifically tasked with tackling rural crime such as fly tipping, diesel theft and animal cruelty.

Sergeant Jamie Bartlett, from Hertfordshire Constabulary’s Rural Operation Support Team who has overall responsibility for the rural specials, said: “We were delighted to have BBC Countryfile pay an interest in how Hertfordshire polices its rural communities.
Greater Manchester Police have been approved by Skills for Justice to deliver an accredited learning programme in Volunteer Leadership. 41 delegates from Cumbria, GMP, North Wales, Thames Valley Police, North Yorkshire Police, the Scout Association and Greater Manchester Fire Service attended the weekend training at Sedgley Park Training centre.

The course is primarily aimed at people who manage the activities of a volunteer or leads a team of volunteers. The overall aim of the course is to increase the understanding of the value of emotional intelligence and apply the principal of inspirational leadership to motivate and retain teams of volunteers. Sessions include: Leadership and learning styles, Maximising volunteer retention, Leaning by example, Sharing responsibilities, How pre-existing trust and confidence influences communication, Problem Solving, Decision making and Moving forwards.

Delegates can choose whether they wish to continue learning post weekend course to obtain the accreditation, and 29 attendees have taken up this option.

The delegates were a mix of paid managers of volunteers and volunteer supervisors. Special Sergeant Karl Stoney said “This was the first time this course has been ran, but I cannot recommend it enough.”

As part of the development process a full evaluation is being conducted and all delegates have been asked to provide comments on-line via Survey Monkey. These comments will have an influence on future course content and availability. Delegates have also been asked if they would be happy for their email addresses to be shared to allow for ongoing sharing of ideas and the response has been very positive for this.

Early comments from delegates immediately after shown in the column.

“I found in very enjoyable and informative and through that established some new ideas that I hope to bring back to my division”
Special Sgt Craig Winstanley

“The course was excellent”
Ben Stephenson, Scouts Association

“Just wanted to say thank you for the course this weekend. I did enjoy it. I especially enjoyed being able to speak with people from other areas and exchanging ideas and seeing different management styles and being able to see what works for them”
SC Osama Mudasser

“I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and was able to obtain a fair amount of notes for my project.

I am sure by the end of the weekend following the end of your presentations, all the audience should feel they’ve learnt something, and feel empowered and will want to deliver some of what they have learnt and that they also have a better understanding of the solutions for problems they come up against on a daily basis”
SC Chief Inspector Lorraine Billingham
A team of Special Constabulary Officers from Staffordshire Police dedicated to supporting the Local Policing Teams Rural Crime and Wildlife Officers, have recently formed from within the Staffordshire Specials.

The team of specially trained Wildlife and Rural Crime Specials will be stationed throughout the county to deal with reported incidents and proactively patrol vulnerable rural areas to disrupt criminal activity.

The Special Constables will provide a valuable visible police presence to ensure communities feel safe, reassured and confident, that wildlife and rural crime is being tackled.

As dedicated Wildlife and Rural Crime Specials their role will be to support regular officers working within their own areas and on joint agency operations.

They will provide the following services:

- High visibility patrols in wildlife and rural crime hot spots force wide to provide community reassurance
- Crime prevention advice

Deputy Chief Officer of Specials Simon Anderson said: “We are fortunate to live in county with large rural areas but that in itself presents a wide variety of policing problems. Large areas require proactive regular patrols to deter would-be criminals from targeting isolated properties or even the wildlife itself.

“These officers will be trained to deal with a wide variety of offences and will work closely with our partner agencies. We are really excited to be given the opportunity to be involved in such an important policing initiative.
This is a photo of SC Andy Waters on shift in the snow the night of Friday 18th January 2013 - Andy is an Special Constable based at Newcastle Area Command and has almost 20 years service as a Special. Andy says, “I was working a 2200-0700 shift with the Road Safety Unit on Friday night. Under the snow plan, each vehicle was allocated a particular major road in the force area, tasked with reporting on road conditions. Our shift Inspector allocated the vehicle I was in to the A696 (from the A1 near the airport, through Belsay and Otterburn, then up to the Scottish Border on the A68). Fortunately, most motorists had heeded the warnings and stayed off the road, so there were few weather-related incidents that night. We did encounter a group of young motorists in Otterburn who were stuck in the snow, so we got out and pushed them up the bank until they could move under their own steam. Needless to say they were extremely grateful, and were hopefully left with a good impression of Northumbria Police.”
Operational Support Group Special Constables assisted with a Day of Action by leading ‘Operation Witchcraft’.

This operation tackled outstanding arrest warrants across the county, targeting serious crime, the supply of drugs and burglaries in an effort to support Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

Warrants were executed in rapid succession with a high-impact approach, utilising covert units and carriers of Specials eager to place handcuffs on the next offender.

Special Inspector Alexander Ward, S/Silver of the operation commented: “We’ve created this operation to support our NPT colleagues, both regular and special, in bringing those responsible for crime into custody. Through this we’ve seized some great evidence, made some excellent arrests and no doubt prevented further incidents. Thank you to everyone who turned out very early on a Saturday morning to assist with this.”

The OSG Specials are ever developing their skills to assist with tasking’s that ultimately support the core of Essex Police - neighbourhood policing. There are currently 26 Specials on OSG, with the team having committed 7,642 hours of work, resulting in 69 arrests and 254 attempted warrants since Reform.

“The work of your team has been brought to my attention around the support you provided for Operation Witchcraft, the breadth of added value including arrests, intelligence and critical incident is impressive. These results do not happen by accident and require solid leadership. Well done and please pass on my thanks to the team.” Chief Superintendent, Simon Williams, Operational Policing Command.
Official Launch of College
The College of Policing was officially launched at an event on Monday 4th February. Speaking at the launch, Policing Minister Damian Green described it as an “historic occasion” and said the police service and the public would see the benefits of the College, which would be the “professional heart of policing” and restore public confidence, improve integrity and cut bureaucracy in policing.

New College Chair Announced
The College of Policing now has an Independent Chair, following the appointment of Professor Shirley Pearce. The announcement of Professor Pearce’s appointment was contained in a Written Ministerial Statement made by Home Secretary Theresa May on 1st February 2013. The Home Secretary commented that “Professor Pearce will bring extensive experience in the education and professionalisation arenas, and significant senior leadership experience to her role at the College.” Professor Pearce brings with her a wealth of knowledge in developing the health professions, higher education, research and development, and working in partnership across sectors to further joint interests.

Special Constabulary handbook
Following discussions at the Special Constabulary National Consultative Group, the College is leading on progressing work to develop a national document to act as a reference guide for use by force practitioners, line managers, specials, applicants and other policing stakeholders with an interest in Special Constabulary matters. This document is being designed as a ‘Special Constabulary handbook’.

It is envisaged that the handbook will serve to identify and highlight aspects such as current regulations, national guidance and advice which have relevance on a range of Special Constabulary issues and considerations. It is not intended that the handbook will have legal or mandatory standing - it is being designed as a way to provide a useful and informative guide, with a key aim being to ensure the content will have practical applications by stakeholders.

The handbook will be produced in electronic format and made available online. Once issued it will be subject to ongoing review and maintenance to ensure its content remains up-to-date.

Independent Patrol
In May 2010 NPIA introduced the Initial Learning Programme for the Special Constabulary (IL4SC). This provides the learning required for special constables to safely commence accompanied patrol. Following the publication in 2011 of the standards for achieving independent patrol status for Special Constables, the College of Policing has been commissioned to identify the learning required to fill the gap between accompanied patrol and independent patrol, thereby extending IL4SC.

A questionnaire has been sent to all forces and following an initial analysis of the data returns from forces, a consultation event took place at Ryton on Thursday 7th March to discuss the preliminary findings in more detail. Outcomes from this consultation event are now being worked upon.

College of Policing is pleased to support Special Impact

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