

# February update



Rail Safety & Standards Board

Welcome to the February 2007 edition of UPDATE. I am delighted to be able to introduce myself as the new community safety project manager at Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) and as the new UPDATE editor. Over the coming year, I am looking forward to getting to know you and exploring ways in which RSSB can help community safety practitioners to reduce public behaviour related risk on the railways. I will be looking to further improve the format and content of the newsletter and would like to encourage you to contribute. 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) or 020 7904 7674

I hope that you enjoy this issue of UPDATE!

Best wishes, Kerry Taylor, Editor.

## ► On-Train CCTV Helps Deter and Solve Crime

Train operator 'One' railway has invested £4 million in a programme to improve security for passengers and staff on-board many of their trains. In total, 636 carriages have now been fitted with CCTV cameras on routes across parts of North and East London, Essex and East Anglia.

The high quality of the images (as seen recently on national television) enable effective detection and are intended to help travellers feel more secure.

Footage gained from these cameras is retained and has already been used to help solve a stabbing incident on a commuter service in London, to charge a vandal applying graffiti and to assist Suffolk Police in tracing the last movements of Anneli Alderton, who travelled on a train from Harwich, during their enquiry into the recent murders in the Ipswich area.

For more information contact Peter Meades at 'One' Railway on 01206 363949 or email: [peter.meades@onerailway.com](mailto:peter.meades@onerailway.com)

## ► Reward for No Messin'!

A summer visit to one of Network Rail's No Messin'! activity events held in Stockton has paid off for ten-year-old Kieran Nugent who recently received a bonus draw prize of a new Xbox from Middlesborough Football Club winger Stewart Downing.

Middlesborough fan, Kieran, had the extra surprise of receiving his prize from Stewart at a match. Presenting the prize, Stewart said, "I think the No Messin'! campaign is a fantastic idea. Train tracks can seem like good places to explore but the fatal accidents that happen tell a different story. The more young people that hear the safety message the better." Last year, about 50 people were killed, most of them youngsters, and thousands more were injured on the railway by crossing tracks, taking short cuts, messing around or playing chicken.



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The No Messin! campaign provides alternative activities for young people. Details can be found on the website [www.no-messin.com](http://www.no-messin.com).

The No Messin! 2007 campaign is coming to a town near you! Please see details of provisional dates and locations below:

Dates	Town
4th / 5th July	Alloa
10th / 11th July	Glasgow
25th / 26th July	Worthing
1st August	Strood

Dates	Town
2nd August	Gillingham
7th/ 8th August	Sheffield
13th/14th August	Derby
15th /16th August	Chelmsford

Dates for Bristol, Feltham and Warrington will be confirmed soon.

For more information on the campaign, please contact Ian Chapman, Network Rail: [Ian.Chapman2@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:Ian.Chapman2@networkrail.co.uk).

## ► Spy in the Sky

Network Rail’s helicopters use state-of-the-art on-board technology and specially trained air observers to proactively examine railway infrastructure, identifying where remedial action (and resources) should be targeted before potential problems become disruptive.



Additionally, Network Rail works closely with the BTP to tackle cable theft and other root crime issues, and in connection with this, has recently added Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology and dedicated air-to-ground communications equipment to their aircraft to further improve detection and deterrent capabilities. For more information on the programme contact [wendy.welsh@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:wendy.welsh@networkrail.co.uk)

## ► Merseyrail gets Tough

Train operator Merseyrail is taking a tough line with passengers who put their feet on seats, and has geared up to prosecute offenders by enforcing local bye-laws. Merseyrail Security Manager Mike Carroll explains, “We have suffered for years from this type of anti-social behaviour and despite a lengthy campaign of warning signs, posters, and train announcements, people are still putting their feet on seats. This behaviour generates the biggest level of complaints from our passengers, so we have decided to take action. We have prepared the way with the local courts so magistrates are fully aware of the strength of public feeling about this offensive behaviour, which makes passengers feel uncomfortable and, if offenders’ shoes are dirty, leaves us with



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damaged seats that have to be cleaned. Our security personnel will be wearing head-cams with CCTV so they can film this anti-social behaviour which will be valuable evidence when we prosecute. We are fed up with offenders and have decided now is the time to get tough with these people.” For more information contact [MCarroll@MERSEYRAIL.org](mailto:MCarroll@MERSEYRAIL.org)

## ► Dates for your Diary - Next Month

**Thursday 8 March** there is an all-day Westminster Briefing entitled “**Building Safer Communities Through Partnership – The Violent Crime Reduction Act**”. Hosted by The House magazine in Westminster, participants will have the opportunity to discuss the key issues of the Violent Crime Reduction Act which will give police and local authorities the powers they need to tackle alcohol-related knife and gun crime and to consider the issues facing society relating to violent crime. For more information and a reservation form contact [marc.davis@westminster-briefing.com](mailto:marc.davis@westminster-briefing.com).

## **Wednesday 14 March, Railway Community Safety Forum 2007**

Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) will be holding its third Annual Forum for Community Safety Practitioners at Aston Villa Football Club in Birmingham. The event is designed to update delegates about the rail industry’s community safety risk management approach, share examples of good practice, demonstrate developments and activities in the community safety area and provide delegates with practical ideas and solutions as well as excellent networking opportunities. Len Porter, Chief Executive, Rail Safety and Standards Board and Chair of the Community Safety Steering Group (CSSG), will introduce a programme of presentations which will be linked to workshops and an exhibition. For more information, contact RSSB’s Conference Manager, Stella Okezie on [stella.okezie@rssb.co.uk](mailto:stella.okezie@rssb.co.uk).

## ► New Appointment

Metro operator Nexus has appointed Rebecca Ditchburn, as its new Schools and Community Liaison Officer to continue getting the railway safety message over to thousands of children across Tyneside and Wearside. Rebecca will be visiting schools and working closely with the police and youth offending teams and other agencies to highlight the dangers of hanging around or trespassing on the company’s 59 Metro stations.

## ► Double Deaths in Graffiti Incident

British Transport Police are investigating the deaths of Daniel Elgar 19 and Bradley Chapman 21 who were killed when they ran into the path of a District Line tube train near a maintenance depot in Barking. The victims were believed to have been part of a gang of four men seen spraying graffiti on carriages in the depot. Officers have been examining CCTV footage near the depot where the men were killed. A further two men aged 23 and 25 were arrested on suspicion of causing criminal damage and have been released on police bail. Mr Elgar’s father said, “Our lasting memory of our son is him lying on a grubby railway line after trying to get a bit of



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recognition from a handful of people. The public are not impressed by the graffiti. It is just a mess. There are no excuses. He didn't come from a broken home or a hardship background. He came from a normal close family. I understand there are youngsters who seem to think it's a good idea to do this thing called tribute tagging. We don't want it. It's not worth it". A spokesperson for London Underground said, "An estimated £20 million is spent each year removing graffiti from the Tube network. We are working with the PPP Infracore companies, Tube Lines and Metronet who are taking a more proactive approach to tackling graffiti and there is now much less graffiti on the network. The number of dedicated BTP officers patrolling the Tube has increased by 50 per cent over the past two years to 670 officers, its highest ever level. Where graffiti appears on stations it is removed as quickly as possible. Lineside graffiti is also being tackled and more fencing is being installed to prevent unauthorised access to the Tube network. A train is not allowed to enter service if it has graffiti on it. Innovative repair methods are being tried by Tube Lines and Metronet to get graffiti cleaned off trains quickly."

There will be more about developments in tackling graffiti in next month's newsletter.

## ► Survivor Saving Lives Down Under

The problem of people trespassing on railway lines is not just an issue exclusive to the United Kingdom as demonstrated by a 19 year old Australian called Jonathan. He survived a horrific accident when after a drinking session with his mates he started to walk home along the train tracks. His next recollection was waking up in hospital minus his right arm and leg and then being told that two of his fingers would also have to be amputated. Today he is a highly articulate and motivational speaker who is engaged through a rail sponsored New South Wales Youthsafe presenter programme to talk to young people about the dangers of hanging out and trespassing on rail tracks. Youthsafe say that Jonathan's shocking physical appearance is a real eye opener and cuts right through the attitude of invincibility seen in many youngsters.

"I was blown away by Jonathan's story." Jake Year 10

"Until I saw Jonathan, I didn't even know what trespassing was. Come to think of it, I never really thought about Rail Safety at all." Nick Year 10

For more information contact [outreach@railcorp.nsw.gov.au](mailto:outreach@railcorp.nsw.gov.au)

## ► Travelling Modern Art

Between the Space is an unusual art project running from now through to April 2007 based at Reading station and on First Great Western trains travelling between Reading and London Paddington. It consists of a series of visual art interventions created by artists Olivia Plender, Jo Roberts and Arnaud Desjardin who, through their individual work, are aiming to attract a wider public audience to engage with modern art in an everyday context. The project is the brainchild of arts facilitator Erica Burton who explains, "I have always been interested in getting areas



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outside of London to engage with contemporary art in an everyday environment. I came up with this idea because I travel regularly on this route and rail passengers offer a daily audience. Erica has spent time bringing the artists together with First Great Western and a number of sponsors including the Arts Council.

Olivia Plender has created a piece of cartoon work which aims to show the individuality of Barry, a long standing employee of the train operator with the aim of humanizing and bridging the gap between the rail passenger and the service providers. This work appears in Reach the operator's on-train free magazine. Jo Roberts is concerned with social interaction and has produced a free booklet entitled Back and Forth which documents her time spent on the train and the personal encounters she experiences through a text message dialogue with her son.

Arnaud Desjardin has taken up residence on the train every Friday when he offers passengers the opportunity to talk to him through his visual art Stranger on the Train. His meetings are documented on a blog at [www.betweenthespace.org.uk](http://www.betweenthespace.org.uk). There will be an opportunity to hear all the artists talk about their work on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February from 2.00pm to 3.00pm on platform 5, waiting room Reading station.

For more information contact [erica.burton@betweenthespace.org.uk](mailto:erica.burton@betweenthespace.org.uk).

## ► Shop Watch Working Well

A new anti-crime initiative involving BTP, railway operators and retailers in a crackdown on shop thieves at Waterloo Station has proved a big success with retailers reporting a significant decrease in retail crime. The scheme Waterloo Shop Watch started about four months ago but really got into swing in the run up to Christmas. Waterloo station has more than 104 million people passing through each year on mainline services as well as those using the Eurostar and a bustling retail environment attractive to thieves. As part of the scheme all retailers are armed with back-to-back radio systems putting them in instant contact with Police Community Support Officers at Waterloo Station. More than 20 are now signed up. Two community support officers are dedicated to Shop Watch and work 7.00am to 11.00pm routinely visiting retailers. BTP Police



Sergeant Gordon Tait said, "Early trials of the scheme have already netted 20 arrests at Waterloo for shop-related theft and there has been a noted decline in crime related incidents. Waterloo Shop Watch will be running for the foreseeable future. We are planning to give additional training to retailers including radio procedures and intelligence recording and produce monthly progress reports and a newsletter for them. We are now getting interest in the development of this scheme from Victoria, London Bridge and other mainline stations."

For more information contact BTP press office Natalie Davison on 07920 276 460 or email [natalie.davison@btp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:natalie.davison@btp.pnn.police.uk).