

Welcome to the August 2008 edition of UPDATE, a monthly e-newsletter produced by Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB), in support of the rail industry's efforts to address rail related community safety issues.

This month's issue includes Hull Trains' recent charity event, children using art to drive home rail safety message and a project demonstrating youngsters' faith in railways.

We also highlight some initiatives that train operating companies and British Transport Police are undertaking to tackle community safety issues such as fare evasion and anti-social behaviour.

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 or **020 7904 7674**

I hope you enjoy this issue of UPDATE.

Marina Kilcoyne, Editor.

Project shows youngsters' faith in railway station



Five young people from a Cardiff church have helped transform the appearance of their local station by taking part in a community enhancement project supported by Arriva Trains Wales.

The youngsters aged 14 to 17, who attend St Denys Church in Lisvane, volunteered their spare time to spend six evenings with staff painting at Lisvane and Thornhill station.

In 2005, the station was adopted by Lisvane Community Council and the nearby Cottage Public House as part of Arriva's 'Adopt a Station' campaign.

Since its launch in 2004, more than 160 stations have been adopted across the Arriva Trains Wales network.

With maintenance and cleaning undertaken by the train company, adoption allows individuals or groups from communities with unstaffed stations to help with keeping their station in the best possible condition.

Youth Worker Struan McRoberts, said: "Our young people are doing projects this year that allow them to be a resource to the local community. They have very much enjoyed being part of the project. As well as the inherent satisfaction of making the place look tidier, they also enjoyed dressing up in CSI-style suits!"

He continued: "Young people have every right to take pride in their community. Part of doing that is to pitch in and help with the jobs that need doing. In a society where young people often take criticism, it is also of great motivation to them to be involved in such a positive action - and to be recognised for the good work they have been involved in."

The project at the station forms part of a new initiative, led by the church, which focuses on community action. During the summer holidays, some of the youngsters will also be travelling to the North of Scotland to help run some Children's Holiday Clubs.

Geraint Morgan, community affairs manager for Arriva Trains Wales, said: "These initiatives are about giving young people an opportunity to take part in activities that allow them to make a difference and contribute in a positive way within their neighbourhood. The standard of work was excellent and the skills learned while working as part of a team will stand them in good stead for the future."

In recognition of their contribution, project participants have been given an opportunity to claim a complimentary ticket anywhere on the Arriva Trains Wales network.

For more information, please visit: www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk

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Children use art to drive home rail safety message

Pupils from a school in Berwick Upon Tweed have been using their artistic skills to convey railway safety messages.

Year 8 pupils (12 and 13 year-olds) from Tweedmouth Community Middle School have designed stained glass plaques around the theme of rail safety as part of a project funded by British Transport Police, Network Rail, National Express and the Berwick Dickensian Market Fund.



It is hoped that the plaques will be displayed at Berwick railway Station.

The pupils recently presented the plaques to the British Transport Police North Eastern Area Commander Supt Terry Nicholson and representatives from Network Rail and National Express, at their school in Billendean Terrace, Spittal, Berwick.

Mrs Sabina Maule, a Year 8 teacher at the school, has also been visiting local primary schools to tell them about the project, teach them about rail safety and show them some of the stained glass artwork her pupils have made.

She said: "I hope that through this project local school pupils have learnt a valuable rail safety lesson."

Supt Nicholson said: "We are delighted that the pupils of Tweedmouth Community Middle School have embraced the rail safety theme and shown their support for it."

"During the school holidays we traditionally see an increase in offences on the railway across the UK. We are hoping that by targeting hot spot areas and through the education work we have already done, we will reduce the number of incidents and deter the majority of youngsters from committing any route crime offences."

Warrick Dent, area general manager for Network Rail, added: "This is a great example of the partnership working between Network Rail and the British Transport Police. Our team of rail crime education managers will continue to work with the BTP and local communities to spread this vital message."

For more information, please visit: www.btp.presscentre.com/

Hull Trains host charity event



A train operating company has bolstered its support for worthy charities involved in a range of community safety areas - including Samaritans and NSPCC. First Hull Trains recently donated a total of £10,000 to ten charities at an event held at the Holiday Inn Marina in Hull.

The award-winning train operator was presented with the money by First Group in recognition of its safety achievements in 2006 and 2007. First Hull Trains then asked their staff for suggestions of charities they were particularly passionate about. Ten charities were put forward, who each received £1,000. A representative from each charity attended the event and was presented with a cheque by the First Hull Trains member of staff who originally nominated them.

David Townend, First Hull Trains' sales and marketing manager said: "We take safety very seriously at First Hull Trains and we were absolutely delighted to win the award and to receive recognition for our hard work."

Collecting the money on behalf of the Samaritans, Alison Kent said: "We would like to thank First Hull Trains for their kind donation. This money will help us continue to provide an invaluable service and help people in need."

For more information, please visit: www.hulltrains.net

Kids record podcasts to promote rail safety

British Transport Police have joined up with Rock FM's Cash for Kids charity to promote railway safety to young people in Rochdale.

Rock FM's media bus is touring schools in areas where BTP have received reports of route crime incidents, such as trespassing youths and anti-social behaviour on the railway.

Pupils at the schools are being asked to create an advert or podcast about the dangers associated with trespassing and committing crimes on the railway. The Rock FM Bus Team will then select the best two groups of each day and their work will be featured on the radio station's website, alongside photographs and a write up of the day's activities.

Clare Chadwick, spokesperson for Cash for Kids said: "Too many children have no idea about the dangers of playing and walking on rail lines. We are proud to be working in conjunction with the British Transport Police to make a positive difference to the attitudes of children who live or go to school near a railway."

For more information, please visit: www.rochdaleonline.co.uk

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Southminster Station Renaissance



Passengers and staff alike will benefit from improved perceptions of safety and comfort following rejuvenation of National Express East Anglia's Southminster station. The work has included redecoration, installation of new signage and the creation of a beautiful garden.

The redecoration work has been undertaken over a number of weeks by both contractors and in-house National Express East Anglia staff. Firstly the doors, windows and light columns were decorated. Next the platform was decorated by Norman Christianson of

National Express East Anglia. Norman also took the time to clean the mural, making the colours look more vibrant than they have for sometime.

Grace Stevens Community Rail Partnership Officer for Essex and South Suffolk said:

"It is Norman's speed and care for detail that make such a difference. He understands the pride we have for our stations and he shares that pride."



The station is now a more welcoming environment for customers, who can enjoy the mural in all its former glory. New, smart signage has also been installed at the station to add the finishing touch to the improvements.

In addition, Southminster station has also benefitted from the attentions of a willing band of volunteers, who are particularly keen gardeners. The sustainable dry garden they have created includes Blue Juniper, Pyracantha, Cotoneaster, Cordyline, and Euonymus.

Speaking of the co-operation which has brought about the improvements to the station Grace went on to say: 'We are one team, one partnership. Our volunteers are working together with the partnership at National Express East Anglia to get things done to keep the stations looking good.'

Lynda Stone National Express East Anglia's Group Station Manager for the Southend and Metro Route commented:

"The improvements at Southminster station are a testament to the skill, dedication and co-operation of our staff, volunteers and contractors. I am really grateful for their efforts. Working together, the station is looking brighter and better than ever before. The station environment has really been enhanced for our customers."

For more information, please visit: www.nationalexpresseastanglia.com

Police radio link boosts security on Southeastern trains



In a 'first' for improved security on Britain's railways, British Transport Police (BTP) and Southeastern's Railway Enforcement Officers (REOs) can now contact one another immediately should the need arise, thanks to shared access to the police radio network.

Whereas BTP is responsible for overall policing of the railways, Southeastern's REOs are trained and accredited by BTP to carry out high-profile patrols, to deter and deal with fare evasion and anti-social behaviour on trains and stations, and to provide a reassuring presence for passengers.

There are now 60 REOs deployed across the Southeastern network, and since they were introduced in November 2005 they have boosted security and helped to cut crime by working closely with BTP officers.

Until now, liaison between them has been by mobile phone or landline, but the two-way radios will significantly enhance response times and eliminate poor reception.

Calls for emergency help, reports of suspicious vehicles, persons or packages; assaults and crimes being committed can be made instantly.

And joint operations between BTP and REOs, often acting on intelligence to tackle specific problems, are now much easier to action.

Southeastern's radio control will be centrally run from its CCTV suite in central London, so that again details of suspicious incidents can be swiftly communicated to officers nearby.

The protocol for operating the system was signed off recently, at BTP headquarters in Camden Road, London, when Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Alan Pacey and London South Area Commander Chief Superintendent Steve Morgan were joined by Southeastern's Head of Crime and Security, Paul Nicholas, and several REOs for the ceremony.

ACC Pacey added: "My hope is that this will build upon the already well established links between BTP and Southeastern with the possibility of a similar protocol with other rail industry partners."

For more information, please visit: www.btp.presscentre.com/

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Law Commission announces level crossing law reform



The Law Commission and Scottish Law Commission have recently started work on a joint project to review the law on level crossings in Great Britain, as part of its tenth programme of law reform. An advisory group has been convened to assist the Commissions.

Following the Ufton Noret accident in 2004, a working party was set up as part of the National Level Crossing Safety Group, facilitated by RSSB and including Network Rail, who conducted an in-depth review which covered legislation, risk management, land use planning, motorist driver training and testing, removal of crossings and a review of previous reports.

Just as the working party concluded in 2006, the Road-Rail Interface Safety Group (R-RIS, the new name for the National Level Crossing Safety Group which has an expanded remit) considers that the law regulating the use, safety requirements, closure and other aspects of railway level crossings is antiquated and fragmented – much of it being in nineteenth century private legislation. In some cases legislation for individual level crossings goes back to the original acts allowing the railways to be built. Where railways were built across owned land, rights to cross the railway were often granted to landowners in perpetuity. The process for modernising public level crossings is unduly restrictive and long, the means by which rights of way can be diverted or extinguished are over-complex, and the impact of later legislation such as environmental and disability regulations is not always clear.

Some of the legislation has been partially repealed and it is difficult to identify what is still applicable and there are inconsistencies between different crossings. The legislation does not reflect modern terminology and technology, containing, as it does, reference to outdated terms such as ‘turnpike roads’ which were abolished in 1878 and ‘public carriage roads’ and written, as much of it was, several decades before the motor car was developed. This is unhelpful when trying to interpret the legislation. A review of the law would make this easier. It would also have the benefit of easing road congestion and allow better traffic flow.



The Law Commissions’ project represents an important part of the realisation of the RSSB working party’s work, and will undertake a general review of the law with a view to providing a modern, accessible and balanced legal structure for their regulation.

R-RIS would like the Commissions’ review to consider the following issues at level crossings:

- Simplifying the law
- Clarifying responsibilities and accountabilities of users, particularly authorised users at private crossings
- Easier and more effective enforcement for abuse by the public, including fixed penalties
- Certification/testing for driving farm vehicles
- Simplifying the process for making changes to layout or signage, upgrading or closure
- Right to roam legislation, clarity required, recognising the primacy of the railway at level crossings and rights and responsibilities of individuals
- A need improved impact statements and consultation on planning applications for development (use of S106 agreements with developers) or change of use (opportunity for closure of crossing) where use of a crossing would change materially
- A need for an obligatory duty of cooperation between highway authority and rail infrastructure manager (Network Rail). (There are currently about 20 Road-Rail partnership meetings set up around the country, where Network Rail meets local authority highways and in some cases planning authorities. More are being set up.)
- The law should make it easier to incorporate new technology
- The law should be fit for purpose and “future proof” bearing in mind the likely increase in rail traffic, road traffic and pedestrians (leisure) in the coming decades
- Consideration of risk and management should be a joint operation between road and rail authorities. Increases in permitted road vehicle weight, while train technology is leading to lighter locomotives, is changing the balance of risk

For more information, please email: alan.davies@rssb.co.uk

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Sandwell commuters get enhanced park and ride facility



Sandwell rail users' new, larger park-and-ride car park incorporates CCTV cameras and Help Points linked to the Network Safety and Security Centre. The car park opened recently in Tipton as part of the massive £22 million Owen Street underpass development.

Sandwell Council and Centro, the West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority, collaborated to build the new, free car park that will serve Tipton rail station.

All of Centro's 53 heavy rail park-and-ride car parks, including the existing site at Tipton, have been awarded the coveted Safer Parking Park Mark Award due to their low crime and high safety standards.

For more information, please visit: centro.journalistpresslounge.com

News in Brief



Railway Museum will be new youth centre - Workers have begun the transformation of Swindon's old Railway Museum into a centre for the young people of the town. The Grade II listed building on Faringdon Road is being converted into a cafe, radio station and youth centre. Organisers say the venue will be for all of Swindon to use including other community groups. The work should be completed by September and the facilities will be available for children to use in part to help develop hobbies and passions for young people in Swindon.

New guide to RSSB's Operations research – A new booklet introducing the outputs produced through the Operations section of RSSB's research and development (R&D) programme is now available. The research covered includes a range of projects aimed at addressing community safety and public behaviour issues on the railway. The guide provides a useful explanation of what the (R&D) programme is and how the industry can engage with it, both in terms of proposing new projects and accessing the information from work already published or underway. For more information or copies email enquiries@rssb.co.uk



East Midlands Trains (EMT) – Have recently announced plans to introduce CCTV as part of a full refurbishment programme of its Class 158 train fleet. There will also be investment in stations; additional customer help points, refurbished waiting areas and improved lighting and facilities.

New from Overseas – New Zealand

Stop, look and live!

New Zealanders are being urged to “stop, look and live” at rail crossings as part of Australasian Rail Safety Awareness Week, which took place recently.

Events aimed at improving safety and reducing trespassing around rail tracks have been taking place across Australia and New Zealand. Advertising and other activities in New Zealand will promote the “stop, look and live” theme, urging motorists, pedestrians and cyclists to take extreme care when entering or crossing the rail network.

A series of hard-hitting television advertisements featuring accident scenarios at level crossings and illegal track crossings also went to air during safety awareness week.

The advertisements are supported by KiwiRail, ONTRACK, Veolia, the Ministry of Transport, Auckland Regional Transport Authority, Greater Wellington Regional Council, the Chris Cairns Foundation and Land Transport NZ.

“Our message is simple - tracks are only for trains. Even a moment's inattention around the rail network can lead to tragedy, and trains cannot stop quickly or swerve. People need to think about their actions around the rail network,” said Simon Whiteley, Acting Chief Executive of Land Transport NZ.

Mr Whiteley said rail traffic would continue to grow in New Zealand, particularly in urban metro centres like Auckland and Wellington. Trespass was also a significant issue, particularly in Auckland, where double tracking and increased train frequency is contributing to safety concerns at the large numbers of people who illegally cross tracks.

“We need to raise awareness that inattention at a railway crossing can have catastrophic consequences.”

The safety message was also reinforced with college students on Auckland Metro trains, and by school visits throughout the week in Auckland by a Veolia train driver and the company's safety manager.

For more information, please visit: www.ltsa.govt.nz/news/

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Events this month:

| Event Name | Date | Event Details |
|--|--|--|
| 'No Messin' Live! Keeping kids off the tracks | <i>Friday 1 August 2008</i> | Venue: Leeds |
| | <i>Friday 1 August – Saturday 2 August 2008</i> | Venue: Southampton |
| | <i>Wednesday 6 August – Thursday 7 August 2008</i> | Venue: Coventry |
| | <i>Wednesday 13 August – Thursday 14 August 2008</i> | Venue: Moston, Manchester |
| | <i>Friday 29 August – Saturday 30 August 2008</i> | Venue: Weston-super-mare For further information: http://www.networkrailmediacentre.co.uk/ |

Future Events:

| Event Name | Date | Event Details |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| 'Governing through anti-social behaviour' – ESRC Seminar Series Programme: Comparative experience of governing anti-social behaviour and disorder | <i>Thursday 18 September 2008</i> | Venue: University of Leeds For further information: http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm |
| ACORP Community Rail - The South West Experience - organised by the Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership | <i>Friday 19 September 2008</i> | Venue: Plymouth For further information: http://www.acorp.uk.com/ |
| ACORP Community Rail Awards – Plymouth | <i>Friday 19 September 2008</i> | Venue: Plymouth For further information: http://www.acorp.uk.com/ |
| ACORP Community Rail Festival – Plymouth | <i>Saturday 20 September 2008</i> | Venue: Plymouth For further information: http://www.acorp.uk.com/ |
| NCSN Regional Community Safety Conference: The Challenge of Multi-Agency Working – Problem Solving in Partnership | <i>Tuesday 14 October 2008</i> | Venue: Norwich For further information: http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm |
| 'Governing through anti-social behaviour' – ESRC Seminar Series Programme: The final conference, situating anti-social behaviour and respect | <i>March 2009</i> | Venue: Central London, tbc For further information: http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm |
| The Railway Community Safety Forum 2009 | <i>Wednesday 18 March 2009</i> | Venue: National Motor Cycle Museum, Solihull, West Midlands For further information: E-mail: community.safety@rspb.co.uk |

National Railway Crime Hotline
0800 40 50 40

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