

# January update

Community Safety E-Newsletter



Rail Safety & Standards Board

Welcome to the January 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.

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a relaxing break and have come back to work with renewed enthusiasm for the year ahead. As you will see in this issue, we're looking ahead to the Railway Community Safety Forum that takes place in March. This year we're encouraging attendance from those involved in community safety from both inside and outside the rail industry – so make sure you sign up soon as places are limited!

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) or 020 7904 7674

I hope you enjoy this issue of UPDATE.

Kerry Dolan, Editor.

## HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR PLACE YET? - The 2008 Railway Community Safety Forum

As you may have seen announced elsewhere, the 2008 Railway Community Safety Forum will take place on Wednesday 19 March at the National Motorcycle Museum, West Midlands. The programme for the event is now available and bookings are now being taken.

### Background to the event:

Everyone has the right to travel in safety, which makes community safety one of the rail industry's highest priorities.

Like other industries, the railway is confronted by the challenges of tackling crime and anti-social behaviour which can affect both staff and the public, and cost the industry dearly. Crucially, as an industry we realise that in order to tackle community safety issues, we must all work together.

This forum offers you the opportunity to learn about some of the programmes and initiatives employed to combat crime and anti-social behaviour and find out how we can work together in a unified approach.

### Purpose of event:

The forum is being organised by Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) on behalf of the industry and this year's programme is designed to:

- Update delegates about the rail industry's approach to reducing community safety risk
- Share examples of good practice and launch good practice guides
- Showcase activity within the community safety arena
- Provide practitioners with practical ideas and solutions
- Encourage networking opportunities

The programme for the day will consist of an engaging mix of presentations and varied workshops as well as a comprehensive exhibition.

### Who should attend:

This year we're encouraging attendance from those involved in community safety from both inside and outside the rail industry. These could include:

- Academics and others researching in the community safety field
- Community safety policy and decision makers
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership representatives
- Crime reduction officers
- Industry and British Transport Police community safety practitioners
- Local and education authority community safety officers
- Local police force community safety specialists
- Managers of community safety issues at local and tactical level
- Youth offender officers
- Youth workers

If you would like to attend, please visit the RSSB website to download the programme and registration form at: [http://www.rssb.co.uk/events/community\\_safety\\_forum.asp](http://www.rssb.co.uk/events/community_safety_forum.asp)

If you have any questions, please contact Stella Okezie (Conference Manager, RSSB):

[Stella.Okezie@rssb.co.uk](mailto:Stella.Okezie@rssb.co.uk), or phone 020 7904 7934.



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## 'Don't run the risk' level crossing campaign 2007

Network Rail recently ran a £2.5 million awareness campaign on the dangers of misusing level crossings. This is the second year of the 'Don't Run the Risk' campaign and it has targeted two additional audiences in incident 'hotspot' areas – males aged 18-24 and over 65s.

**LEVEL CROSSINGS  DON'T RUN THE RISK**

Communication to over 65s included emotive local press advertising, door drops to 400,000 households and local community activity at post offices, community centres and places of worship.

Young men were targeted with an innovative online music video, hosted on social networking website MySpace, featuring glamour model Lucy Pinder (see picture). This was very successful with a high rate of visitors (74,000) engaging with the campaign through this medium.

In addition, Network Rail ran national TV and radio advertising. The TV campaign was recalled by up to 73% of drivers aged 18-44 and 61% of over 65s.

Research has shown that the campaign has successfully contributed to further shifts in attitudes to level crossings, especially amongst the younger audiences. All the activity in the campaign was engaging, working well to be shocking whilst maintaining positive interest and distinctiveness.

The campaign ran in parallel with other initiatives to minimise the safety risk at level crossings, including:

- Development of solutions which could lead to the replacement of some crossings
- Development of obstacle detection systems
- Development of lower cost level crossing systems
- Development of better and more cost-effective ways of detecting and recording level crossings misuse
- Work with the Police and Crown Prosecution Service to improve the prosecution of offenders
- Highlighting the issues of level crossings to key political stakeholders



For more information please contact Network Rail Media Relations, telephone 020 7557 8292 email [mediarelations@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:mediarelations@networkrail.co.uk)

## Transport Secretary Ruth Kelly urges more stations to join the Secure Stations Scheme

The Secretary of State for Transport Ruth Kelly MP has called for more stations to join the Secure Stations Scheme in 2008. Kelly was speaking at the scheme's awards presentation last month, where, alongside HRH the Princess Royal, she presented awards for achievements in tackling crime at stations.



The awards event recognised those working to create a safer travelling environment and highlighted the improvements the scheme can bring to the millions of passengers who use the railways each day.

Launched in 1998, the Government's Secure Stations Scheme encourages improvements to security standards at overground and underground rail stations. Station operators work closely with the British Transport Police (BTP), local police, Network Rail and passenger groups to reduce crime at stations, particularly the busiest stations and those in local crime hotspots.

The scheme standards cover measures such as staff training, help points, CCTV, lighting and information. To become and remain a member of the scheme, station operators must find ways to keep crime figures below a set level.

There are now 573 accredited stations in England, Scotland and Wales, and it is hoped to increase this to more than 700 by early 2009.

Those receiving awards were Docklands Light Railway, Liverpool Lime Street station, Merseyrail, Southern, TransPennine Express, Transport for London's Crime and Disorder Partnership Unit, Virgin Trains, and James Burt (South West Trains and Chair of the Rail Personal Security Group).

For more information on the scheme go to:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgcr/crime/sss/whatisthesecestationscheme>



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## Teenagers jailed for dropping rubble onto speeding train

Two Midland teenagers were recently sentenced to a total of thirteen and a half years for dropping a 45lb block of masonry onto a speeding train.

Daniel Ratcliffe, 17, of Broad Street, Kidderminster, and Kevin Clee, 19, of Grasmere Close, Kidderminster, knocked train driver Joseph Paxton unconscious when they threw the masonry onto his freight train.

A failsafe mechanism ensured the train stopped safely after the event, passing through Kidderminster station, halting approximately three quarters of a mile after the train was hit. However, Judge Alastair McCreath, sentencing at Worcester Crown Court, noted, "The fact that the train ran out of control could have had disastrous consequences."

In total, Mr Paxton suffered 27 broken facial and head bones including a broken jaw.

Judge McCreath said Mr Paxton could have been killed.

Ratcliffe was sentenced to seven and a half years in a young offenders' institute after pleading guilty to two charges of damaging property and being reckless as to where another life was endangered.

Clee was sentenced to six years in a young offenders' institute after pleading guilty to the same offences.

## "ZIP IT" - An initiative to combat theft during the festive season

London's police forces joined together in an anti-theft campaign ahead of the festive season to encourage people to keep their belongings out of the hands of thieves.

As part of the "Zip It" campaign, officers from the City of London Police (CoLP), British Transport Police (BTP) and Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) handed out more than 30,000 crime prevention Oyster Card wallets which showed top tips for keeping handbags, wallets and valuable possessions safe over the festive season.

Officers handed out the Oyster Card wallets across Central London as well as busy stations in North, South, East and West London, particularly focussing on people who were not keeping their belongings as safe as possible and encouraging them to "Zip It".

"Zip It" was led by British Transport Police (BTP) and was the first time all three forces joined together in this kind of crime prevention marketing campaign.

BTP Superintendent Ellie Bird said:

"The campaign was started before the festive season really got going so that Tube passengers were conscious of keeping their belongings safe before they started carrying around expensive gifts and extra cash for Christmas shopping.

"Thieves look for any opportunity to steal and having wallets, iPods and unzipped bags in full view can be a target."

BTP joined with the CoLP and MPS Safer Transport Teams to help ensure people have a safe journey not just on the Tube but all the way from door-to-door.

For more information visit: <http://www.btp.presscentre.com/>

## Ponthir footballers take on board safety message

More than 20 young footballers and parents from Ponthir Junior Football Club, near Cwmbran, have taken part in a special railway safety lesson with Arriva Trains Wales and British Transport Police.

The lesson featured an actual incident reconstructed on DVD and showed the consequences for young people playing near railway lines. Team members were also given an opportunity to speak to officers from the Newport Neighbourhood Policing Team to understand their role and the importance of staying away from railway lines.

Andrew Evans, partnership officer for British Transport Police, said: "Every year, a number of young people are killed or seriously injured while trespassing on the railway. Fatalities or serious injuries can have a traumatic effect on families, rail staff, emergency services and the wider community, therefore the video is a good way of engaging with young people to enhance their safety awareness."

Geraint Morgan, community affairs manager for Arriva Trains Wales, said: "We were pleased to have been invited back to the club which is situated next to the main Abergavenny to Newport railway line. Some astute questions were asked by the players during the question and answer session, which shows that the 'stay off the tracks message' was very much taken to heart."

For more information, please visit: <http://www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/news.aspx>

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## Multi-agency operation tackles crime at Sheffield railway station

Officers from the British Transport Police (BTP), working in partnership with South Yorkshire Police and train operating companies Northern Rail and East Midlands Trains, ran 'Operation Garland' last month to target criminals travelling through or operating on Sheffield railway station.

Operation Garland focussed on the theft of passenger property, drugs and travel fraud and revenue offences. Drugs dogs were present to detect any illegal substances being carried through the station.

There was no place to hide for fare-dodgers as a Revenue Protection team of officers was present to target people without tickets.

Inspector Graham Bridges of British Transport Police said:

"The rail system is a low crime environment and one where increasing resources are being put into combating crime. Operation Garland was designed to tackle a range of different types of crime that can take place on the railway including the theft of passenger property, drugs and ticket evasion, and we concentrated on tackling these offences during the two days.

"There is a clear link in the fact that offenders who commit crimes often travel without tickets, or even attempt to walk on to the station to commit a crime with no intention of travelling. Intelligence also suggests that many thefts are drug related which is why we deployed the drugs dogs.

"By adopting this three-pronged attack we are hoping to drive down crime further and provide reassurance to the travelling public. We know from previous operations that the public will be reassured to see large numbers of officers, from both BTP and South Yorkshire Police taking positive action to ensure that travelling in and out of the city is even safer for passengers."

As a result of this two-day initiative, 13 people were processed for possession of a controlled drug, one person for possession with intent to supply crack cocaine and two people were processed for possession of a bladed article.

For more information visit: <http://www.btp.presscentre.com/>

## First Advertising campaign for British Transport Police (BTP)

British Transport Police (BTP) has launched its first ever advertising campaign in Scotland – aimed at highlighting the force's success in combating crime on the rail network and promoting public reassurance.

The campaign – which also outlines BTP's unique and specialist nature - ran up to and beyond Christmas. Hundreds of posters were displayed on trains and stations across the country and were expected to be seen by over three million passengers.

Superintendent Ronnie Mellis, area commander for BTP in Scotland, said:

"This advertising campaign is the ideal way of letting the travelling public who use the rail network on a daily basis, know how successful our officers are at doing their job and reassure them that travelling on the trains in Scotland is safe. For the third year in a row British Transport Police has achieved all its operational objectives and over the same period, since First ScotRail took over the franchise in Scotland, crime has fallen by 27%."

The posters use the straplines: "If you're reading this, you're on our beat" and "Scotland rail network has a dedicated police force. Very dedicated, in fact".

Superintendent Mellis continued:

"The campaign tied in with our Safe Journey initiative during December when passengers and rail staff saw additional officers patrolling Scotland's trains and stations. We traditionally see an increase in passenger numbers at this time of the year and our officers provide a highly visible deterrent to anyone who can think they can conduct themselves in a disorderly way on the rail network."

The Scottish BTP area employs 226 police officers and 31 police staff.

For more information visit: <http://www.btp.presscentre.com/>

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## GMPTE top of the class as pupils get a lesson in public transport

Young people in Greater Manchester are being encouraged to get in to the habit of using public transport more often. A Department for Transport report found that educating schoolchildren on alternatives to the car at key points in their youth could get them into the habit of using public transport for life.

GMPTE (Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive) has already done its homework. The PTE has a head start working with young people across Greater Manchester to educate them about the benefits of public transport. Its three-year youth programme - 'Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Passengers' - has just come to an end. And along with Urbis (an exhibition centre), GMPTE is now consulting with young people about their public transport priorities over the next three years.

Sheila Stark, GMPTE's Strategic Research Manager, said:

"This government report is very encouraging as it shows that our work with young people in Greater Manchester is spot on.

"Getting them to understand the benefits of public transport is essential if we are to boost the number of people using it in the future - and help cut congestion on our roads.

"We have a number of initiatives already in place that aim to teach young people in a fun and entertaining way about using buses, train and trams.

"Public transport offers young people real independence. If they have positive experiences using it when they're young, they are much more likely to consider it a realistic alternative to the car when they are older."

The report identifies the transition from primary to secondary school as a key stage for educating young people about public transport.

For this age group GMPTE has developed the award-winning website [www.dingding.co.uk](http://www.dingding.co.uk) and the 'Parent & Pupil Guide to School Transport' - which is given to every Year 6 pupil in Greater Manchester.

Some pupils have also benefited from 'Crucial Crew' training from GMPTE. The training aims to educate young people about using public transport safely.

The second key stage is the transition to further education, employment or training. GMPTE has developed the website [www.goto.org.uk](http://www.goto.org.uk), and a range of leaflets for this age group.

GMPTE also provides travel information and promotes travelling safely at Greater Manchester universities' freshers fairs. It also had an exhibition stand to help promote public transport at the recent 'Skills City' event - the regional careers fair for 13-year-olds.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.gmppte.com>

### Overseas News:

Operation Lifesaver's (OL) mobile classroom accompanied Canadian Pacific's Holiday Train across Canada in December, delivering its safety message to almost half a million Canadians in more than 70 communities along the railway's tracks in six provinces.

Dan Di Tota, National Director of OL, said:

"Winter, with its extreme weather and poor visibility, is a time of higher risk for motorists and pedestrians - the time for people to 'Look, Listen and Live' is never greater.

"We want people to exercise caution year round, and at this time of year in particular, because the life they save may be their own."

Jim Cunningham, Vice-president, Mechanical for Canadian Pacific with an overall responsibility for safety said:

"Operation Lifesaver and its message of public rail safety was a great addition to our Canadian Holiday Train stops.

"The engaged individuals who generously donate food and money at our events will now be able to benefit from one-on-one education about staying safe around rail operations. They, in turn, will share the message and essentially become rail safety ambassadors in their communities."

Operation Lifesaver is a non-profit community safety initiative jointly funded by Canada's railways and Transport Canada with active participation by other partners in the provinces, municipalities, media, industry, and community organisations.

The OL mobile classroom is a large, branded recreational vehicle and moving billboard for the rail safety programme and includes a large screen for playing specialised movies. Adults and youths will benefit from numerous safety-related giveaways as well as the opportunity to ask questions to some of the most knowledgeable public rail safety experts.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.oli.org> or [www.cpr.ca](http://www.cpr.ca)

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## RSSB research update

RSSB has recently published research which will help inform the rail industry on important community safety issues:

- T592: Management of football fans on the railway - the second tranche of this research has now been published, which focuses on the successful trials of collaboration and partnership between train operating companies and the football authorities. The first part of the work evaluated the safety risks associated with travelling football fans and identifying effective control measures to reduce the problem.
- T639: Good practice in station adoption schemes - sought to provide guidance for train operators and adoption groups on good practice in station adoption based on research of British and international experience.
- T667: Research into security at stations - sought to understand the nature and extent of crime on stations and trains and the measures effective in controlling it, together with an understanding of the factors that influence passengers' fear of crime.

This research can be downloaded from the RSSB website at: <http://www.rssb.co.uk/research/index.asp>

### News in Brief

**Two First Great Western stations** in Gloucestershire are looking brighter thanks to the efforts of volunteers who have 'adopted' them as part of the train operator's 'Adopt a Station' scheme.

**Ninety children from two South Manchester schools** recently gained an insight from British Transport Police (BTP) into the role of a police officer at Whitworth Art Gallery as part of a new community initiative called 'Our World - Your World.'

## Date For Your Diary

### Railway Community Safety Forum 2008

Wednesday 19 March 2008

National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull, West Midlands

### Events this month:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
'Governing through anti-social behaviour' – ESRC Seminar Series Programme:  Anti-social behaviour through schooling, parenting and the family	Thursday 24 January 2008	<b>Venue:</b> Brighton University  For further information: <a href="http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm">http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm</a>

### Future Events:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
Railway Community Safety Forum	Wednesday 19 March 2008	<b>Venue:</b> National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull, West Midlands  For a programme and registration form, please visit: <a href="http://www.rssb.co.uk/events/community_safety_forum.asp">http://www.rssb.co.uk/events/community_safety_forum.asp</a>  Or contact: <a href="mailto:Stella.okezie@rssb.co.uk">Stella.okezie@rssb.co.uk</a>

**National Railway Crime Hotline**

**0800 40 50 40**

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## Future Events:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
'Governing through anti-social behaviour' – ESRC Seminar Series Programme: Anti-social behaviour, urban space and the night-time economy	<i>Thursday 17 April 2008</i>	<b>Venue:</b> University of Leeds For further information: <a href="http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm">http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm</a>
'Governing through anti-social behaviour' – ESRC Seminar Series Programme: Diversity and anti-social behaviour	<i>Thursday 5 June 2008</i>	<b>Venue:</b> Birmingham University For further information: <a href="http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm">http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm</a>
2008 NCSN Annual Conference: Share good practice to make a difference	<i>Wednesday 4 – Thursday 5 June</i>	<b>Venue:</b> Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool For further information: Web: <a href="http://www.community-safety.net/conference2008">www.community-safety.net/conference2008</a> Tel: <b>01904 757 036</b> E-mail: <a href="mailto:ncsnconference2008@tailormadeconferences.co.uk">ncsnconference2008@tailormadeconferences.co.uk</a>
10th International Level Crossing Symposium	<i>24 – 26 June 2008</i>	<b>Venue:</b> Union Internationale des Chemins de Fer, Paris (UIC) For further information: <a href="http://www.levelcrossing2008.com">http://www.levelcrossing2008.com</a>
'Governing through anti-social behaviour' – ESRC Seminar Series Programme: Comparative experience of governing anti-social behaviour and disorder	<i>Thursday 18 September 2008</i>	<b>Venue:</b> University of Leeds For further information: <a href="http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm">http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm</a>
Anti-Graffiti Association Annual Conference	<i>2008 (date to be confirmed)</i>	<b>Venue:</b> To be confirmed For further information: <a href="http://www.theaga.org.uk/">http://www.theaga.org.uk/</a>
'Governing through anti-social behaviour' – ESRC Seminar Series Programme: The final conference, situating anti-social behaviour and respect	<i>March 2009</i>	<b>Venue:</b> Central London, tbc For further information: <a href="http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm">http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm</a>

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