

Welcome to the July 2009 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.

This month's issue includes details on the first ever level crossing information forum as well as stories highlighting successful initiatives and good practice.

We are looking to populate the Community Safety Resource Centre with useful information and resources so if you have something you wish to share with the industry, please send me details.

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@rspb.co.uk**.

I hope you enjoy this issue of UPDATE.

Kerry Dolan, Editor.

## Level Crossing information day



The first Level Crossing Information Forum was held at the RSSB offices in London on 3 June, 2009.

When the National Level Crossing Safety Group (NLXSG) was restructured in 2007 RSSB undertook to meet regularly with those members who were outside the railway industry, to keep them informed of developments to improve safety at level crossings on the Network Rail managed infrastructure. This includes representatives from groups like the Driving Standards Agency (which publishes the Highway Code and administers motor driving tests), PACTS (Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety), Ramblers and British Horse Society (whose members regularly use level crossings).

At the same time a new group was created, the Road Rail Interface

Safety Group (RRISG). This considers safety not just at level crossings but bridge strikes and other incursions of road vehicles on to the railway. Bridge strikes are a real problem for Network Rail and TOCs in creating delays to trains. There is also potential to derail if track is misaligned. The RRISG is chaired by Derek Holmes, Head of Operations at Network Rail.

Derek Holmes opened the forum, emphasising that level crossings are the biggest source of a potentially serious train accident.

The scene was then set by Siona Pitman, Safety Intelligence Analyst at RSSB, who outlined the level crossing section of the Annual Safety Performance Report for 2008. Siona described the risk profile for different types of crossings.

- Level crossing risk is 8.4% of the total system risk.
- In 2008, the total harm at level crossings was 15.3 Fatalities and Weighted Injuries (FWI). This compares to 12.4 in 2007.
- Twelve pedestrians were struck by trains at level crossings during 2008. This is above the average for the last five years.

- There were 19 collisions between trains and road vehicles, which is also above average for the last five years.
- There were two road vehicle occupant fatalities.

Michael Woods, Head of Operations Research at RSSB, gave an update on research and development into level crossings. Several research projects have been published in the last eighteen months. They can be found on the RSSB website at [www.rspb.co.uk/research/allsearch.asp](http://www.rspb.co.uk/research/allsearch.asp).

Other research projects are also currently in progress or development.

The success of establishing Road Rail Partnerships with local highway authorities was described by Steven Constantine, Operations Risk Control Specialist at Network Rail. More than 30 partnerships are now in place across England, Scotland and Wales where Network Rail and the road authorities can collaborate to manage:

- Effect of crossings on road traffic delay (considering congestion and local environment and transport plans)

got a story...?

please contact: [community.safety@rspb.co.uk](mailto:community.safety@rspb.co.uk) or 020 3142 5372

- Optimal risk controls
- Effects of nearby planning applications
- Obligations under the Road Safety Act 2006

Derek Holmes gave a brief update on Network Rail's closure programme for level crossings. The All Level Crossing Risk Model (ALCRM) has been used to assess and prioritize projects and 81 crossings have been closed over the past twelve months, in consultation with landowners.

Alan Davies, RSSB, explained the working of the European Level Crossing Forum (ELCF), which provides a network where those involved in the road/rail interface can learn from each other and share research findings.

ELCF has signed the European Road Safety Charter, which commits the group to raise awareness of level crossing safety across Europe. The forum has a website at [www.levelcrossing.net](http://www.levelcrossing.net) promoting safety, good practice, sharing experience and educational material.

The forum is keen to promote joint road and rail responsibility at

level crossings, involve also town planning and development, and press for changing road driver behaviour.

An awareness day, bringing together media experience from across the member states took place on 25 June, under the branding 'Stop accidents, Europe for safer level Crossings'.

The latest progress on review of the Railway Safety Principles and Guidance document Part 2E, Level crossings, was delivered by Steve Vinton of the ORR. This was initiated following recommendations from two RAIB reports. The document was to be updated for new content arising from technical, legislative and human factors developments since it was produced.

The primary audience for the document is those bodies that design, construct, operate and maintain level crossings or have responsibility for the roads and paths that cross the railway.

This document may also be of use to other groups, such as town planners and people who use crossings as part of their business activities.

An update on the current joint review of level crossing legislation was given by Richard Percival, of the Law Commission. This is a joint review with the Scottish Law Commission. It is hoped to prepare a draft bill following a consultation period (the latter might begin by the end of 2009).

The Commissions' provisional view of the issues to address is:

- Make the law more accessible
- Improve the regulatory framework
- Clarify/reform law on rights of way
- Protect health and safety
- Promote efficiency on both networks
- Allocate duties and responsibilities
- Integrate with other legal regimes (highways, planning)
- New procedure for closure of crossings
- Criminal sanctions for those who misuse crossings

**For more information, please contact: [alan.davies@rssb.co.uk](mailto:alan.davies@rssb.co.uk)**

## MP Angela Smith backs level crossing safety campaign

Basildon and East Thurrock MP Angela Smith is backing safety action at Stanford-le-Hope's level crossing.

According to Network Rail, Stanford-le-Hope is a "hotspot" for level crossing misuse in the region. There were nine reported incidents in 2008 including three near misses where a train narrowly avoided a collision with a vehicle. Trespass and vandalism on the railway is also a particular problem in the area with 15 incidents of railway crime reported last year in Stanford-le-Hope alone. This placed the town

in fourth place on the region's railway crime "hall of shame", behind neighbouring Pitsea and Colchester and Ipswich.

Angela offered her support for Network Rail's No Messin'! Campaign which helps combat railway crime and gives kids positive alternatives to messing around on the tracks.

She also praised Network Rail's work with local schools to educate children about the dangers of playing on the railway following recent visits to Stanford-le-Hope's Hassenbrook and St Clere's schools.

Angela said: "I am very pleased to have been able to meet with Network Rail personally to discuss

community safety issues such as level crossing misuse and to witness the problem first hand.

"Even in the short time we were at Stanford-le-Hope we saw a car speed through the closing barriers, just to save a couple of minutes on their journey. Drivers who do this are not only putting their own lives in danger but those of their passengers and rail users too."

Network Rail runs regular events as part of this campaign, the next of which will be held at Festival Leisure Park in Basildon on Wednesday 5 August.

**For more information about Network Rail's No Messin'! Campaign, please visit: <http://www.no-messin.com/>**

got a story...?

please contact: [community.safety@rssb.co.uk](mailto:community.safety@rssb.co.uk) or 020 3142 5372

## Northern Rail to provide BlackBerries for all conductors



Northern is providing hi-tech handheld computers to more than 1,000 conductors so that they can give customers faster and more accurate information.

Northern is the first train operator in the country to issue BlackBerries to all of its conductors. The £140,000 investment means that conductors will get more and better quality information about any current services, whether there are any delays, onward connections at stations and planned engineering works.

By empowering staff to keep rail customers fully informed, a more positive environment can be

nurtured where conflict – which can sometimes escalate to anti-social behaviour - is less likely to occur.

Heidi Mottram, Managing Director, Northern Rail, said: "Our customers are increasingly satisfied with the overall service that we provide but they would like more information, particularly during disruption.

"We have listened to their feedback and providing BlackBerries to all our conductors will help to keep people informed.

"We have achieved a big increase in the number of our trains that arrive on time but, when there are delays, customers really want to know what is happening and that is where the BlackBerries will be a big help."

The BlackBerries have replaced a system in which Northern's operations control centre sent messages to conductors using mobile phones and text messages. The text messages had a limited number of characters, which restricted the amount of information that could be sent.

The introduction of the BlackBerries means that messages can be sent by email and, because there is no restriction on the length of the message, this means conductors get all the information they need in a single message.

In addition, the BlackBerries have internet access to live departure boards, which means conductors can provide customers with up-to-date information about onward connections.

The new BlackBerries will also allow conductors to send detailed information into the control centre.

The rollout of BlackBerries to all conductors follows a pilot scheme run in conjunction with Vodafone.

Peter Kelly, Enterprise Director, Vodafone UK said: "The new solution will allow Northern Rail conductors to interact directly with the most up-to-date information available, a key advantage in providing a responsive and efficient service to customers."

**For more information, please visit:**  
<http://www.northernrail.org/news>

## Amir Khan community gym helps win national business award

Network Rail has been recognised as amongst the best in class in corporate citizenship as it beat off dozens of other top companies to secure two top business awards. It was praised for community safety projects including support for Gloves, Amir Khan's community gym in Bolton and state of the art engineer training centres across Britain.

The Business in the Community "Big Tick" is an industry recognised award presented to companies able to demonstrate significant impact and high quality management of their responsible business practices and which can show a positive impact both on society and on the business. Owing to its continued commitment to

corporate responsibility Network Rail has been awarded two Big Ticks for excellent work within the talent and community safety sector.

With a national community safety programme and dedicated team of community safety managers, Network Rail has achieved great success nationwide and within local communities to raise safety awareness and ultimately reduce the number of incidents of crime and vandalism on the railway.

Network Rail's work in this area has gone from strength to strength over the last three years after launching its No Messin' campaign. By engaging with local communities to tackle issues around railway crime and through the development of new sport and activity-based community clubs, Network Rail has achieved success in bringing down railway crime with figures dropping by 45%.

The company's Big Tick achievements featured in the Financial Times Responsible Business supplement which also lists Network Rail's attainment of a silver award in the Business in the Community corporate responsibility index, a step up from last year's bronze award.

Iain Coucher, chief executive, Network Rail said: "Winning the Big Ticks and the silver index award is an excellent achievement of which we are all proud. As a company we believe in investing in our people. Over the last year our commitment to both our employees' futures and the success of the community safety campaign has proven to be fruitful, achieving great results. Winning these awards underline our commitment to our people and being a good corporate citizen."

**For more information, please visit:** <http://www.networkrailmediacentre.co.uk/>

got a story...?

please contact: [community.safety@rspb.co.uk](mailto:community.safety@rspb.co.uk) or 020 3142 5372

## Actors help rail staff cut toll of violence



First TransPennine Express (FTPE) and Northern Rail have embarked on conflict avoidance courses using dramatic role-play by professional actors to help protect their staff.

The programme of courses for hundreds of frontline staff comes at a time when MPs and the RMT union have launched a campaign to persuade the Government and employers to take all necessary steps to prevent staff assaults.

So far, more than 25 MPs from all parties have signed a Commons Motion tabled by the RMT to persuade employers to use best

practice when developing policies to prevent violence against staff.

The Annual Safety Performance Report, published by RSSB shows that one in five rail workers suffers physical or verbal abuse from customers during their careers, with more than 2,000 verbal assaults and almost the same number of physical assaults taking place across the network in 2007.

Last year, Northern staff suffered 151 physical assaults, 78 threats and 335 instances of verbal abuse, so starting the courses for 300 frontline train and retail staff was an urgent priority.

The courses designed to help rail staff tackle anti-social and aggressive behaviour are provided by training specialist train4change.

Northern's head of training Karen Olroyd said: "It's very important to us to keep our people safe, and we needed to replace our passive, classroom-based conflict avoidance courses with something more dramatic and effective.

"Train4change's innovative approach does just that and, after

three pilot courses to ensure we've got it right, we shall roll out the course to all our frontline people over the next 18 months."

Of the FTPE staff trained, 94 per cent said that they found the course very beneficial.

Conductor John Quinn says it has given him far more confidence in dealing with difficult customers. "It's one of the best courses I've ever been on, because actors rather than training staff are used, allowing me to really relate to the content," he said. "If someone shouts at me now, I take a step back to calm down before speaking to them, which results in a far better outcome for everyone."

FTPE customer services director Edith Rodgers said: "The course has introduced successfully practical techniques that have helped reduce the risk of violence and assaults, and has played an important part in protecting our staff."

**For more information, please visit: <http://www.railnews.co.uk/news/general/>**

## Crucial Crew event teaches children about railway safety

Bill Rogerson, Community Partnership Co-ordinator and Schools Liaison Officer for the BTP recently took part in a Crucial Crew event in Shrewsbury and Oswestry. The event took place over ten days in June and over 1,200 children in Year 6 (10 year old age range) participated. The purpose of the scheme is to allow children to experience a series of sets and scenarios with the aim of teaching them life skills, good citizenship, how to avoid dangers and deal with incidents. The sets were on subjects such as electricity



safety, water safety, fire safety, farm safety, vandalism, theft, road safety and rail safety.

Bill took along a railway safety information stand and a model railway used to show the children the dangers. There are about 14 dangers on the model, including people doing 'things wrong' such as trespass, getting too close to the platform edge, stone throwing, climbing over the fence and



obstructions on the track. He said:

"This was a golden opportunity for me to see so many children in a short space of time to highlight the dangers associated with the railway. With the light nights and the school holidays fast approaching it was a very worthwhile exercise."

**For more information, please contact: [William.Rogerson@btp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:William.Rogerson@btp.pnn.police.uk)**

got a story...?

please contact: [community.safety@rssb.co.uk](mailto:community.safety@rssb.co.uk) or 020 3142 5372

# Community Safety Resource Centre

## *Have You Signed Up Yet?*

The 2009 Community Safety Forum saw the launch of the Community Safety Resource Centre website, a one-stop-shop for industry resources and information on community safety issues.

The site will only be accessible to industry – users can apply for a login username and password via the main home page at:

[www.railcommunitysafety.com](http://www.railcommunitysafety.com)

### Operation Cleanup - Network Rail and British Transport Police tackle graffiti in Birmingham



*Before*



*After*

Network Rail and British Transport Police (BTP) have completed a major graffiti clean up operation in the area around Birmingham's busiest railway junction.

Proof House Junction in Birmingham city centre, the approach to New Street and Snow Hill, has been targeted extensively

by vandals who have sprayed several graffiti tags. This creates both a negative image of the city and has cost Network Rail more than £10,000 to clear up and through delays and disruption caused to train services.

On 7 June, 30 Network Rail people teamed up with members of BTP to scrub graffiti from the Proof House Junction area, which is seen as the gateway to the city with around 800 trains passing through every day.

As well as concerns about the negative impact of the graffiti and the cost of removing it, Network Rail and BTP also have fears about the safety of individuals committing graffiti crime in such a busy and dangerous location.

Rail staff and BTP officers said they were staggered at the risks some of the vandals had taken with graffiti being found in close proximity to overhead electric power lines.

In one spot one vandal had written on a very precarious parapet over electrical overhead lines carrying 25,000 volts. The offender risked falling at least 30ft on to the rails, or being electrocuted if they had fallen on to the overhead wires.

Another example saw graffiti written on a stanchion for the overhead electrical lines' support wires which are 20ft above ground.

Another serious hazard comes from the trains that pass through every day. Graffiti was discovered in places offering no refuge from approaching trains, areas where there are trip hazards or where offenders risked getting their feet trapped in railway points at the busy junction.

Chris Rowley, area general manager for Network Rail said: "Not only are vandals putting their own lives at risk, they are also costing the rail industry millions of pounds. This money could be better spent in improving the rail network."

A BTP spokesman said: "People writing graffiti in this location are placing themselves at serious risk. The railway is an extremely dangerous environment and the risks, even to trained staff, are always present and very real.

"The potential for injury comes from moving trains, falling from great heights or high voltage electricity wires, all of which can and have been previously been responsible for fatalities.

"The dangers cannot be stressed enough. Writing graffiti on the railway is not a harmless pastime. It is a criminal act."

**For more information, please visit: <http://www.networkrailmediacentre.co.uk/>**

got a story...?

please contact: [community.safety@rspb.co.uk](mailto:community.safety@rspb.co.uk) or 020 3142 5372

## Crime down on Britain's railways by 4.5% in 2008/09

Figures released by British Transport Police (BTP) show the rail network is safer than ever with crime falling by 4.5% in 2008/09. The figures, which mark the fifth consecutive year of falling crime on the rail network, should reassure passengers and staff that the rail system is a low crime environment.

"These figures are good news for rail passengers and staff, however we are bracing for some real challenges over the next few years", commented BTP Deputy Chief Constable Andy Trotter.

"Just about every category of crime is down, with robbery down 16% and violent crime down 2%. In addition, BTP has achieved 11 out of 11 of its national operational targets, and increased the national detection rate.

"The current recession and increasing unemployment have the potential to fuel some crime categories over the

next year that we have previously seen drop off. We are particularly monitoring theft of railway property, theft from passengers and staff assaults to ensure we can respond quickly when and if we see trends change.

"Over three years ago we began creating Neighbourhood Policing Teams to respond to local concerns. We now have 72 teams operating right across the rail network providing a visible, responsive local policing service. Their hard work, along with the commitment of our partners, has been a significant factor in this year's success."

Nine out of BTP's 12 crime groups show reductions, with particular success around robbery, which is down 16%. Robbery is predominantly a London problem with 68% of all robberies reported occurring in BTP's three London Areas. Focused police activity, in partnership with the Metropolitan Police, together with the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing Teams, has resulted in dramatic reductions.

BTP has been proactive in tackling the knife carrying culture amongst some groups of young people. Operation Shield, using mobile metal detection arches and scanners, has been run at stations across the rail network. Drugs dogs are often used as part of these operations and police efforts to proactively target knife crime, as well as increased operations around anti-social behaviour hotspots and travelling football fans, account for the big increase in reported drugs offences this year.

Mr Trotter added "These results are a tribute not only to hard work of our police officers and police staff, but to the commitment and investment of the rail industry in improving the safety and security of passengers and rail staff."

The rail industry and in particular Network Rail and the train operating companies have pledged to support the continued work to further address crime.

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

## BTP invests in young people with Prince's Trust

Seven members of BTP staff are working with young people as part of a Prince's Trust scheme that helps develop their own potential as well as that of the youngsters with whom they work.

BTP has joined this scheme providing seven delegates to act as a coach and mentor. They work with Prince's Trust sponsored young people on community projects, helping guide, advise and develop them. From BTP's point of view, the scheme allows the staff involved to develop valuable communication and project management skills.

Diane Doyle, Diversity Trainer from Learning and Development said:

"All our delegates have been assigned to a three month programme

that involves the BTP delegate being away for one week with their group and then for a further 15 days spread over the remaining time.

"By working with other organisations, such as the Prince's Trust, we can unlock young peoples' potential and improve their confidence, motivation, skills and job prospects. We also know from other employers who take part that 90% of staff who go on the course come back with improved skills and attitude."

The Prince's Trust gives practical and financial support for young people who need it most. It is open to both unemployed and employed young people and includes work experience, careers advice and job opportunities, new qualifications and challenging projects.

The seven delegates are Richard Chapman, FHQ Diversity Officer, London North Sergeant Anna Granger, PC Bill Hurst from the

North Eastern Area, PCSO Georgina Ironside, who is about to start her training as a police officer, Natalie Martin from the London Criminal Justice Unit, Olufunke Oduntan from HR and London South PC Richard Punter.

"The project that I am working on is the Team Programme", commented Sergeant Granger. "It's a 12 week personal development course offering work experience, practical skills, community projects and a residential week. It is aimed at young people who are unemployed, unexcited and unsure about their future.

"My role as a development coach consists of spending a couple of days each week with the team, assisting the team leader by carrying out lessons and activities and encouraging and motivating the young people."

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

got a story...?

please contact: [community.safety@rspb.co.uk](mailto:community.safety@rspb.co.uk) or 020 3142 5372

## Members of the 1st Kidwelly Scouts improve the appearance of the town's railway station

Seven members of the 1st Kidwelly Scouts along with Scout Leaders, staff from Arriva Trains Wales (ATW) and



two officers from the British Transport Police in Swansea turned in for duty on a sunny Saturday morning to give the brick waiting shelters a refreshing coat of paint.

The project was undertaken as part of the Scouts' recent adoption of the station – a scheme which encourages local volunteers to work with ATW

and help keep stations in the best possible condition.

Adopters help to keep an eye on unstaffed stations and report any issues to the Station Manager. Cleaning and maintenance is undertaken by Arriva's station care team.

Scout leader Shan Cheesman, said "The whole group is very excited about this project, and are busy planning and designing. We want to make our station as welcoming as possible. This opportunity also helps 1st Kidwelly Scout Group, become more community minded and think of others, which is a large part of the Scouting ethos. Future elements of the project include an aspiration to create raised flower beds using recycled railway sleepers and the creation of murals demonstrating the children's artistic talent."

Geraint Morgan, Community Affairs Manager for Arriva Trains Wales, said: "This exercise was a good opportunity



for the Scouts to demonstrate their teamwork and creative skills and we are really grateful for their support in transforming the appearance of the shelters.

We are looking forward to developing the remainder of the project, which will present the station in a good light to regular users and tourists in the area."

Each Scout member who took part in the project received a complimentary rail ticket in recognition of their contribution towards the project.

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

## New Rail task force launched to protect passengers on Sussex

British Transport Police (BTP) and Southern have joined forces to launch a new Task Force to patrol the railways in Sussex.

The Outer Task Force, consists of a BTP Sergeant, four Southern revenue protection officers and a team of four accredited security guards which is working to reduce crime and the fear of crime on the railways.

The team will be tasked on a daily basis to patrol hotspot locations where anti-social behaviour and low-level disorder is reported along the west coast. They will also be supported by other officers and specialist resources such as dogs when required.

The Outer Taskforce is the second such taskforce to be developed with Southern railways.

BTP Superintendent, Martin Fry said: "The first Southern taskforce had

proved to be an example of partnership working at its best. Our hope is that this new taskforce for Sussex will be as every bit as successful as their colleagues patrolling the Southern network in London, Surrey and North Sussex. We will be actively deploying them wherever crime is reported."

Outer Taskforce Sergeant Graham Little said the general public had welcomed the presence of the team during patrols. He said: "We've already conducted some initial patrols while we get all the members of the team onboard. The feedback from the public has been really positive. Most people are really pleased to see us patrolling trains. We've already been involved in several multi-agency operations and we will continue to

build on this positive start and do all we can to make the railways even safer."

Southern's Head of Security, David Hynes said: "We are delighted that the new taskforce is now up and running. We very much hope that the success of the team patrolling the London area is repeated on the Sussex coast.

"The new taskforce will be directly responsible for ensuring a safe and trouble-free environment for passengers and staff and I am sure that everyone will get to know the new team as they patrol the Southern part of our network."

The new Outer Crime Task Force is pictured below:



got a story...?

please contact: [community.safety@rspb.co.uk](mailto:community.safety@rspb.co.uk) or 020 3142 5372

## No tranquility for railway offenders

Those intent on committing crimes or taking part in anti-social behaviour on the rail network across the Wales and Western Area were dealt a blow after British Transport Police (BTP) launched a week-long operation targeting offenders.

From Bangor in North Wales to Penzance in the South West of England, BTP officers were out in force to prevent, disrupt and detect crime and disorder on the railways during Operation Tranquility II.

More than 130 offences were dealt with by officers in the Wales and Western Area, which covers three sectors - Wales, the West Midlands and the South West of England - during the initiative which ran from 11 May to 17 May.

Officers took part in operations at locations across the region targeting people trespassing on rail lines and misusing level crossings, as well as those intent on carrying weapons or drugs on the network.

BTP also worked in collaboration with train operating companies on revenue protection initiatives.

In total, 136 offences, including assault, breach of the peace, possession of drugs and offensive weapons, fraud and money laundering were recorded during the week of action.

Football fans intent on taking part in disorder on the railways did not escape during Operation Tranquility II either.

Four men were charged with public order offences and three others released on bail pending further inquiries after BTP officers swooped on addresses across the West Midlands.

The seven arrests came after offenders were captured on CCTV during a fight at Telford railway station on 11 April which was also witnessed by a number of passengers and railway staff.

Inspector Stuart Middlemas, of BTP, said: "These arrests send out a positive message to all that football-related disorder on the railway network will not be tolerated."

Chief Inspector Allan Gregory, Sector Commander for the West Midlands, said: "Operation Tranquility represents the opportunity for officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to add further value to community safety through reduction and detection-based operations, delivered through a range of tactics.

"We are absolutely determined to deal with offenders robustly and we want to work closely with our partners in the industry to ensure our activities are supportive of their safety priorities."

In Wales, 28 people were detected for line of route offences, which include trespassing and misuse of level crossings, as BTP officers heightened patrols across the country.

Sector Commander for Wales, Chief Inspector Sandra England, said. "We urge people not to risk their and other lives by trespassing on the railway. Unlike cars that can almost immediately stop, a train travelling at full speed will take over a mile to stop once the brakes are applied."

"Level crossings continue to be misused with drivers taking a chance. This can have fatal consequences with loss of life and serious disruption to the rail network"

In the South West of England, officers carried out a range of activities throughout the week, including using mobile metal detecting arches and scanners at Exeter St David's railway station and the use of a sniffer dog at Gloucester railway station.

Sgt Darryl Pearson, based at Gloucester, said: "A passive drugs dog was used in the Operation between 4pm and 8pm on 15 May at Gloucester railway station.

"More than 50 people were searched with eight being dealt with for drugs offences. One person was also dealt with for travel fraud.

"Revenue Protection Inspectors from train operating companies First Great Western and CrossCountry Trains were present and a large amount of revenue was collected.

"The Operation was very successful with positive feedback from staff and passengers."

Operation Tranquility will continue throughout 2009 with BTP officers promising to continue preventing, disrupting and detecting crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour across the Wales and Western Area.

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

got a story...?

please contact: [community.safety@rspb.co.uk](mailto:community.safety@rspb.co.uk) or 020 3142 5372

## News in Brief

**First Capital Connect** hosted a big clean up at Stevenage Station on 22 May. The event was supported by managers and directors from First Capital Connect, including the Managing Director Jim Morgan.

First Capital Connect is looking at taking the initiative to other stations across Hertfordshire in the future.

**British Transport Police (BTP)** Chief Constable Ian Johnston has been knighted for outstanding public service to policing and Constable

Stephen Wareing, BTP, received an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) for services to the police in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

## Events this Month:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
ACORP - Value of Volunteers	<i>Wednesday 15 July 2009</i>	<b>Venue:</b> Brian Jackson Centre - Huddersfield For further information: <a href="http://www.acorp.uk.com/">http://www.acorp.uk.com/</a>
Transport planning for major sporting events 2009	<i>Thursday 2 July 2009</i>	<b>Venue:</b> The Barbican, London For further information: <a href="http://www.itmworld.com/index.php">http://www.itmworld.com/index.php</a>

## Future Events:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
ACORP Community Rail Awards – Carlisle	<i>Friday 25 September 2009</i>	<b>Venue:</b> Carlisle For further information: <a href="http://www.acorp.uk.com/">http://www.acorp.uk.com/</a>
ACORP- Working with other modes	<i>March 2010</i>	<b>Venue:</b> TBC
Railway Community Safety Forum 2010	<i>Wednesday 17 March 2010 (date to be confirmed)</i>	<b>Venue:</b> TBC For further information email: <a href="mailto:community.safety@rssb.co.uk">community.safety@rssb.co.uk</a>

---

**National Railway Crime Hotline**  
**0800 40 50 40**

got a story...?

please contact: [community.safety@rssb.co.uk](mailto:community.safety@rssb.co.uk) or 020 3142 5372