

Dec 2010/Jan 2011

# update

Community Safety E-Newsletter



Happy New Year and welcome to the December 2010 / January 2011 edition of UPDATE, a monthly e-newsletter produced by RSSB, in support of the rail industry's efforts to address rail related community safety issues.

In this issue we take a look at a positive initiative from the Manchester CSPG working in partnership with their local community. We also hear about Northern Rails recent success at the Occupational Health and Safety Awards as well as some recent developments regarding metal theft within the industry.

UPDATE is a tool for promoting awareness of current initiatives and encouraging the adoption of good practice. If you have any stories to share about initiatives or events in your area, or would like to provide feedback on this issue, please contact: [community.safety@rssb.co.uk](mailto:community.safety@rssb.co.uk)

I hope you enjoy this issue of UPDATE.

Belinda Coleman, Editor.

## The Alternative School

Part of Network Rail's support to community safety involves providing a budget to each of the industry's Community Safety Partnership Groups (CSPG) to spend on activities or items which will help in the reduce the impact of community safety problems on the railway. Members of each CSPG decide how to spend their budget.

In 2009/10, the Manchester CSPG made a grant of £1,500 to The Alternative School (TAS).

TAS is based in Nelson, Lancashire and provides an alternative learning environment for young people who have not succeeded in a mainstream environment. Its learning methods are tuned to suit the needs of the individual but there is a big focus on outdoor activities including the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

With the funding awarded by the CSPG, TAS was able to form a football team – the TAS Devils. The CSPG funding provided a kit, football coaching and suitable footwear for the young people, many of whom had never experienced owning new footwear before. The team now play in a local league on a Friday evening and have included football coaching as an element of their education.

Kirsty-Ann Pugh, who founded TAS, visited the Manchester CSPG in December 2010 to say thank

you and to give an update on its activities. Gemma Duffy of Network Rail said 'Working with TAS has helped Network Rail to raise the awareness of rail crime and railway safety within a target area whilst also providing a positive activity for young people at the school to get involved in. We are pleased to be working with TAS and support the positive work that they do with young people in Lancashire.'



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## Two year sentence for cable thieves who cost the railway over £8million

Cable thieves who cost the rail industry more than £8.5million have been jailed for two years.

The two men, both 44, appeared at Liverpool Crown Court at the beginning of this month, having pleaded guilty to counts of cable theft and obstruction of engines and handling stolen goods. Between June and September 2009 the pair carried out a series of thefts at in the north-west.

These crimes caused major disruption to the railway between Liverpool and Warrington with each theft causing delays to either passenger or freight lines.

The cost to Network Rail to replace and repair almost thousands of metres of signalling and communications cable was an estimated £25,000. But each incident caused their own disruption, and in one case it took

more than 11 hours to locate the damage. This caused more than 7,000 minutes of delays and saw 170 cancellations and 49 part-cancellations with a staggering cost to the industry of almost £8.5million.

Detective Inspector Andrea Rainey, head of BTP NW Proactive Policing Team, said: "There is no doubt that the thieves caused massive issues for the railway during their four-month spree and today's sentence reflects the misery they cause for countless passengers.

"The sentence should also send a clear message to others intent on carrying out similar thefts that this activity will not be tolerated and BTP and the court service take a dim view of anyone who creates similar issues for the railway."

## Northern wins Best Health and Safety Achievement in Transport and Logistics award

Late last year saw one of the top Institute of Occupational Safety and Health Awards presented to Northern for their work on the Schools Charter. The concept has had a hugely beneficial impact on anti-social behaviour of school children using their services.

The Best Health and Safety Achievement in Transport and Logistics, was Northern Rail's first attempt at entering these prestigious awards.

The School's Charter was developed in response to the fact that the majority of problematic behaviour on its lines was caused by youngsters using its services to travel to and from school.

Contact was made with schools on Northern Rail's network to develop long-term solutions and involved representatives of Northern Rail, BTP, Knutsford High School and RMT.

The Charter contained contracts, various instructions and guidelines for managing children's behaviour. To aid the process, schools were encouraged to appoint 10 students, across the age range, as rail safety stewards to monitor their peer groups and to act as eyes and ears, to report back anti-social behaviour. Information was shared with all agencies involved in the scheme.

Before the scheme was fully operational, Northern Rail staff at Knutsford station in Cheshire recorded

40 incidents a month involving school students. Throughout the school year this has steadily decreased and, in March 2010, just 17 incidents were recorded. Furthermore, there was a 75 per-cent increase in uptake of season tickets at Knutsford High School, representing almost £35,000 in additional revenue.

Work continues on the School's Charter and Community Safety Manager, David Wilkinson, has followed up a series of meeting requests regarding schools that show keen interest in signing into the School's Charter. These include Glossopdale High School and St. Philip Howard School in Glossop, Honley High School in Huddersfield, and Turton Media Arts College in Bolton. Various rail safety messages have been supplied to each school including PHSE and Citizenship Lesson plans and a copy of the Northern Rail Infomercial was left for the benefit of the schools' communal viewing areas to promote safe rail travel and aid the reduction of anti-social behaviour on the railways.

The judges noted that the Charter was a 'very effective way of using health and safety to manage a social problem, as well as improving the safety and health of workers in the organisations involved – schools, teachers, pupils, rail operators'.

## British Transport Police call for volunteers to make a difference in Cardiff

British Transport Police (BTP) now has its Community Volunteer Scheme up and running in Cardiff and is looking for volunteers to donate their time, and support BTP in their area.

Inspector Gary Ash, the officer in charge of the scheme in Cardiff, said: "We hope volunteers from across the community will bring their specialist skills, local knowledge and, most importantly, a commitment of time to support their community's officers and police staff."

Volunteers will be based at BTP's Cardiff police station, Callaghan Square, opposite the back entrance of Cardiff Central rail station. The station is the base for both uniformed police officers and detectives, who police railway stations throughout Wales. In addition, there are police staff working at the station, who are responsible for viewing CCTV, taking statements and intelligence.

Inspector Ash added: "We want to offer a flexible and enjoyable volunteering opportunity that is mutually beneficial. One where our volunteers are able to draw upon their skills and experiences from outside the police force, which in turn enriches and improves the service we deliver both as a national organisation and as a presence within our local communities.

"Of course, as well as community volunteers, BTP is always looking to recruit Special Constables as well. Specials are an important part of our Force and perform a full range of policing duties, from policing planned events to supporting our officers."

Budding volunteers can contact **Hannah Watson, National Community Volunteer Scheme Manager**, on **020 7904 3623** and more information about becoming a Special Constable with BTP can be found at **[www.btprecruitment.com](http://www.btprecruitment.com)**.

## PACT – a review by Alan Davies, RSSB

One hundred people came out on the worst snow filled night of the year to a converted warehouse in Barking to see the world premier of PACT, by playwright, Clifford Oliver. I'm not sure they knew what to expect. All I knew was that the play was commissioned and part funded by the British Transport Police.

The premise of the story was that you don't snitch – we all know the rules and we all know the consequences. But what if your whole future is at stake? What if an innocent person will go to jail? What if that person is your best friend?

Ethan was a student, home from university. He witnessed a murder and escaped from pursuing police by running along a railway line. He was arrested for trespass and questioned about the murder. He knew the guilty person was a drug dealer who would know if he snitched and threatened him and his family.

But the only person the police had in the frame was Ethan's best friend, who Ethan knew was innocent. At what point should he tell the truth? A common moral dilemma, though not always at such a dramatic level.

This all turns on the legal principle of Joint Enterprise, which means that if you know what is happening and do nothing to try to stop it you can be just as guilty as the perpetrator. This allows several people to be charged with a crime where they are not the primary offenders. Teenagers are being convicted of offences they watched happen but did not participate in.

PACT follows Arc Theatre's previous production, Boy X,

which also features themes of stabbings, violent crime and gang culture and racial tension.

This was a powerful performance, in which the older Ethan acted like Banquo's ghost, as a conscience to his younger self, going through this emotional turmoil and encouraging him to "do the right thing".

The question was left unanswered as to what Ethan finally chose to do. Then after the performance there was a discussion involving the audience and a panel consisting of the actors, writer and police officers. This was led by Assistant Chief Constable Alan Pacey and Chief Inspector Tom Naughton, of the BTP. The conclusion was that the police must gain the trust and respect of young people if they are to break down the culture of silence. But this is a two way street. The police must also trust and respect the people in the communities they serve. There must be greater engagement between communities and police.

This production by Arc Theatre, supported by the territorial police teams of BTP, is designed to help that process. Arc Theatre specializes in creating and performing theatre that challenges assumptions and causes real change in the way people relate to one another in work, school and the community. There are teacher resource notes to accompany the play and it will be performed with the discussion and workshop at schools in Barking and Dagenham.



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## Campaign to stop thieves on the line



Network Rail is to step up its campaign to beat cable thieves by introducing SmartWater forensic spray devices in the North West and West Midlands areas, which has become a hotspot for theft from the railway.

Smartwater is a non-hazardous device that once activated, will douse offenders in a chemically coded liquid, which will cover their skin, clothing and hair. This can be used to link them back to a particular crime scene, long after the offence has taken place. Any traces of SmartWater can be detected using UV lights, which are regularly used by the police.

Simon Whitehorn, Network Rail's area general manager, said: "In the last 18 months in the Nuneaton area alone there have been 28 cable theft incidents, delaying trains by 21,000 minutes and causing numerous cancellations.

"Companies that transport goods by train are being deterred from using the rail network and we run the risk that they may put more lorries on already overcrowded roads.

"As well as the inconvenience to passengers and freight customers, cable theft has cost the company over £35m in compensation and damage repairs since 2006. That is effectively wasted money that would be better spent improving and enhancing the railways for

the benefit of everyone."

Every mile of track in Nuneaton will be given its own unique chemical code and logged on GPS trackers, so if stolen it can be traced back to its point of origin. Even if thieves attempt to burn the liquid off the cable, traces will still remain. They also risk inadvertently spreading more forensic evidence onto tools and vehicles used to cut and transport stolen cable.

Earlier this year SmartWater was deployed along an isolated hotspot area of track in the West Midlands and it is also used on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. In those areas there have been no further cable thefts. Signs to warn thieves about this initiative have now been positioned on trackside fencing across Nuneaton to deter anyone from trespassing onto the rail line.

Police will be stepping up visits to scrap dealers in the area to search for any stolen cable. Detective Inspector Robin Conway, of British Transport Police, said: "Part of this work will now involve educating the dealers about SmartWater and we will be urging all dealers in the area to scan all metal coming into their premises with a u/v light to check for telltale traces of the luminous liquid."

"In recent weeks BTP has called for new legislation to help tackle those dealers who persist in buying stolen metals. We would like powers which would allow senior police officers to close down scrap metal dealers who fail to abide by industry standard working practices."

[www.networkrail.co.uk](http://www.networkrail.co.uk)

## News in brief

### **First Capital Connect and Hertfordshire County Council Sign Quality Rail Partnership**

First Capital Connect and Hertfordshire County Council last week signed a Quality Rail Partnership, which will strengthen the working relationship between the two organisations and generate more quality rail improvements at FCC stations throughout Hertfordshire.

The agreement was signed at a ceremony at the Hornsey Rail Depot by Neal Lawson, FCC's Managing Director, and Councillor Stuart Pile, Hertfordshire

County Council's Executive Member for Highways and Transport.

Match funding from Hertfordshire County Council has helped FCC to deliver major projects, focused on better integration of public transport at stations.

<http://www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk/about-us/media-centre/news/2010/first-capital-connect-and-hertfordshire-county-council-sign-quality-rail-partnership>

## Overseas news.

### Australian Railways push rail safe message



Queensland Rail teams are urging Ipswich school students and community members to keep rail safety in mind this holiday season.

The call comes after data revealed more than 200 near-miss incidents involving pedestrians at level crossings on the city network in the past year. One-fifth of these incidents took place over the Christmas/New Year holidays.

Queensland Rail security and community engagement general manager Drew Brock said Christmas was

a time to spend with family and friends and urged everyone to take care, particularly when crossing train tracks.

“Rail safety is everyone’s responsibility and while Queensland Rail is doing its part, all community members must also do theirs,” he said.

As part of the rail safety blitz, 40 Queensland Rail stations – selected due to their high volume of customers during peak times – were targeted over a 15-day period leading up to the end of the school term on December 9.

The remaining 104 stations in the city network were integrated into stage two of the safety campaign, which runs from December 10 to late January.

Mr Brock said the blitz involved staff actively promoting rail safety to customers at stations and on trains, as well as RailSmart presentations to schools and advertising at stations.

**For more information visit [www.railsmart.com.au](http://www.railsmart.com.au)**

## Future events:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
Foundation to Community Safety: Training course	<i>Weds 16th &amp; Thurs 17th February 2011</i> <i>Weds 16th &amp; Thurs 17th March 2011</i>	To book places onto these events, please email <a href="mailto:neighbourhoodjournal@googlemail.com">neighbourhoodjournal@googlemail.com</a>
Evaluation Training for Neighbourhood Renewal, Community Safety and Sustainable Communities Programmes	<i>Belfast - 16 March 2011</i>	To book places onto these events, please email <a href="mailto:neighbourhoodjournal@googlemail.com">neighbourhoodjournal@googlemail.com</a>
Introduction to Community Safety: Training Course	<i>Wednesday 23rd March 2011</i>	<b>More info:</b> <a href="http://www.community-safety.net/main-community-safety--crime-and-disorder-training.htm">http://www.community-safety.net/main-community-safety--crime-and-disorder-training.htm</a>

## Community Safety Resource Centre

**\*\*\*NEW! Material available to download\*\*\***

Since last month some changes have been made to the Community Safety Resource Centre website. Please visit the home page: [www.railcommunitysafety.com](http://www.railcommunitysafety.com) and see the new information listed under the announcements section.

From this page, you can:

- Check out Northern’s rail safety infomercial
- Access Rail Personal Security Group presentations from the July meeting
- View the Rail Personal Security Group achievements since 2003
- Review the updated statistics for Trespass, Suicide and Assaults
- View 2010 -11 meeting dates and minutes for key industry groups

**National Railway Crime Hotline**

**0800 40 50 40**