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Specials

THE VOICE OF THE SPECIAL CONSTABULARY



JANUARY 2008

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WELCOME



PETER NEYROUD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Welcome to this brand new issue of *Specials* magazine. Not only is it a new year, but this is the first *Specials* magazine produced by the NPIA – so it's a new start for us. To mark this progression in the magazine's history, we've refreshed the design and have paid close attention to making sure we are covering as many forces as possible. As ever we rely on you to fill the pages – we need to hear your examples of innovative operations and initiatives. In this issue, we profile Specials who make an outstanding contribution to their local areas – all those in our profile section are award winners. We also look at how the Employer Support Programme is developing in forces around the country, with some interesting variations on the original ShopWatch schemes. As well as the skills and experience you bring to the role of Special, we also look at what it means to be a Special and how the role can help your personal development, challenging you and helping you learn new skills. We look at how variety within the duties of a Special can help retain Specials. I hope you enjoy this issue and know that we appreciate the time and dedication you put in to your work as a Special.



We look at what it means to be a Special and how the role can help your personal development... helping you learn new skills

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Please send us your ideas and comments by emailing: specials@storyworldwide.com or by writing to: **The Editor, Specials, Story Worldwide, 15b St George's Mews, London NW1 8XE.**

SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRIES Use the email alias or postal address given above to let us know if you've changed your address or would like to get on the **Specials Magazine** mailing list.



NEWS

Roundup

“The Special Constabulary has come a long way in the last two years, but we must not be complacent. Police performance is constantly in the public eye”

NIGEL GREEN, SPECIAL CONSTABULARY CHIEF OFFICER, BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE



Chief Officers conference report

On 16-18 November last year the first ever conference of Specials Chief Officers took place. The event focused on the question, ‘What does a successful future look like for the Special Constabulary?’. The conference was held at the NPIA’s Ryton venue just outside Coventry and was well attended by representatives from across all forces and from ACPO and the NPIA.

A well-structured agenda with informative presentations and practical breakout sessions all conducted at a popular facility resulted in a real platform for strong initiatives and positive development for the Special Constabulary. In fact a date for the next Special Chief Officers conference is already in the diary for 10th-12th October 2008 and this will again be supported and funded by the NPIA.

POINTS DISCUSSED

The conference got underway with a presentation by Peter Fahy, ACPO lead for Specials who provided an overview on what’s happening strategically in policing both operationally and non operationally and presented his vision for the future. For many delegates it was good to get Chief Fahy’s own perspective on the national strategy for UK policing and increase their depth of knowledge on key issues.

Chief Fahy’s presentation was followed by Chief Superintendent Diane Lowe from the NPIA on the

evolving leadership agenda in the police service. Nigel Green, Special Constabulary Chief Officer from Bedfordshire Police then updated delegates on developments with the implementation of the National Strategy for Specials. (You can learn more about the National Strategy at the National Conference in March and read about it in our April 2008 issue.)

On Sunday part of the conference was given over to a discussion led by George Cook, Special Constabulary Chief Officer from Essex Police about the potential establishment of an association of Special Constabulary Chief Officers. Further detailed discussion on this topic is continuing and a report will be presented to the National Conference in March.

POSITIVE BREAKOUTS

In addition to the presentations there was also an opportunity to take part in breakout sessions. The main objective behind these sessions was to look at how the Special Constabulary can be improved and also how the NPIA can assist in the development of the Special Constabulary and help establish best practice.

Each session was professionally facilitated and enabled representatives from different forces to meet, exchange ideas and to discover that they have more in common than they first thought in terms of the issues and challenges Specials face country-wide – something that was strikingly reassuring for many. Suggestions that resulted from the sessions are now being actively considered.

PROFESSIONALISM

It was noted by many how this conference is a part of the ongoing increasing professionalism of

the Special Constabulary – how in terms of its management structures, terms and conditions, type of work carried out and the training its Specials receive the Special Constabulary demonstrates outstanding organisation and professionalism.

Mick Pepper, Head of Workforce Strategy at the NPIA, who attended the event commented: “I found it an extremely valuable event and encourage the future development of this conference as an opportunity for a forum where there’s a real interface between ACPO, NPIA and Special Constabulary Chief Officers.”

As with all such events a great deal of work goes into planning them and making sure they run smoothly, those involved in staging this event are really too numerous to mention, though special thanks should be given to Nigel Green for all the time and effort he put into ensuring this conference was so successful. ●

“It is important to have an interface with people who are on the frontline, to hear their issues and problems directly and so ensure that the correct issues from an operational point of view can be addressed through appropriate policy”

MICK PEPPER, HEAD OF WORKFORCE STRATEGY AT THE NPIA



MICK PEPPER
HEAD OF WORKFORCE
STRATEGY, NPIA
© PHOTOGRAPHER: MARK GUTHRIE

ROUNDUP

ROLL OF HONOUR

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS



District Officer Steve Burnn recently raised £670 for charity in a tandem parachute jump.

Steve was also commended by Assistant Chief Constable of Cleveland alongside colleagues Anne Shaw, Dawn French and Michael Cleasby for their work in neighbourhood policing.

SEE OUR FEATURE ON PAGE 12

WELL DESERVED RETIREMENT



Nicola Harrison retired from the rank of Force Commandant for the Dorset

Special Constabulary in April last year. She joined the Special Constabulary in September 1984, and in 2003, was appointed Force Commandant. Her support for the Special Constabulary was unwavering during her service.

SERVICE AND DEDICATION



Special Constable Barry Harden was presented with the Cynthia Price Challenge Shield

as Cheshire's Special of the Year in October last year. Barry was rewarded for his dedication and 27-year service as a Cheshire Special Constable.

NORTH YORKSHIRE STAR

The Glenn Goodman Trophy for Special of the Year was awarded to Nikki May, who has been a Special for eight years. Nikki combines her role as Section Officer at York with that of an assistant to the Special Constabulary Liaison Officer in Central Area.

MORE THAN A CENTURY OF SERVICE

Cumbria recognised its Specials at a Long Service Awards ceremony last year. Awards were issued to Specials who between them have a total of 119 years' service.

ROLL OF HONOUR

The Arthur Ellis Memorial Trophy

POLICE FORCES from across the South West gathered at the Wiltshire Police Headquarters in Devizes in November to take part in the inter-force Arthur Ellis Memorial Trophy.

The Arthur Ellis Award began as the 'Sevenside Trophy' in 1986 with the four forces whose boundaries were on the River Severn – it was renamed in memory of Special Constable Arthur Ellis, a Gloucestershire Special. Each force within the South West Region is given the chance to nominate a team for its work in the following areas:

- Sustained successful involvement with Neighbourhood Policing
- Team work in resolving a long-standing problem within the community
- Significant contribution made to particular force / district / divisional objectives
- Work carried out which promotes better community and police relationships within its area



The main 2007 award went to **Gloucestershire** Constabulary (pictured above) for the work their Specials carried out in helping those affected by the floods earlier in the year.

Inspector Steve Templeton commented: "The group of Specials at Dursley are a fantastic asset and I am constantly amazed by their dedication and professionalism."

Read more about the commitment demonstrated by Gloucestershire Specials in this time of crisis and the support of local employers on page 12.

As winners of the 2006 trophy, **Wiltshire** hosted the event, so cheers went up when Specials from Pewsey were awarded the Harry King Memorial Trophy as runners up.

The team was recognised for its work in local Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the unique demands of the rural village communities. They work closely with the residents to tackle local issues and priorities while providing a high visibility presence. Without the Specials, events like the Pewsey Carnival would not be as safe and as successful as they are.

National Conference 2008

THE SPECIAL CONSTABULARY NATIONAL CONFERENCE, to be hosted by **Surrey** Police, will take place over the weekend of the 28th, 29th and 30th March 2008.

The theme for 2008 will be 'Implementing the Strategy: The Way Forward'.

Guest speakers at the 2008 conference will include Tony McNulty MP, Minister of State; leading business speaker René Carayol; Sir Ronnie Flanagan, Chief Inspector of Constabulary; Diana Holl-Allen, Deputy Chair APA; Peter Fahy, Chief Constable Cheshire and ACPO lead on the

Special Constabulary; Bob Quick, Chief Constable Surrey; Martin Stuart, DCC Bedfordshire and lead on Strategy Implementation; and Robert Leach from BT.

The conference is to be held at the Gatwick Hilton hotel, which will comfortably accommodate all delegates, with over 800 rooms available, and has direct access to the Gatwick South Terminal, and excellent transport links by rail, air, coach or road.

Watch out for the April issue of *Specials* magazine, which will include a full conference update for all those who can't make the event.

FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT Steve Baker, Chief Officer
 Surrey Special Constabulary
 e 5261@surrey.police.uk
 w www.specialsconference2008.com

Guarding the Borders



Specials from HAMPSHIRE, SURREY, THAMES VALLEY AND SUSSEX came together last October for Operation Cerberus II. The joint ANPR operation centred on the boundaries of Surrey, Hampshire and Thames Valley and was masterminded by Sergeant Paul Owen from Hampshire, who was supported by Senior Specials from the four counties. Sussex Specials participated, even though no physical boundary linked their county to this operation.

The operation's chief objectives were to encourage cross border co-operation and to raise awareness of ANPR and vehicle related crime.

2007 STATISTICS

64 Officers were assigned to this Operation

Several **1000** ANPR reads

335 vehicles stopped

6 arrests – including a GBH

82 negative breath tests

28 Fixed Penalty Notices – including several for no insurance/licence

3 vehicles seized under S165 Road Traffic Act

Operation Puzzle

THIS YEAR has seen Dorset Police implement Operation 'Puzzle', an initiative involving the Special Constabulary policing a section for a whole shift.

The idea behind Operation Puzzle was to provide Specials with increased general skills and confidence to carry out policing and, at the same time, give regular officers the time to complete paperwork and other pending commitments.

Although Specials attended incidents in place of regulars, regular officers were still in the background at the station in order to offer help and advice if needed.

Running in the Bournemouth Division since the beginning of 2007, the Operation covers one Sunday shift for five weeks within every three-month period. According to Nicholas Jennings, "Without the hard work of the supervision Team at Winton (both Regular and Special) we could not have achieved the results!"

Operation Puzzle is now being implemented force-wide

with recent successful shifts at Weymouth and Bridport.

Looking to the future, Operation Puzzle will give Dorset Police greater resilience in the event of a major incident. It can be instigated at short notice, ensuring that day-to-day policing can continue while Regular officers are deployed elsewhere.

"Operation Puzzle has increased morale among officers within the Special Constabulary, their skill base levels have increased and, in turn, their confidence and interaction with regular colleagues have benefited all areas of the force."

NICHOLAS JENNINGS, DIVISIONAL COMMANDANT AT BOURNEMOUTH

You can learn about a similar scheme run by Lancashire Specials on page

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BPA COMMEMORATIVE EVENT

ON 14 NOVEMBER 2007

Cambridgeshire Black Police Association, including Cambridgeshire Special co-ordinator Shahina Ahmed, was invited to a reception at the House of Commons, organised by the Select Committee for Home Affairs to commemorate the contributions made by black police officers and to celebrate the appointment of Ali Desai as President of the National BPA.

FURTHER INFORMATION
VISIT www.nbpa.co.uk

BROWNIES THINK BUBBLE



LAST AUTUMN the 2nd Cledford (Middlewich) Brownies attended Cheshire police headquarters where Specials assisted them towards achieving their crime prevention badges. The 24 girls got involved in "Think Bubble", a programme designed to teach 6- to 10-year-olds about keeping safe.

IN BRIEF

Thames Valley Police are running a pilot scheme with Specials in West Oxfordshire involving handhelds in data gathering in Neighbourhood Policing.

J Division Specials in Stockport, Greater Manchester, are a great example of Specials at work in the community. They work with the Anti-Social Team from Stockport Council patrolling in uniform and also as part of plain clothes operations including drink and drugs raids. They also work with the Neighbourhood Tasking Team.

Special Constables in Easingwold, North Yorkshire, took part in a seasonal operation to carry out vehicle safety checks and offer winter driving advice to the area's motorists. The operation took place in December and involved Road Policing Officers, members of the Safer Neighbourhood Team and Specials.

The Metropolitan Special Constabulary now has a stand-alone dedicated Operational Command Unit (OCU) headed up by a Chief Superintendent.

Nominations for the Special Constables and Police Support Volunteer Awards 2008 are now being taken. There are four categories: the Individual Fencers trophy and the Team Award for Special Constables; Special Constables Employer Support Award; Ministerial Achievement in Recruitment Award to recognise the outstanding contribution made by an individual and the outstanding team; and the Police Support Volunteers and Team Awards. Nomination forms can be obtained via forces' Chief Constables, Special Chief Constables or the Special Co-ordinator. All nominations, accompanied by appropriate supporting statements, need to be in by Monday 3 March 2008.

PROFILES

JUST REWARDS

RECOGNITION OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE

CHESHIRE

EMILY DUTTON

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT and Special Police Constable Emily Dutton, was nominated for last year's Cheshire Woman of the Year Award in recognition of her voluntary work in the community. Emily joined the Specials three years ago after signing up at the University of Chester's Volunteers Fair. While studying for a BSc in Criminology, Emily devoted almost all her spare time to working with Chester's community team and the targeted patrol team. She is based at Blacon police station.

Nominations for this award are sent in anonymously and Emily still doesn't know who put her name forward. She was, however, delighted to be short-listed saying: "It's so rewarding to be able to do voluntary work and great to get recognition for it. The event itself was fantastic. There were so many amazing women at the lunch and everyone deserved their place there." The award went to a member of Chester's Regular Constabulary, which pleased Emily.

Emily has had an eventful time while studying for her degree. She spent several months during her second year

EMILY DUTTON (SECOND FROM LEFT) TOGETHER WITH COLLEAGUES FROM BLACON POLICE STATION DISCUSSING DETAILS OF A FORTHCOMING OPERATION
© PHOTOGRAPHER: CLAIRE WOOD





with the New York Police Department (NYPD) as part of a University of Chester scheme. Emily studied the US judicial system through the State University of New York, Plattsburgh, and was attached to the Spanish Harlem 23rd Precinct where she found herself tackling low-level crimes and public disorder incidents.

She found the real NYPD not quite as eventful as US TV shows portray it, but there was a marked difference between Blacon and Spanish Harlem, which she describes as a “melting pot of different races with lots of racial tension”. There were similarities in that Emily found the police officers she was working alongside very accommodating. “We are all doing the same job and there was a great sense of camaraderie,” she says.

Emily has now completed her degree and is contemplating a career in some part of the criminal justice system. But she intends to carry on as a Special.

CHESHIRE

RICHARD HANKINS

UNAWARE HE HAD even been nominated, Richard Hankins, *above right*, was surprised when he was awarded the 2007 Ferrers Trophy at the Special Constables and Police Support Volunteers Awards ceremony last summer. “There are lots of volunteers all over the country making significant contributions to policing,” he says. “It was an extreme honour to be nominated in the same category as these people. To actually win the award was the icing on the cake.”

Richard is more comfortable with the idea that the award recognises the achievement of the wider team of which he was a part. “I think the fact that Cheshire officers have been considered for these awards shows we have a team of Specials who are progressive and effective,” he continues.

Now a few months on, Richard is pleased that the Regular Constabulary perceives Specials as a vital policing resource, as evidenced by the way they actively make requests for Special Constabulary staff for diverse activities.

A senior director of a global publishing company, Richard has a long history of community and charity work. Having previously been part of



RICHARD HANKINS
© PHOTOGRAPHY:
SHARP END MAGAZINE

ALL PART OF THE ROLE



HELPING HAND
RICHARD HANKINS IN
HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY



PAPERWORK ALL PAR
FOR THE COURSE FOR
STUDENT EMILY DUTTON



EMILY'S CERTAIN
COMMUNICATION IS
THE KEY TO SUCCESS

the Mountain Rescue Service, Richard joined the Specials when he moved to Cheshire, a relatively flat part of the UK.

Before winning the Ferrers Trophy, he was a Section Officer for the Western Rural Unit, covering more than 50 small towns and villages. Various activities were referred to in his nomination, including securing funding to support initiatives aimed at reducing speeding problems and playing a leading part in an investigation that led to the arrest of persistent criminal-damage offenders.

Richard considers tackling anti-social behaviour to be the most important aspect of his work. By maintaining a high-profile presence and having a zero-tolerance policy towards under-age alcohol consumption, criminal damage and noise, and communicating the message that overstepping boundaries would result in decisive action, minor incidents were prevented from escalating.

Richard is also proud of the training opportunities provided by an efficient and active Special Neighbourhood Policing Unit (NPU). As a result, a number of former ‘rural Specials’ now hold supervisory ranks. Richard has had a transfer in recent months and now holds the rank of Special Sergeant. He is currently part of a Chester Inner Neighbourhood Policing Unit deployed >>

in the centre of Chester where there are many bars, shops and tourist attractions. Here Specials interact well with regulars and the regular supervision shows an ongoing commitment to their training and development. With the articulation of the neighbourhood policing role and an increased recognition of the value of the Special Constabulary, Richard feels the next decade will be a great time to be a volunteer officer and he certainly intends to continue his involvement.

GWENT

GEMMA LANG



GEMMA LANG won the Community Welsh Woman of the Year Award in 2004 at the age of 19 for her work in the community, particularly her anti-bullying campaign. The victim of vicious bullying, both verbal and physical, Gemma determined to stand up not only for herself but for all those suffering similar torment.

While still at school she initiated the Full Stop 2 Bullying Campaign, which incorporated both a counselling service for pupils to talk to other pupils about problems they were having with bullying, and a website that quickly

started to receive hits from around the world. Gemma's campaign attracted the attention of the Department of Education and Skills, and through this she was invited by Esther Ranzten to become an ambassador for the ChildLine charity in Wales.

As a result of an assault, Gemma has no sense of smell or taste, but she does have a great deal of courage and a highly developed sense of community involvement. Her decision not to be a victim, but rather to be a survivor, led her to join the Gwent Special Constabulary at 18, becoming one of the youngest recruits to do so. "In some respects it was a selfish decision," admits Gemma, "a way to get my confidence back." Becoming a Special was another way for Gemma to do something very positive in her local community.

While a Special, Gemma did a lot of work with the School Liaison Service and was involved in patrols in Newport, dealing with breaches of the peace and drunk and disorderly behaviour. Gemma sees training as a Special as something that "teaches an awful lot of life skills". After school she embarked on a Law Degree at the University of Glamorgan and her training as a Special came in handy,

giving her an insight into the workings of the Criminal Justice System. Gemma continued as a Special, despite the fact that her University course came to an abrupt end when she suffered a further assault. "Being a Special gave me the courage to go on. I even attended a training session on the day I was assaulted, despite having a black eye."

Gemma is now back at university, taking a BA (Hons) in Probation Studies as part of her training to be a Probation Officer, obtaining one of the nine coveted places in Newport, out of 4,000 applicants. Her one regret in following this career path is that she is no longer able to be a Special – due to an obvious conflict of interest between the two roles. As Gemma explains it, "I could make an arrest on Saturday and find myself preparing a report to the court on the same offender on Monday."

Gemma knows she is going to miss the camaraderie and the sense of belonging that she has experienced through being a Special and would certainly recommend the experience. "Everybody should become a Special," she says.

It is one way to make a difference and Gemma is certainly committed to making a difference. ●

AND IN THE REGIONS OF...



THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE TEAM

PAMELA CHAHAN



JOHN WOLFF MBE

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Recruitment Award winners

AT THE SPECIAL Constables and Police Support Volunteers Awards 2007, Shahina Ahmed accepted the Achievement in Recruitment Award on behalf of the winning Cambridgeshire Recruitment Team.

As Specials Co-ordinator for Cambridgeshire, Shahina is passionate about attracting more people to become Specials and to motivating them to continue. She has succeeded more than once in reversing a resignation decision and believes

in adopting a "human approach" that recognises the fact that Specials are volunteers.

Among the points that were itemised in the nomination for the award is the annual Cambridgeshire Specials Conference that Shahina set up. This provides an opportunity for Specials to get together to talk about their concerns and get an update on the latest developments in the Constabulary. The conference is always followed by an

evening dinner-dance in recognition of all their hard work.

The Recruitment Team's success was also based on many events and open evenings, and the media coverage attracted. Several of these events were aimed at hard-to-reach ethnic groups and Shahina's ability to speak Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi and Memoni (a dialect of Gujarati), helped her to raise awareness and represent a positive image of the police family to these communities.

DORSET / AVON AND SOMERSET

Police Support Volunteers recognised

LAST YEAR'S POLICE SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS Awards went to Pamela Chahwan, nominated by Dorset Constabulary, and John Wolff MBE, nominated by the Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

Pamela was nominated for designing, implementing and coordinating a series of projects that reduced police administrative burdens, and for introducing a system of reassurance telephone callbacks to customers. She also took on the role of Volunteer Divisional Co-ordinator, working with

Bournemouth and Poole divisions to create new role profiles for volunteers and assist in their induction into the force.

John was nominated for his involvement in Community Speed Watch, an initiative to combat infringements of speed restrictions in populated rural areas. As Chairman of the South Somerset Community Speed Watch Co-ordinators' Group, he not only donates his time to roadside patrols in his community, but also co-ordinates the Group.

SPECIALIST DUTIES

EMPLOYER SUPPORTED POLICING

Across the next few pages we take a look at how Employer Supported Policing schemes are getting established in forces around the country



THE MET

EMPLOYER SUPPORTED POLICING (ESP) began in the retail sector in London's Oxford Street in November 2004, following a pilot in Camden. As part of 'ShopWatch', retail employees, with the backing of their managers, are invited to train as Specials. Their workplace allows them paid time off to carry out their duties. There are now 15 live 'Shopwatch zones' where one or more staff members are trained Specials.

The Met has more than 500 Specials who are part of the ESP programme, including police staff who are also supported for the same one day a fortnight. Neil Barrett, head of Employer Supported Policing for the Metropolitan Police and the

National Advisor on ESP, says: "We want to make this as big as we can in London. There are still a lot of sectors that are untapped. We can also help other forces follow the same path and use the same high-quality national schemes. They don't have to start with a blank page, as we did four years ago."

Hampshire, South Wales, West Midlands, Sussex and Suffolk are just a few of the 20 forces that are considering the scheme. Merseyside recently launched ShopWatch in Liverpool in the run-up to its year as European Capital of Culture in 2008.

ESP DEVELOPMENTS

The main ESP scheme covers staff from organisations in a wide range of industries. They patrol local areas or premises relevant to their employers' industry. Within

the overall programme, there are now six industry-specific schemes: including Shopwatch for retail staff; BoroughBeat for council staff; CampusWatch for students and staff; HospitalWatch for hospital staff; ArtBeat for those with expertise in the art world and BusBeat for bus drivers and depot supervisors.

As many as a quarter of Specials in London are recruited through ESP, including civilian police staff who joined in this way.

"It's important to get rock-solid support from businesses before you think about recruiting staff," says Neil. "It's a great way to grow your strength and use the skills of people who work in a wide range of industries and have a body of relevant knowledge, as well as access to intelligence. These people know their industry well."

>>

SPECIALIST DUTIES

ESP TOOLKIT

Neil Barrett and the Home Office have developed a national toolkit, available to all forces, which offers step-by-step guidance on how to set up an Employer Supported Policing scheme in your area.

- 1 "It is specifically Shop Watch, but support is also available for other elements of the programme," says Neil. The toolkit contains Power-Point presentations, videos and literature such as posters that can be placed in staffrooms.
- 2 There are two parts to the toolkit, depending on the size of the force that adopts it. There is a 'skeleton' kit that can be customised to include information, such as local partnerships or patrol areas where forces want to be more specific. The other part of the kit is designed for smaller forces to use 'straight away'.
- 3 When the toolkit was offered nationally, 20 forces responded and the department continues to receive several enquiries each month.
- 4 The toolkit includes a two-page plan that is based on four years of experience gathered by Neil and his team. It takes just two hours to talk through the detail of the plan that follows a 14-week time frame for recruiting businesses and new staff.

FURTHER INFORMATION
VISIT www.met.police.uk/esp



THE WEST MIDLANDS

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE launched ShopWatch in the city's Bullring shopping centre two years ago. The launch was very successful and, as a result, 15 people joined the Special Constabulary and made a significant impact on crime reduction and public reassurance in the shopping area. Most recruits on this initiative worked for the concierge service rather than shops. Some have gone on to join the regular police force and now only four officers are working on the scheme. It has since proven hard to recruit new volunteers.

Over the past two years, the force has received interest from a number of retailers across the West Midlands about taking part in ESP. More recently, the force delivered a presentation to 30 Mothercare managers, at their request. They are waiting to see if there is any take-up of the scheme. HSBC also expressed an interest and the force has received an application from one of its managers to join the constabulary under the ESP scheme. There has also been some interest from staff at ASDA and PC World, who found out about the scheme via the force website.

The force also runs a STEP Programme (Specials Through Employer Partnership), similar to ShopWatch, which targets employers such as NHS Trusts and local councils, and has led to the recruitment of 20 Specials.

Although it has recruited some Specials under the ESP schemes, it's not sure if the schemes represent a sustainable route to recruitment as other methods, including its website, local publicity, and recommendations from serving officers, have proved more successful. The force currently has 10 Specials in the STEP scheme and about four who are part of ShopWatch.

MERSEYSIDE

MERSEYSIDE LAUNCHED its ShopWatch scheme on 31 July 2007. The programme was rolled out across four of the six Base Command Units in Merseyside: Wirral, Sefton, Liverpool North, which includes the city centre, and St Helens. These areas included a good mix of high-street shops and retail parks. The launch was attended by 80 retailers and led to considerable interest. Supermarkets, including Tesco, Asda and Sainsbury's, expressed interest, and the force is currently negotiating with stores about future engagement in the scheme.

One pleasing aspect of the launch was the interest shown by local retailer, TJ Morris, trading as Home and Bargains, which has numerous outlets across the region. The firm was so keen on the idea that they pledged to allow any member of staff to train as a ShopWatch Special for the entire 16 hours – the minimum Specials agree to do a month. Employees from other retail outlets have also applied to join. The force says the response from some retailers demonstrates that they are keen to participate in the scheme as it provides them with the opportunity to contribute to their communities.

As a result of the launch, four ShopWatch Specials have been recruited via the ESP scheme. They are currently employed at the Holiday Inn, John Lewis, Curry's and Game. A fifth Special from John Lewis will complete his training in January 2008. The force has also adopted the ESP scheme for its own staff who have trained as Specials, allowing them paid time off to carry out their duties. The force currently has 400 Specials. It says the concept behind the scheme is sound, but it is early days.



SUFFOLK

SUFFOLK HAS A NUMBER of ESP schemes running throughout the county. Ipswich town centre, supported by Marks & Spencer, Debenhams and Axa Insurance, has two Specials, employed by M&S and Debenhams, who carry out patrols accompanied by regular officers and experienced Specials. Five other employees are going through the selection procedure and should be available for duty by early this summer.

Waveney District Council in Lowestoft allows three employees up to six days per year to fulfill their duties as Specials. Lowestoft town centre has launched a scheme with M&S, Chadds and Godfreys as main supporters.

Further schemes are being considered with Suffolk County Council, Willis Copdock Mill Retail Park in Ipswich and the MOD at the American Base at Mildenhall.

The ESP has reached into many industries, but few are as unusual as the Forestry Commission, which allows David Kingsnorth half a day a week to carry out his duties as a Special. He uses that time patrolling Thetford forest. Sometimes he can cover up to 20 miles of Forestry Commission land, which has increasingly become the site of fly-tipping and other anti-social behaviour.

Fly-tipping, however, is just one of the many crimes David has to contend with as part of his job as community ranger for the Forestry Commission in Suffolk. David has 12 years' experience as a Special with the Suffolk Constabulary. He was promoted to

Sergeant five years ago. As he says, the two roles go "hand in glove".

David's presence as a Special has enabled him to gather evidence that has led to a number of high-profile prosecutions for dumping rubbish. David also visits businesses on the land, including the bike-hike service, which has been a repeat victim of crime, and the High Lodge visitor centres.

"Even though they are in the heart of the forest, they still suffer crime. I try to drop in every week, so they have a point of contact. Members of the Safer Neighbourhood Team try to come out here, but it's not always easy. People working here know I'm around."

David has taken part in proactive operations such as 'Whitsun' where police and forestry staff recently issued 41 Section 59 warnings. The team also runs 'crucial crew events' where they try to put over the safe, legal use of the forest message to year 6 pupils.

Being a Special complements David's role as a ranger, which also involves tackling anti-social behaviour. "I might come across extreme behaviour as a ranger where police powers are required, which is really useful," says David.

He has inspired another member of the Forestry Commission team, who is about to be sworn in as a Special. "I'm very lucky. I love it," adds David. ●



IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Specials around the country are rising to the day to day challenge of neighbourhood policing as well as being on hand in times of crisis, ensuring they are an essential part of the communities they serve

CLEVELAND DANNY ALLEN

CHANGING THE FACE OF POLICING



IT'S A CHILLY EVENING in Redcar and three police officers are chatting to a group of young people in the town centre. It's typical of the way Specials are playing a key role in changing the face of policing in the Cleveland force.

It follows the launch earlier this year of an initiative by Chief Constable Sean Price to put 600 police and community support officers on the beat. At the time, he likened it to creating a Dixon of Dock Green for the 21st century. Since then, Specials have been playing their part in making it happen and the Redcar and Cleveland district is typical of the commitment shown.

The big change is that the district's 30 Specials feel more focussed as they have specific beats, backing the regular neighbourhood policing teams and working with community support officers. Their work is more targeted. District Commandant (DC) Anne Shaw says: "Seventy per cent of our work now is monitoring, and responding to, crime trends in an area and supporting regulars in that work. We're also involved in Problem Oriented Policing.

"We take our direction from the regulars but we're also filling a gap because we can work when the neighbourhood policing teams are not on duty. We're more proactive. And the work we do, and the information we gather, is fed back into the system."

District Officer (DO) Steve Bunn, who runs the Redcar team, says: "We work closely with regulars and come up with ideas to solve problems. It's teamwork. And we're closer to the public."

The work includes everything from tackling anti-social behaviour by

youngsters to responding to serious incidents, such as stabbings.

A key part of their role is simply stopping and chatting to the public, as shown by the conversation with the young people in Redcar town centre.

Another example of the Specials in action is Operation Scrooge, an annual initiative that runs through December into early January. This sees police, Specials among them, targeting problems in late-night shopping areas in Redcar, particularly theft. DO Bunn says: "It is about being high profile and it reassures the public."

Officers can see the benefits of their greater involvement, both for themselves and the public. SC Danny Allan, part of the team in the nearby South Bank area, says: "We are learning on every shift and we are working better. Because we work in a particular area, we can identify where the problems are and who we should be targeting."

The approach is earning official praise as well with DC Shaw, DO Bunn and Specials Dawn French, who heads the East Cleveland team, and Mike Cleasby, who does the same job in South Bank, receiving Assistant Chief Constable's commendations in recognition of their teams' efforts to develop neighbourhood policing.



SPECIALS IN REDCAR

Officers get closer to the public with specific beats, then feed information back into the system at the police station
PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEITH BLUNDY



OFFICERS CHAT TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN REDCAR TOWN CENTRE
SPECIALS ANN SHAW AND PAULA SMITH



MEMBERS OF THE TEAM TAKE A PRISONER INTO THE CELL SPECIALS DANNY ALLAN AND KEVIN WELDON



CHECKING THE NIGHT'S DUTIES SPECIALS KEVIN WELDON, ADRIAN BROWN AND PAULA SMITH



SMILES BETTER THE DIXON OF DOCK GREEN TEAM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY IS MORE FOCUSED ON NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING



**Community under water – in times of crisis
Specials in counties worst hit by flooding rose to
the challenge of helping local residents**

GLOUCESTERSHIRE THE TEAM

SUPPORT AFTER LAST SUMMER'S FLOODS



THE FLOODS THAT DEVASTATED parts of Britain during last summer tested the police to the limit – and challenged Specials in a number of hard-hit areas. One of the places badly affected was Gloucestershire, where Specials were called on to work many extra hours.

Typical of their commitment was Special Constable Peter Stone, from Hardwicke, Gloucestershire, who has publicly thanked his employers, Stonehouse-based Renishaw plc for giving him a week's paid leave so he could help the policing response in July. Peter is a plant maintenance engineer with the company and has been a Special for a year. "During the floods, I really wanted to help out as much as possible," he says. "And my bosses at Renishaw were 100 per cent supportive and allowed me the time off work."

The 26-year-old helped with water distribution at the old B&Q site in Gloucester and also carried out foot patrols around the city's flood-damaged areas. "I joined the Specials because I wanted to help the community," he says. "During the floods I felt it was my duty to help the police as much as possible. Luckily, my boss felt the same way and I cannot thank the company enough for allowing me to do this."

Superintendent Alex Drummond, of Gloucestershire Constabulary, says the Special Constabulary plays an

invaluable role in providing policing services across the county. "We are always extremely grateful for their efforts and were particularly grateful for their assistance during the water crisis," he adds. "We must also express our gratitude to employers who allowed staff time off their day job to play such an important role during the emergency."

Stephen Brain, Senior Plant Maintenance Engineer at Renishaw, says, "We were only too happy to allow Pete time off to help during the crisis."

Another area badly hit by flooding was **South Yorkshire**, which suffered heavy rainfall in all areas of the county in June and July. The deluge, which began before the floods that struck the south of England, fell in two main blocks. The first was concentrated in specific areas, the second afflicted the whole of the force area.

Members of the Special Constabulary played a key role in supporting the police and the community, with volunteer officers involved in many different aspects of the incident and clear up. Their tasks included creating road blocks, rescuing elderly victims trapped in their homes, offering Gold and Silver command support, working at local schools and assisting with the security of temporary Airwave masts. More than 100 Special Constables assisted in the effort, with many more agreeing to be on stand-by, and volunteers clocked up well over 1,000 hours of service over this crisis.

BEDFORDSHIRE BOB MEADOWS

IMPROVING PROSPECTS IN LUTON



A CAMPAIGN TO BOOST recruitment of Specials in the Bedfordshire Police area – particularly in hard-to-reach places – has been hailed a success. 'Improving

Prospects for Luton' (IP4L) grew out of a project to encourage volunteers from across Bedfordshire. The campaign was launched in 2004 and funded by the police and European Social Fund.

Under the scheme, people interested in volunteering underwent a training programme that gave them insight into becoming a Special. Those who decided that they did want to join then went on to the formal recruitment process.

When the force-wide scheme finished, a project was created for Luton, overseen by Mandy Cranston, Bedfordshire Police Volunteer Co-ordinator, who visited community centres to promote the training.

That scheme for Luton was recognised at the East of England Celebrate Awards for 2007, securing the All Inclusive Award made to the best European-funded project between 2000 and 2006 demonstrating a commitment to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender or disability.

'Improving Prospects' was praised for the way it worked with Luton Borough Council to teach unemployed people skills to increase their long-term employment prospects, through training and volunteering.

Over the course of three-years, 320 people entered the project and 228 completed the training. There were 184 positive outcomes, with people going on to employment, a volunteering role or education, of which 150 were from minority ethnic groups.

Each successful beneficiary was encouraged to volunteer with organisations including Bedfordshire Police, encouraging the Bedfordshire Police Service to apply for the Investing in Volunteers mark.

Mandy says: "The programme was specifically targeted at hard-to-reach areas and the people involved were the

unemployed. The results have been amazing. The training programme not only gave people an insight into police work, including how to handle conflict, but even if people did not go into the police, they were helped back into work.

"We recruited a number of Specials through this and also had enquiries about becoming a regular. Another advantage is that, although the scheme has finished, we have good contacts within the communities and can use them as a recruiting ground in future."

The force says this will be particularly beneficial to Bedfordshire, which is implementing a wide-reaching improvement plan for its Special Constabulary. This includes significantly increasing the size of the volunteer workforce from its current strength of more than 150 and broadening the deployment of Special Constables into more specialist roles.

David Morrall, Director Europe and International at the East of England Development Agency, says: "The results of the 'Improving Prospects' scheme have been tremendous. Lessons learned in a previous project enabled the project to better meet the needs of the participants from many different backgrounds, providing more effective training methods and individual support."

Bob Meadows, Income Generation Officer at Bedfordshire Police and previous Project Manager of the 'Improving Prospects' programme, collected the award on behalf of the project. He says: "The project is a great example of Bedfordshire Police and the Luton community working to address an ongoing problem of unemployment and skills shortages." ●

LEFT THE FLOODS IN TEWKESBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE WREKED HAVOC IN PEOPLE'S HOMES © GETTY IMAGES

RIGHT LUTON BOOSTED ITS RECRUITMENT OF SPECIALS AND ADDRESSED ITS UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM WITH AN AWARD-WINNING TRAINING SCHEME © BRITAINONVIEW DENNIS HARDLEY

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TRAINING

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Despite the relatively small team, the variety of work for City Specials is a good illustration of innovative deployment

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VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

We take a look at how the opportunity to fulfill a wide and varied range of duties is a positive draw for Specials

WE TALK TO IAN MILLER, Commandant, City of London Police, who explains how his force actively encourages the deployment of Specials across a wide variety of duties.

With the ongoing terrorist threat to its financial centre, helping to police the 'square mile' in London represents a real challenge for the City of London Police's 75 Specials.

But, despite the relatively small team, the variety of their work is a good illustration of innovative deployment of the Special Constabulary.

Uniformed street patrol on the City's busiest nights, Thursdays and Fridays, is the core of the work. Specials split their time between addressing allocated tasks in neighbourhood policing and dealing with response calls – fairly standard duties for a serving Special, but the difference lies in the other tasks they undertake.

According to Ian, "The City's Specials work with CID in plain clothes to address thefts from licensed premises, offering the clear advantage of a wider pool of faces unfamiliar to regular offenders. They work with a regular sergeant on warrants teams to arrest wanted offenders. They form task forces with RPU to run operations using ANPR to detect mobile offenders. They regularly form their own public order serials and supervision for ceremonial events."

Specials also plan and undertake their own operations once they have been authorised through the regular force structure and processes. These

include taxi-touting 'stings' in plain clothes, and uniform patrol 'blitzes' on trouble spots like Petticoat Lane market, where one Sunday team reduced stall thefts from an average of more than 25, to just one.

"Then we get to the specialists," says Ian. The City Special Constabulary has probably the only fully-qualified RPU motorcyclist in the country (they actually have two, but the second is an ex-regular RPU officer who joined the Special Constabulary on his retirement after 30 years' service). The Cycle Squad has three Specials fully-trained and operational. A Special who is a lecturer in forensic science works with SSU, the scenes of crime experts. Specials are trained to work in the Control Room and two do so regularly.

Most unusually, Specials who pass the assessment test are trained to Public Order Level II standard and are deployed on cross-London public order operations alongside their regular colleagues. Specials in the City also have the opportunity to work with the Economic Crime Department.

With active encouragement and engagement, the City gets real value from its volunteers. In return, the City's Specials get more variety, responsibility and job satisfaction than perhaps any other team in the country. ...or do they? >>



WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU
specials@storyworldwide.com

TRAINING

OPERATION RESILIENCE

An initiative to help Specials broaden their policing experience has been an unqualified success, opening the door to more operations of this nature in the future

SPECIALS ARE USED to turning out on a Friday and Saturday night to support the regular service, but in Preston, Lancashire, the Special Constabulary is broadening its policing experience.

Operation Resilience, which started in June 2007, aims to equip Specials with the skills required to undertake duties in the event of a major incident. Ten Specials teamed up with regulars for a 7am to 2pm shift on a Sunday morning last summer.

"We chose Sunday because it is normally a little quieter and much of the work revolves around clearing up the jobs from the night before. However, this particular Sunday turned out to be very busy," says Sergeant Jill Halliwell from the Community Safety Department.

The Specials were fully briefed by Jill and the response sergeant before they began. Regular officers were encouraged to offer support to the Specials and, where possible, allow them to take the lead.

By the end of the shift, the officers helped deal with a range of crimes

including domestic violence, a high value burglary that necessitated the input of CID and CSI teams, a firearms incident and a rape. One area response car was crewed solely by two experienced Special Constables. The overall response to the experience was very positive, says Jill.

"The Specials really enjoyed the experience. Some said they saw a different side of policing to the usual public disorder work. Others said they preferred taking statements in victim's homes rather than the station and also they felt they had gained enormous respect from their fellow regular officers."

Training needs were identified during the shift. "What came out was that there were not enough drivers so we now have people on driving courses. Also the ratio of sergeants to constables was not high enough, so we now have more sergeants."

Resilience's success has prompted Jill to conduct a further operation at the end of this month – we'll keep you posted on its success. ●

VIEWS AND COMMENTS

Special Exchange

“Neighbourhood policing remains at the centre of the Special Constabulary’s work and indeed of policing overall”

PETER FAHY, CHIEF CONSTABLE OF CHESHIRE POLICE AND ACPO LEAD FOR THE SPECIAL CONSTABULARY



PASSPORT DOWNGRADE

I have heard that Special Constables are no longer accepted as “Police Officers” in the eyes of the Passport Agency, in respect to countersigning photographs. Could you explain why the Passport Agency sees us as not fit for purpose any more! Also, could you run a story on how Special Constables assisted and gave time to do duties in last summer’s floods?

RICHARD TILL SECTION OFFICER, STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

Reply Thanks for your email Richard, I hope this explanation helps. *Specials can authorise passport photos as long as they have known the person for 2 years and hold a valid passport themselves.*

Also, we took your suggestion on board and have included a piece looking at the invaluable support Specials provided during last summer’s flooding (see page 12).

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PETER FAHY COMMENT

I’m sure that 2008 will prove to be another year of development for the Special Constabulary and we hope that both numbers and quality of work continue to grow. We now have a network of ACPO officers who take a particular interest in supporting the work of our volunteers; we’ve also encouraged the chief officers of the Specials to set up their own association so the voice of the Special is heard when policy is being made.

Neighbourhood policing, however, remains at the centre of the Special Constabulary’s work and indeed of policing overall. Issues such as guns and gangs and the threat of terrorism can only be addressed through the quality of local intelligence gathering, the building of trust and confidence and engagement with local people. As volunteers, Specials recognise the confidence gap better than most because they see the great work carried out by their regular colleagues but also experience some of the public mistrust in their own workplaces and neighbourhoods. So focus on the citizen and the quality of local policing needs to remain the focus for 2008. There is great work being done by Specials across the whole country but this is only a small part of the potential this remarkable group of people has.

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CLAIMS AND COUNTER CLAIMS

Let’s start the ball rolling and try to establish some facts:

1 Lancashire believes its SC Shaïd Khan may be the longest-serving minority ethnic Special in the UK. Shaïd has been a Special for 19 years.

2 How long have Specials been involved with hand-held speed cameras? We’ve received many claims, following an article in the Winter 2007 issue, from different regions as to which was the first to implement this as a duty for Specials.

3 One Special in Stokesley, North Yorkshire, recently topped 1,000 hours. Write in if you can top that.

TOP OF THE LEAGUE

The policing of football matches at Turf Moor, Burnley, Lancashire, relies heavily on our Special Constabulary colleagues, who contribute greatly to the policing operation as a whole. In the past this may have meant operating traffic points around the arterial routes to the ground, but now Specials are being deployed on operational units inside and outside the ground, as well as controlling the key strategic traffic point at the Wellington junction.

Pennine Division has an extremely active group of Special Constables whom we value greatly. While they are aligned to neighbourhood teams across the division, working closely with CBMs and PCSOs, the policing of football is an excellent opportunity to hone their skills in terms of policing potential disorder and allowing them to work in a multi-team environment. This provides stimulation and motivation, and for the division and the club represents a cost-effective and

JEFF BROWN CHIEF INSPECTOR
PENNINE DIVISION, LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY

integrated resourcing solution to the policing of football.

I can think of no more flexible group of people than those Special Constables who regularly police at Turf Moor. Many times over the past three years we have had intelligence at short notice that has required an increase in resourcing to prevent and deter disorder. Pennine Special Constables have risen to the challenge every time under the influence of Chris Collett and Special Sergeants. On behalf of myself and fellow Match Commanders, I would like to express our thanks.

Special Constables in Pennine Division are hard working and contribute significantly to our divisional policing through Neighbourhood Policing. This represented over 15,500 hours of work last year. They are also an integral part of our resourcing for football and other major events. We value this contribution and will continue to seek all opportunities to enhance and further develop their skills.

ASK THE EXPERT

JIM
WARNOCK...DIRECTOR
OPERATIONS FACULTY
AT THE CEOP CENTRE**QUESTION: Tell us about the CEOP Centre.**

JIM WARNOCK: The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre combines police powers with the dedicated expertise of business sectors, government, specialist charities and other interested organisations to tackle child sexual abuse wherever and whenever it happens. We work with parents, young people and children to safeguard their online experiences, provide direct support to victims and their families, and are relentless in the tracking and prosecution of offenders.

How can Specials working in local communities and in neighbourhood policing units help support the work of the CEOP?

JW All Specials can help support our work by helping children and young adults make sensible decisions about their online behaviour. Visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk and learn more about how children and young people are using the technology. If you are a parent, visit the 'purely for parents' section of the site, then sit down with your child and ask them to show you what they do online.

Specials can help as part of the community in raising awareness around the risks associated with the use of the internet. They can also train to become CEOP ambassadors, to gain an in-depth understanding of both how young people use the internet and mobile technology, and the way offenders use the online environment to groom young people. The ambassador's role is particularly applicable to Specials who work with children in a professional way other than through their law enforcement role. You can find more details by contacting enquiries@ceop.gov.uk.

Additionally, Specials provide valuable eyes and ears when it comes to tracking down our 'Most Wanted' sex offenders. They can register for regular updates at www.ceop.gov.uk/wanted which means that they will be informed as soon as we post the photograph of a registered sex offender who has gone missing from their registration

requirements. They can then go online and make sure that they know who to look out for at any given time.

What steps should a Special take if someone reports a suspected case?

JW They should deal with it in exactly the same way they would any other crime, by making an initial investigation to establish the facts as best they can. It's important to understand the environment the child or young adult has been in, to find out as much information as possible about it. It's also important to identify whether there might be evidence on the individual computer, and to make sure that evidence is identified and secured.

The nature of online child abuse means there will be a victim in front of you who will need care and reassurance. The Special Constable needs to make sure the victim reports the crime to their local station, who will need to do the initial investigation and, if appropriate, will contact CEOP. One important piece of advice for the victim is that they should wait to talk to the police officer before going back online both to preserve evidence and to avoid being vulnerable to further attack.

What advice can Specials offer to parents or those worried about such crimes?

JW The message to get across to everyone is that you should be careful with the information you share on the internet. Ask yourself: "is this the type of information I'd want to share with

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All Specials can help support our work by helping children make sensible decisions about their online behaviour

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a stranger?" If not, don't use it on a website. Another important point to get across is that no matter how difficult the circumstances, a child or young person can and should report the problem to a responsible adult or use the 'report abuse' function on the CEOP website.

What else can Specials do to support the work of the CEOP Centre and help to bring perpetrators of such crimes to justice?

JW The best help Specials can give us is to raise awareness and provide education; we have a very specialist and successful team doing the online police work tracking down online criminals, and what we need is more awareness of the dangers by potentially vulnerable children and young adults. We'd like Specials to take our training, and to provide the support young internet users need to avoid abuse and report it if it happens. ●

FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE VISIT www.ceop.gov.uk/

HOW TO...

HOW TO... DEAL WITH PROSTITUTION

The work to tackle and prevent the growth of both prostitution and human trafficking continues. Here we review the current law and basic procedures to follow when dealing with prostitution

IN their everyday duties Specials strive to make communities safer for all. One way officers do this is through dealing with prostitution. This is an “industry” involving the passing of funds, in one estimate of between £700 million and £1 billion annually.

Special Constables are well placed to submit intelligence from the areas in which they work. Through real and relevant interactions with members of the communities they serve, Specials may glean information – intelligence – that is vital to tackling prostitution. It may simply be that officers see known offenders or regularly see particular vehicles.

Regular officers, including those in specialist squads, will be assisted by a full and thorough flow of intelligence submissions about people and vehicles that have been spotted. Specials wouldn't usually be expected to make arrests for offences of prostitution, but colleagues working in squads will be greatly assisted through timely intelligence submission and targeted patrols of problem areas.

Communities should not have to tolerate any form of commercial sexual exploitation, whether this takes place on the streets, in a “massage parlour” or in a private residence. The view that as the “oldest profession” prostitution is here to stay needs to be challenged and offences need to be dealt with robustly.

Operation Pentameter concentrated on human trafficking – acknowledging that women who are trafficked often have their basic human rights removed and are often forced into prostitution. These two offences are therefore closely linked. Specials can act positively to assist in an overall reduction in both street prostitution and sexual exploitation.

THE SEXUAL OFFENCES ACTS

The latest of these was enacted in 2003, giving powers to officers to deal with prostitution

A prostitute is defined as someone who offers sexual services for reward

1 It is an offence for someone to cause or incite prostitution for gain. If the person offering sexual services was already involved with prostitution, the charge may be changed to that of controlling prostitution.

2 It is an offence for a common prostitute, whether male or female, to loiter in a street or a public place for the purpose of prostitution. A common prostitute is a person who has previously been convicted or cautioned for such conduct. It should be remembered that a girl under the age of 16 cannot lawfully consent to engage in sexual intercourse.

3 Kerb crawling is an offence. This is where a man solicits for prostitution from a motor vehicle while in a street, or a public place persistently, or in such circumstances as to be likely to cause annoyance to a woman or women. The offence can also be complete where the male is near a vehicle, or has just got out of the vehicle, and persistently solicits, causing annoyance.

4 An alternative offence, where no motor vehicle is involved, is committed when a person, in a street or public place, solicits a person or persons for the purposes of prostitution.

Arrests may be made for all of these offences, if the necessity test is met, under Section 24 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

Special Constables can improve the safety and quality of life of communities that are affected by prostitution, including those individuals who are directly involved in street sex markets. Specials need to be progressive in their approach towards tackling kerb crawling. In short, a proactive and intelligence-based approach to the policing of prostitution will reduce its effects of shattering people's lives and destroying community cohesion. ●



CHIEF OFFICER LORRAINE WOOLLEY

Lorraine Woolley is the Chief Officer in the Metropolitan Police Service. As a senior female officer, she feels she has been able to make a difference not only to the policing of her community, but also to other Specials

Lorraine, a self-employed business consultant, joined the Special Constabulary in 1970. She originally wanted to join the regular Police Service, but was held back by her poor eyesight. She says that her decision to join was prompted by witnessing an attack, when she was a young girl, on an elderly neighbour. "I was incensed about it, although I was too young to do anything," she says. "But I always remember the feeling of wanting to catch her attackers."

Shortly after joining the Specials, Lorraine moved to a section where there were other female officers as they had yet to be integrated with their male colleagues. Regular officers quickly found her knowledge and understanding of the Jewish faith invaluable. "At that time there was a degree of anti-Semitism in society and I was regularly called upon to visit the local synagogue because of my understanding of the faith and the culture," she says.

Lorraine has also been able to help out when issues have arisen with other Jewish officers. "Being a female Jewish officer does have an impact and as a senior officer it

means that I have been able to help others," she adds.

"My feeling is that we should be able to manage people from all backgrounds in the way in which they want to be managed. It shouldn't simply be a case of having to work when you're told to work.

"I'm currently looking at ways in which we can provide better welfare for Specials. We need to retain them. They bridge the gap between the community and the regular service. We ought to remember that 30 per cent of Specials in London come from a black, minority or ethnic background and 31 per cent are female. That is far higher than in the regular Service." ●

"I'm currently looking at ways in which we can provide better welfare for Specials. They bridge the gap between the community and the regular service"



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