GWENT INTRODUCE NEW COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH SCHEME

SEE CENTRE PAGES
A warm welcome to the Spring issue of Volunteering Matters.

There are some great articles that forces have kindly submitted for this issue.

We are working up towards National Volunteers Week 1-7 June, where we can formally celebrate across the country the valuable contribution our volunteers make to policing. The website to find out more information and to register your activities is www.volunteersweek.org and you can download a digital resource pack too which is a really useful tool. The theme is “Tell us a Story” and for those forces that use social media the hash tags to use are #volunteersweek and #ivolunteer

Happy reading, and as always we would welcome articles for the next issue!

Tina Shelton
Editor

DON’T FORGET
VOLUNTEERS’ WEEK
time to say thank you

1-7 JUNE

NEW CITIZENS IN POLICING LEAD

The new lead for the National Police Support Volunteers working group is Chief Superintendent Paul Phillips. Paul is the Local Policing, Police Standards manager at the College of Policing. Paul has a remit that covers standards, good practice and developing an evidence base in local policing including neighbourhood policing, roads policing, community engagement, specials and volunteers. Paul has 29 years police service and he has a passion for ensuring the delivery of services that empower and involve communities and draw partners together at the frontline. He is seconded to the College of Policing from Northamptonshire Police for 2 years until July 2016. Paul chaired the Police Support Volunteers national working group meeting on 20th May.

CITIZENS IN POLICING LEAD RETIRES

DCC Michael Banks retires from policing on 19 June and we wish him all the best for the future. DCC Banks has been a strong supporter of the Citizens in Policing, and committed in his role supporting the national portfolio.

Sir Peter Fahy says “Michael fulfilled the role with huge energy and passion for the Specials and Volunteers. The Special Constabulary conference in Durham was an absolute highlight but there were many other valuable initiatives he put in place.”
A Warwickshire Police Support Volunteer has been nominated as a North Warwickshire and Bedworth Community Champion and was invited to 10 Downing Street to meet the Prime Minister.

Carol Cotterill, from North Warwickshire, has been a Police Support Volunteer for 4 years and now hopes to inspire others to support rural communities and tackle issues such as rural and equine crime.

Amanda Blakeman, Assistant Chief Constable for Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police, said ‘Carol is a truly inspirational volunteer. Over the last few years she has made a huge and positive impact on the rural and equine communities across Warwickshire. Carol has shared all of her skills and knowledge with our Rural Safer Neighbourhood Teams which in turn has allowed us to work together to continue to raise awareness and reduce crime. Her work, commitment and professionalism are very much appreciated.’

Carol was put forward as a Community Champion by her local parliamentary candidate Craig Tracey who commented ‘Inspirational people like Carol are vital to our community, especially in rural areas and it was fantastic to be able to nominate such an unsung hero as my Community Champion. I have been aware for sometime of the excellent work that Carol does in our local communities and the innovative ideas that she has introduced such as the Warwickshire Horse Watch scheme.’

Both Carol and Craig visited Number 10 for a Community Champion reception hosted by Prime Minister, David Cameron which celebrated the contribution that members of the community make.

Carol began her community involvement with North Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch and she supports other schemes such as Horse Watch and Rural Watch. She said: ‘I could see the benefits to the community of volunteers being made aware of local incidents and having access to crime prevention advice and equipment. Following a number of horse thefts locally I approached Warwickshire Police and asked if they had a Horse Watch Scheme. They didn’t, but were enthusiastic about creating one and Warwickshire Horse Watch was launched with great success in 2010. Being a volunteer has provided me with so many experiences, allowed me to help and support the community where I live; meet some lovely people and make great friends.’

Carol was awarded a Chief Constable Commendation Award for her outstanding contributions to volunteer work at a ceremony that took place in Kenilworth on Wednesday 4th March 2015 by the Chief Constable Andy Parker said ‘Carol has been instrumental in the building of a number of projects utilising her knowledge, experience and connections within the equine world. These projects have led to greater partnership working with Moreton Morrell Agricultural College, The British Horse Society and the Police. She is commended for the outstanding contribution that she has made to protecting people from harm, particularly in rural communities.’

Carol will also receive a Highly Commended Award at the national British Association of Women in Policing Awards – Volunteer category which will be presented at a ceremony in Stratford-upon-Avon on June 16 2015.
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne, has launched the Sussex Elders’ Commission (SEC), to provide a mechanism for older citizens to support, challenge and inform the priorities set out in the county’s Police and Crime Plan.

The 28 volunteers, aged 60 to 85 have a range of experience in the private and public sector. Some have been victims of crime or anti-social behaviour and some want to get more involved in keeping their communities safe.

They have held their first workshop ahead of a Sussex-wide consultation - the Big Conversation - with their family, friends and peers on policing and crime issues. The workshop involved presentations from Sussex Police and partners on scamming, elder abuse and police objectives, as well as discussion groups and a Q&A session.

Commenting on the importance of the SEC, Mrs Bourne said: “Twenty per cent of the Sussex population is aged 65 and over and the biggest population increase is in the over 85s. As PCC and the daughter of an elderly mother, I feel it is vital that we listen and act on the concerns of this section of our society. The SEC will provide a much-needed platform for older residents to inform and challenge my Police & Crime Plan and feedback on local policing in their area”.

Mrs Bourne continued: “It was great to meet the members again and hear why they have signed up to the SEC and what they want to get from it. Pauline Jackson from Bexhill told me that as a trustee of Age UK in East Sussex she is passionate about the elderly community, particularly those who are vulnerable and isolated. She feels that she will be able to reach out further to fellow residents and inform them of what is happening in their community and how the SEC can improve their experience with Sussex Police.

“Ray Hoare from Horsted Keynes told me he has always had a keen interest in local policing and wants to be more informed on the changes that lie ahead. He will use the SEC to feed back on how local policing is working in his community and what concerns residents have.

“Kate Davies, who chairs East Sussex Seniors Association, said she feels that older people’s fear of crime is often greater then the crime rate itself. Kate wants to enable the elderly to have a proper say on policing and make sure their voices are heard”.

Members have already identified their priorities which include financial coercion; fear of crime; local policing, isolation and road safety.

The workshop highlighted the different mechanisms and channels that members intend to use for the Big Conversation, ranging from small intimate groups to large pre-existing events, speaking opportunities as well as stints on hospital radio.

The OPCC will support the members’ programme of engagement with venue, transport, surveys, and engagement tools and training.

Find out more about the next steps for the Elders’ Commission visit www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk
A new scheme at Bradford College is helping to reduce crime in the city.

Students on the Public Services course are taking part in a 10-week Student Guardianship scheme, which will see them work with local police and West Yorkshire Fire Service to deliver crime and fire prevention advice, information leaflets and community reassurance messages.

The course will see each student complete 28 hours. This will help them to complete their employability and career planning module.

Detective Inspector Phill Bates, of Bradford District CID, said: “The scheme is progressing well and the students are helping in the fight against crime by using proven predictive policing tactics and crime reduction techniques.”

“This is a really exciting opportunity for our students which will help to give them a first-hand insight into how the police and fire service work in the local communities and how they help to keep residents safe.

“We hope this scheme will be a real success for all those involved, and that our students will gain vital skills and experience which will stand them in good stead for a career in public service.”
Volunteers in Monmouthshire Gwent are helping officers to warn drivers about their speeding. Over the bank holiday weekend they caught 30 drivers speeding at three sites.

The volunteers are running three local Community Speedwatch schemes. A scheme in Tintern and a scheme in Llandogo have launched in the last week, whilst a scheme in Llanfair Kilgeddin has been running since June 2014.

Community Speedwatch is a community led initiative and aims to educate drivers about the dangers of speeding whilst addressing concerns of local residents about vehicles speeding through their neighbourhoods.

The scheme operates on roads with speed
limits of 40 mph or below. Community volunteers work alongside Gwent Police officers or Police Community Support Officers to identify vehicles exceeding the speed limit. Roadside volunteers are provided with high-visibility jackets, roadside signs and are trained to use the equipment and record details of offending vehicles.

If a vehicle is seen exceeding the speed limit, the registration number will be taken down and verified by the volunteers. The details are then entered onto a database from which a letter is automatically produced informing the registered owner that their vehicle has been noted to have exceeded the speed limit, the dangers of doing so and the consequences if they’re found speeding again.

While no prosecutions or penalties are received as a direct result of Speedwatch, if the same registration number is logged three times, more formal action may be taken.

Volunteers Co-ordinator Emily Godsell, said: “Following the success of the scheme in Llanfair Kilgeddin, we have launched two further schemes in Monmouthshire over the last week. We have recruited 11 volunteers in Llandogo and six in Tintern, although we are still looking for more volunteers to help run these schemes. The volunteers have been very keen to help take positive action and support their local officers in warning drivers about their speeding and the effect that it has on their communities.”

“We will be looking to roll out the scheme to other parts of Monmouthshire in the future, and hopefully to other parts of the force in due course subject to funding being secured.”

Community Speedwatch is being supported by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent who has provided funding for the schemes to date.

North Yorkshire Police has also launched its first Community Speed Watch scheme thanks to local volunteers.

An initial pilot scheme will run at up to 50 sites across York, Harrogate, Selby and Harrogate where local people have already registered a concern about speeding vehicles. The sites are mainly residential areas with 30 and 40 mph speed limits.

The scheme has been championed by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Julia Mulligan, on the back of research that she commissioned last year, which showed that 72% of people felt that more should be done to improve road safety through enforcement or education.

Over the next six months, police volunteers, together with members of the community, will visit the sites with a handheld radar gun and/or an LED speed sign. They will record vehicle speeds and anyone caught speeding will receive a letter from North Yorkshire Police informing them of their offence and the need to address driving behaviour.
The Police recently launched the #WeStandTogether campaign to bring communities together promoting community cohesion and unity. The initiative was launched following the recent global events which have caused concern with communities.

As part of the initiative Special Sergeant Jared Simpson from GMP liaised with Oldham Council and they organised an event in Oldham town centre. Around 75 Oldham Specials, Volunteers and Police Cadets formed a line in the town centre with volunteers from partner agencies, Inter faith forums, Oldham LGBT consortium, and community leaders, effectively all of them ‘standing together.’

After 15 minutes of standing together, cadets handed out leaflets on the campaign to make the public aware. All attendees were invited back to Oldham Council offices for refreshments giving a rare chance for different voluntary organisations that might not ordinarily come together a chance to meet and socialise.

Rita Armin, a Police Support Volunteer for Greater Manchester Police, laid her wreath at her local Cenotaph in Cheadle Hulme. This year she was accompanied by Police Constable Richard O’Brien and her grandson Joe who was wearing his Granddad Henry’s silver General Service Medal.

Rita says “As usual when it came to my turn I found it all very emotional, especially during the 2 minutes silence. But when I returned to my place in the line-up, between Joe and PC O’Brien, Joe gripped my hand and it was a wonderful moment. A lovely young boy showing so much love and respect for the fallen Granddad that he had never met (as he passed away before Joe was born)

Rita’s husband Henry served in the North African campaign, and Italy in WWII. He was in the parachute regiment and received a bad spinal injury whilst jumping, as he was fired upon by a German dive bomber. Henry passed away on 2 July 1998 from his war injuries. Rita has been a GMP volunteer for 5 years now.
CHESHIRE SPECIAL COMPLETES 1,000 HOURS OF VOLUNTEERING IN UNDER A YEAR

Meet Acting Special Sergeant Oliver Leach who has completed just over 1,000 hours of volunteering since joining Cheshire Special Constabulary in December 2013.

During his time as a Special, Oliver, an apprentice for Aldi in his day job, has attended over 200 incidents, dealt with a range of issues ranging from low level ASB to more serious events such as serious Domestic Violence call-outs and Road Traffic Collisions.

Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire Constabulary, John Dwyer said: “The impact this has on the Constabulary in helping Cheshire police their communities is huge and I commend Oliver for his commitment to volunteering in Cheshire.”

SC Leach said: “It’s been a fantastic experience to join the Special Constabulary in Cheshire and to say the least it’s opened my eyes to a world I knew existed but had never come into contact with before.”

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEMBERS TAUGHT HOW TO DEAL WITH DISTRACTION BURGLARS AND ROGUE TRADERS

Neighbourhood Watch members from Hertfordshire were taught how to deal with distraction burglars and rogue traders as part of Stay Safe.

The event, organised by the St Albans and Harpenden Volunteer Police Cadets with support from the Harpenden and Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team took place at St John Lawes School in Harpenden.

Trading Standards also attended the event with St Albans Neighbourhood Inspector Adam Such.

Cadet leader, PC Steve Alison, said: “The aim of the event was to remind older members of the community about the methods distraction burglars and rogue traders use to steal or dupe their victims. It was also a fantastic opportunity for the Police Cadets to help older members of the community.”
Katie Brown, Museum Officer said: “While we knew our accreditation had been renewed, I didn't realise we were in line for something else. I am very proud and pleased that the museum has been recognised in this way. It goes to show that the hard work and dedication of the staff and volunteers pays dividends. We always thought of ourselves as a hidden gem, but it is great that other people think that too. This does not mean we are stopping here though, we will continue to strive to be one of the best small museums in Manchester and if our Trip Advisor rating is anything to go by (#3 in Manchester) I think we are heading in the right direction. Onwards and upwards! A big thank you to all our enthusiastic and amazing volunteers.”

You can visit the Force Museum website here: http://www.gmpmuseum.co.uk
A group of Coventry students will swap lectures for law and order after landing a year-long placement with West Midlands Police.

In a UK-first initiative, 12 undergraduates from Coventry University and Coventry University College will be sworn in as Special Constables and handed a gap-year working with the city’s police force.

The placement winners – selected from 64 students who expressed an interest – are set to join the force in September working with the busy St Michaels (city centre) and Hillfields Neighbourhood Police Teams.

They’ll be challenged to identify an area of police work they could potentially improve, streamline or remodel and present proposals to address the issue in a year-end thesis – with the force looking to implement feasible recommendations.

Coventry Police Inspector Hasson Shigdar was on the interview panel. He said: “The students come from a variety of courses including policing, criminology, psychology, planning, law and geography...they all showed great enthusiasm during the selection process and I’m excited by the project.

“They will identify an issue on their neighbourhood linked to crime or disorder, research it and come up with a number of options to use a partnership approach to tackle it, cut crime and protect the public. They can develop their ideas further in their final academic year whilst still working on the same police team part time.

“This is a great opportunity for the students to develop their law, crime prevention and problem-solving experience within the community. And the thesis won’t just be a theoretical piece of work it’ll be a chance to genuinely contribute to policing in Coventry.”

West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner David Jamieson is funding the project through his department’s Innovation Fund.

He said: “I am delighted to be funding this project that will harness the talents of some of our best young people...having 12 young and dynamic people on board will be a big boost to policing in Coventry. I am excited to hear their proposals for how we can continue to improve the way that we work.

“I look forward to welcoming these young people into the force and will be closely following their proposals for better working as they emerge through the year.”

The students are expected to start a 16-week Special Constabulary training programme next month before starting the placement full-time in September.

Three of the 12 are studying a degree in policing at Coventry University College (CUC) – a subsidiary of Coventry University – which is aimed at those seeking a police career or serving officers looking to improve promotion prospects.

CUC is also approved by the College of Policing as a Certificate in Knowledge of Policing (CKP) provider...a programme delivered by either serving or recently retired officers ranking from PC to Chief Inspector.

Sandrea Maynard, programme area leader for Law & Policing at CUC, said: “We are delighted to be partnering on this ground-breaking initiative that will enable our students to experience policing first-hand and give something back to the local community.

“As well as developing skills beyond the classroom to help with their career aspirations, they will have the opportunity to make a real contribution to policing in the city where they study and provide a visible and reassuring presence on the streets.”
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