

March/April 2011

update

Community Safety E-Newsletter

Welcome to the March/April 2011 edition of UPDATE, an e-newsletter produced by RSSB, in support of the rail industry's efforts to address rail related community safety issues.

In this issue we look at a new initiative from Northern and hear about the successful launch of BTP and Network Rail's new Camera Partnership Vans. We also hear about some recent cable theft sentencing and the latest No Messin' event.

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

I hope you enjoy this issue of UPDATE.

Belinda Coleman, Editor.

Camera Partnerships vans launched in South London



Cutting-edge camera technology has been introduced as part of a region-wide pilot by Network Rail and the British Transport Police (BTP) to improve safety and reduce disruption at level crossings for motorists and train passengers in Kent and Sussex.

Network Rail has funded a purpose-built marked police van to be fitted with nine cameras, each of which can use number plate recognition technology to help deter motorists from breaking the law. One of the cameras is attached to a pole which extends up to ten metres into the air, enabling the van to operate without being right next to the level crossing – particularly important when space is constrained. The van, which is operated by BTP officers, also has access to all the systems required to process prosecutions instantly.

Level crossing misuse remains a big issue for the railway, with daily reports of motorists putting lives at

risk, causing major delays for passengers and other motorists and imposing unnecessary costs to the industry thousands of pounds. The new mobile camera technology has been introduced to try and change motorist behaviour and deter them from jumping lights and swerving around barriers and gates.

Ellie Reilly, community safety manager at Network Rail, said: "It's in everybody's interests to reduce disruption at level crossings. Many people who misuse level crossings know it is wrong and that they are taking a risk, but that doesn't seem to stop them. They think it is a victimless crime, but even if they don't actually damage the crossing, it frequently results in delays to passengers and motorists. The best situation for everyone is that nobody misuses the level crossings and therefore there are no prosecutions. The introduction of the camera vehicle will help deter bad behaviour and misuse."

She added: "This is a good example of how Network Rail is investing in the latest technology to deliver a more cost effective and reliable railway."

Superintendent Alistair Lawson from the BTP said: "We have a good safety record in comparison to most other countries but misuse of crossing persists, despite our best efforts, and even one death is one too many. Jumping the lights and ignoring warning



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signs is still sadly a sight we see all too often. Level crossings are safe, but if misused, they pose very real risks.

“Today’s launch gives us another opportunity to drive home the message that running the risk at a level crossing is just not worth it. By trying to save a few seconds, you could end up seriously hurt or losing your life.”

The enforcement vehicle operates at level crossings across Kent, Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire on any day of the week. During its first two weeks of operation, 86 people were prosecuted for misuse. Motorists jumping the red lights accounted for 72 of the offences and pedestrians crossing after the lights and barrier sequence had started accounted for the remaining 14.

Newport boxing club and Amir Khan help Network Rail celebrate big hit to railway crime

Young boxers from St. Joseph boxing club, Newport punched their way to success this weekend at the inaugural No Messin’ Tri-nation boxing competition, organised by Network Rail and supported by the world’s light welter weight champion Amir Khan.



More than 500 people from the rail industry, sporting world and youth community sector gathered at the De Vere Hotel at the Reebok Stadium in Bolton in early January to celebrate knocking down railway crime and providing positive activities for young people. Boxers from the five clubs across Britain which Network Rail supports competed in 12 bouts of three 90-second rounds.

The club’s Jerry Connors, managed to punch home a defeat against Lewis Gorman from Everton, both aged 11, to bring victory to Newport. Unfortunately a clear sweep across the score board wasn’t on the menu for St. Joseph’s, 15 year old John James sadly lost out to Morgan Jackson from Gloves Community Gym, Bolton, home to world boxing champion, Amir Khan. All of the boxers were rewarded with trophies for their efforts.

Network Rail teamed up with St. Joseph boxing club towards the end of 2009 to help combat railway crime in Newport, a top hotspot in south Wales. The club received a £10k funding boost from Network Rail to get more young people to take up new sporting skills and away from the temptation of misbehaving on the railway. The initiative came off the back of Network

Rail’s successful No Messin’ campaign, which aims to drive down the number of rail crimes committed by young people.

Amongst the guests were ex-champion boxer Michael Gomez, Welshman Sean McGoldrick, silver medallist at the 2010 Commonwealth Games, and ex-professional footballer (Bolton Wanderers, Southampton and Wigan Athletic) David Lee.

Commenting on the event, Amir Khan said: “It’s great to see so many kids putting their energies into something positive and coming together to compete in this fantastic new competition. Instead of hanging around the streets or mucking about on the railway, they learn a fun, disciplined sport which keeps them fit and out of trouble.

“Well done to all the lads who fought and I hope this event has helped remind them that this is where they want to be, not getting into trouble, or worse, getting hurt or even killed by messing around on the tracks.”

Martin Gallagher, head of community safety at Network Rail said: “Our partnerships with St. Joseph’s and the other clubs has helped us to raise awareness and spread really important safety messages to young people about the dangers of messing about on the railway, and we’ve seen a significant reduction in railway crime.

“This competition is a celebration of how working in partnership with community groups can deliver real benefits for everyone – most of all the young people who are enjoying the sport and learning a great skill in a safe environment.”

He added: “Railway crime is incredibly dangerous but can also cause massive disruption and cost to the industry. By reducing crime, we can focus investment in improving passenger services and a better railway on which Britain relies.”

Student's film script to educate rail travellers

University of Central Lancashire third year student Graham Windle has written a script for a short rail safety film. Northern Rail has brought the script to life by making the film to be shown on television and in schools, hospitals, department stores and libraries in the North of England.

Graham was given the opportunity after the company approached UCLan with a brief for the film to raise awareness of the dangers of playing near rail tracks.



David Wilkinson, Community Safety Manager for Northern Rail, commented: "UCLan was an obvious choice for us to tap into a creative resource and the quality of the scripts we were given was amazing. What Graham presented to us was professional, snappy and importantly was appropriate for a wide target audience."

Graham was rewarded for his efforts with a commemorative plaque and a free 12 month rail pass

at a presentation held in UCLan's Media Factory building. Graham came to UCLan as a mature student after a career in electronics and said that having his work chosen for the film had really boosted his confidence.

"If this film raises awareness and saves even one life it will make a massive difference. It's great to see my work brought to life and I really like how Northern Rail has adapted my idea" he said.

Two other scripts submitted by UCLan students



to Northern Rail were also commended by David Wilkinson at the presentation. The Head of the School of Journalism, Media and Communication, Mike Ward, commented: "To be able to work so closely with industry shows the value of higher education and it's fantastic that our students' work is being used professionally."

A video of Graham's work can be seen at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_9FWFoOdD1Y&feature=player_embedded

Comprehensive sentence for level crossing barrier smash

A man who crashed through a level crossing barrier near Raynes Park station has been given a six-month suspended prison sentence and disqualified from driving for four years.

Twenty-five year old, David Morley had already pleading guilty to dangerous driving and failing to report a road traffic collision at an earlier hearing. He will also pay over £4200 compensation to Network Rail for the damage and delays caused, as well as £500 court costs. This is alongside a six-month curfew, requiring him to remain at home between 9pm and 7am and an order to carry out 250 hours' unpaid work.

A court heard the incident took place around 09.20 hours on 26 August 2010 as Morley approached the level crossing on West Barnes Lane in a Ford Transit van. Despite the warning lights flashing and siren sounding, Morley drove through the crossing, causing

the barrier to become entangled with his vehicle's roof rack. The collision tore the barrier from its mountings and it was left laying on the track. This was all just thirty seconds before a train was due to go through the crossing. It caused £4,000 damage and cost Network Rail £6,000 in train delays.

The van driver continued through the crossing and stopped around 100 metres down the road to inspect the damage to his vehicle before driving away.

British Transport Police subsequently identified the driver and arrested him, following witness reports.

PC Chris Shepherd, the investigating officer, said: "I would like to pass my thanks to the eagle-eyed member of the public who witnessed and reported the incident, as it was with their help that we were able to identify Morley as being responsible. Morley's actions were reckless and dangerous."

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Newark cable thieves jailed for a total of six years in Nottingham

Two men who admitted stealing 25 metres of railway cable from a line side location in Newark, have been jailed for a total 6 years, following an investigation by British Transport Police (BTP).

The thieves were caught when BTP were informed of a signal failure in the Crankley Point area of Newark on the Nottingham to Lincoln line at around 14:00 on 8 October 2010. A previous theft had also occurred in the same area earlier in the day.

Officers immediately attended the scene and conducted an area search with the assistance of a police helicopter. The men were tracked down by police dogs, and arrested on a track some distance away from the scene. Evidence including tools were also recovered from the scene.

The theft caused 36 trains to be fully or partially cancelled and 115 trains delayed totaling over 1647 minutes (27hours) to travelling passengers. Costs to the industry in repairs and delays totaled over £75,000.

Acting Detective Inspector Granville Sellers, who is heading BTP's attack on cable thieves in the region,

said: "We are utilising a whole range of tactics to tackle metal and cable theft across the region.

"We will continue to carry out high profile patrols at known areas of cable theft activity across the area, as well as scrap yards which are a key role in tracking taken cable."

Richard Lungmuss, London North Eastern route director for Network Rail, added: "Attacks like these on the essential rail services upon which people and businesses rely are not acceptable. Because of the location of these particular crimes many hundreds of rail passengers on the route between Lincolnshire and Nottingham were inconvenienced. In all 115 trains were affected. It also cost the industry huge amounts through compensation payments and replacement costs – money which we cannot then spend on improving the network. I am pleased this is being taken seriously by the BTP and the courts.

"We are already carrying out considerable work to help catch thieves and to respond to incidents quickly in order to minimise delay.

News in brief

Area launches new team to patrol around Oxford

A new British Transport Police (BTP) patrol team for the line of route and stations in the Oxford area was unveiled in January. Members of the public were given the opportunity to meet the team alongside Area Commander, Chief Superintendent Mark Smith, FGW's Director of Communications Sue Evans and Nicola Blackwood, MP for Oxford West & Abingdon.

Chief Supt Smith said: "I'm pleased that the Oxford team is now established and the new office will act as a base for the team to continue protecting and serving passengers and staff, as well as working closely with the rail industry to make the network as safe as possible."

FGW Director of Communications, Sue Evans, said: "With an annual footfall of 5.2 million, Oxford is one of our busiest stations and we worked hard to get a dedicated BTP team for the area. We're delighted to be able to accommodate the BTP officers at Oxford Station, and will continue to work together to provide a secure environment for our customers."

Spit kit helps to arrest a man for an offence committed in 2004

A 20-YEAR-old man has been charged with allegedly spitting on a train driver in Inverclyde nearly seven years ago.

British Transport Police officers arrested and charged

the man who was 14-years-old at the time of the incident in July 2004.

The incident took place as the 17.15 hours Glasgow Central to Wemyss Bay service left Port Glasgow Station. Swabs were taken from the driver at the time and sent for analysis. A DNA 'hit' recently provided the name of a suspect.

The man is expected to appear at Greenock Sheriff Court in due course.

Rail Community Safety Forum 2011 a success

The 2011 Railway Community Safety Forum (RCSF) was held recently at the RSSB offices in Angel. Hosted by RSSB and organised by the Community Safety Communications Group (CSCG) each year the RCSF seeks to promote good practice and current initiatives within Railway Community Safety.

This years event was well received saw a broad coverage of all areas of Community Safety and explored some excellent initiatives that have been recently implemented by train operators.

The event also saw a sneak preview of the soon-to-be-released SWeRve II DVD.

To view materials from the day, visit the Community Safety Resource Centre (you will need to register as a user first).

www.railcommunitysafety.com

Community Safety Resource Centre

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Overseas news.

Policeman in rail leap to save boy

Italian railways were the scene of police heroics last month, when a boy was rescued after falling on to the tracks.

An off-duty policeman jumped from a railway platform to rescue a boy who had fallen while playing a video game. Alessandro Micalizzi rescued the ten-year-old, who had been distracted by his Sony PSP.

'I just had a few seconds because he had got off a train and mine was due less than a minute later so I acted as quickly as I could, making sure not to touch the rails,' he said.

Passengers in Loreto, Milan, cheered as Micalizzi got back on the platform with the unharmed boy.

The 23-year-old said: 'It was only afterwards when I heard the other passengers clapping and cheering that I stopped and thought about what I had done and my heart was in my throat.'

'That was the only time I thought of the danger otherwise I was just focusing on the boy and trying to save him before the train came into the station.'

The policeman said he had 'reacted with instinct' when he saved the boy, who was left crying and shocked.

Mr Micalizzi added: 'He was completely lost in his game and wasn't looking where he was going.'

Read more: <http://www.metro.co.uk/news/854587-policeman-in-rail-leap-to-save-boy#ixzz1EKT8S1mc>

Future events:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
Train the Manager	5- 6 April 2011 London (booking closes 3 March) 5-6 July 2011, Birmingham 14-15 November 2011, Glasgow	For more information or to book a place go to http://www.suzylamplugh.org/training/trainthemanager/dates/

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 and see the new information listed under the announcements section.

From this page, you can:

- View presentations from the recent Annual Railway Community Safety Forum
- 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 group

National Railway Crime Hotline
0800 40 50 40

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