

Welcome to the May 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.

I am pleased to be back in the editor's driving seat after returning from maternity leave. I hope you will enjoy my first newsletter since coming back. This issue sees the launch of the Network Rail No Messin' Campaign as well as some interesting developments from BTP including the introduction of on-the-spot fines in Scotland for anyone committing 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](mailto:community.safety@rssb.co.uk) or **020 3142 5372**.

I hope you enjoy this issue of UPDATE.

Kerry Dolan, Editor.

## Network Rail launches No Messin' 2009



April saw the launch of Network Rail's annual No Messin' campaign to reduce railway crime and promote positive activities for young people. The campaign is fronted by boxing champion Amir Khan.

The No Messin' campaign, now in its fourth year is seeing some significant successes. Overall, reported trespass and vandalism crimes are down around 13% on 2007, and in the 100 locations specifically targeted by Network Rail in the past year, crime is down 30%.

Iain Coucher, Network Rail chief executive said: "We're seeing some real success in bringing down the levels of railway crime in hotspot areas, but there is much more work to be done to save lives and prevent needless injury. We are working hard to tackle the most dangerous crimes where young people think it is fun to play 'chicken' with a 200 tonne train going at 100mph or place objects on the line, which could have catastrophic consequences.

"Over the spring and summer we will once again be taking our No Messin' campaign on tour to get young people involved in more exciting and fun stuff. That includes sports such as football and boxing, but also things they might never have tried before like archery, motorcycling and street dance. Once the events are over we continue to work with local clubs to sustain that interest and develop their skills and keep them off the tracks for good."

Network Rail's dedicated community safety team worked with local police, sports clubs, schools and community groups across the country over the two-week Easter school holidays to raise awareness of the dangers of taking risks on the tracks and get young people involved in more fun activities. These range from community payback schemes, where those convicted of trespass crimes and spraying graffiti, are made to clean up their mess under supervision, to running kids football training sessions with professional clubs such as Wycombe Wanderers.

In addition, a series of No Messin' Live! events will continue over the summer holidays. Kids aged 9-16 will be able to take part in a variety of free sports, arts and dance activities. Visit [www.no-messin.com](http://www.no-messin.com) for dates and locations.



**For more information on the No Messin campaign, please contact Vicki Smith, Community Safety Manager, [Vicki.SMITH@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:Vicki.SMITH@networkrail.co.uk)**

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## Doncaster Knights tackle railway crime



Doncaster Knights rugby club had more than winning on their minds during a recent match against Mosley as Network Rail launched its safety campaign in Yorkshire for 2009.

No Messin' is an award-winning campaign run each year by Network Rail to encourage young people to find safe, fun alternatives to messing about on the railway. Crime committed by young people increases during the school holidays - hence the decision to target the match just before Easter.

More than 60 crimes have been reported on the railway around Doncaster in the past year. For example, in February trains were delayed at Moat Hills near Doncaster after children were reported running along the line and in January a woman was seen walking down the tracks in Marshgate with three children.

Iain Coucher, chief executive of Network Rail, said:

"We always see an increase in rail crime with the light evenings when young people are more likely to be out and about looking for something to do. Partnerships like this one with Doncaster Knights give us an excellent opportunity to get the message across that the railways are a dangerous place if you are not supposed to be there whilst also offering something much more fun to do."

The rugby club and DIRECT (Doncaster Inclusive Rugby Education Community Trust) are keen supporters of Network Rail's award-winning No Messin' campaign. £20,000 sponsorship from Network Rail has received sports matched funding and helps to pay for staff who work with schools in Doncaster to spread the safety message. To reflect this, local schools competed in a tag rugby tournament before the Knights match - with winners Pheasant Bank Junior School receiving their medals from Iain Coucher at half time.

Network Rail also brought a range of free activities to the ground. These included the chance of one-to-one coaching from the Knights professional team and football freestyler Colin Nell.

Rt Hon Rosie Winterton MP is a supporter of the No Messin' campaign. She said:

"I am pleased so many schools supported this event, which was a lot of fun and also sends out an important message to help keep young people safe and off the railway tracks."

To learn more about Network Rail's No Messin' campaign and watch video interviews with Knights players Neil Cochrane and Chris Hughes visit: <http://www.no-messin.com/videos/>

## BTP successfully prosecute Ticket Vending Machine thieves

A gang of four has been jailed for a combined total of eight years and four months for their part in a £700,000 conspiracy to steal from railway ticket machines.

The gang were responsible for a spate of thefts from and damage to ticket machines at railway stations across south London and the southern and northern home counties between August and September 2008.

As a consequence of the thefts, some as many as four a night, British Transport Police (BTP) set up a dedicated squad of detectives to form Operation Taurus to trace the culprits.

Plain clothes officers attached to the operation had a breakthrough in the early hours of 10 September 2008, after ticket machines had been broken into at Christs Hospital and Arundel train stations in West Sussex.

BTP Detective Sergeant Bob Stokoe said within an hour of the break-ins, officers managed to track the four after they were spotted in a car that had parked up outside Ifield railway station.

"Officers spotted two of the men leave the vehicle and examine the ticket machine at about 3.30am. Officers soon after approached the vehicle and found the men were in possession of tools and clothing used in the previous offences and had on them a large amount of cash as well as railway maps."

DS Stokoe said the four were arrested and following further investigations, police were able to link members of the group to at least 43 offences.

Outside the court DS Stokoe said: "This group was involved in a campaign of thieving and caused a considerable amount of damage to machines across a very wide area.

"While the actual money taken was only minor, the cost of the damage to the machines to train operators was in excess of £700,000.

"Officers worked around-the-clock viewing hours of CCTV of thefts taking place.

"Thankfully due to dogged detective work, coupled with hours of quality CCTV from the various stations where they struck we were able to put the best possible case forward to the court to get the result that we achieved today. Hopefully a jail term will act as a deterrent to any others who are minded to commit this type of crime."

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

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## BTP in Scotland to get tough on anti-social behaviour offences



Anti-social behaviour and drunkenness on Scotland's rail network is to be tackled with on-the-spot fines. Anyone committing an anti-social behaviour offence on trains, at stations or elsewhere on the rail network can now be issued with a £40 fixed penalty by British Transport Police (BTP).

The £40 'on the spot' fine gives BTP officers a swifter and alternative means of dealing with minor and low-level offences - as well as reducing the amount of time taken to complete paperwork and attending court.

Chief Superintendent Martyn Ripley, area commander for the Scottish area of BTP, said:

"BTP record in the region of 2,000 offences of this nature each year and it is estimated that at least 25% will be dealt with by way of a fixed penalty notice in the first year alone. BTP will not tolerate anti-social behaviour of any kind and passengers and rail staff should be able to travel and go about their normal duties without any kind of inconvenience."

The fixed penalty scheme is aimed at a variety of offences including breach of the peace, vandalism, drinking in public, being drunk and incapable and urinating in public. Previously, in Scotland, these types of offences would have required the offender being the subject of a report to the local Procurator Fiscal.

Chief Superintendent Ripley continued: "There is no doubt that this scheme will prove to be an extremely useful additional tool in helping officers keep the rail network in Scotland safe and free from disruption."

Kenny MacAskill, the Scottish Government's cabinet secretary for Justice, supports the introduction. He said:

"The public should be able to travel on our rail network without fear of being affected by loutishness, drunkenness and other unacceptable behaviour. BTP officers will now have the same powers as all of Scotland's police forces to take action against anyone indulging in such behaviour, helping them free up more time for preventing and tackling more serious crimes.

"The introduction of fixed penalty notices for our police forces has already helped them take swift and visible action against anti-social behaviour in our communities. The Scottish Government fully supports our police and other law enforcement agencies in delivering instant justice for our communities through these on-the-spot fines."

British Transport Police commenced issuing the fixed penalty notices, under the Anti-Social Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004, on 1 April 2009.

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

## Office of Rail Regulation sends out warning Level Crossing warning

Observe level crossing rules, or face the consequences is the stark warning from the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR).

The health and safety regulator for the railways warns that level crossing misuse is not only dangerous to individuals and in extreme cases, people on trains, but can land offenders in court.

ORR was involved in a recent British Transport Police (BTP), investigation following an incident at Wraysholme level crossing, Cumbria in December 2008.

A van, which was towing another vehicle, approached the crossing but the driver ignored the warning lights and narrowly missed an oncoming train. He was fined £650, banned from driving for 30 days and ordered to pay £60 costs at South Lakeland Magistrates Court in Kendal on 23 March 2009.



Allan Spence, deputy chief inspector of railways at the ORR said: "The fine and driving ban handed out in this particular case clearly demonstrate that, like us, the courts take level crossing misuse seriously.

"But this driver was lucky - in so many other cases, failing to follow level crossing instructions leads to tragedy. And incidents involving misuse are on the increase. Drivers and pedestrians should be clear that running the risk at level crossings can mean they end up in court, or something much more serious."

An international level crossing awareness day is planned for the 25 June 2009 to highlight the dangers of level crossings. The event, organised by the International Union of Railways (UIC) and supported by RSSB, Network Rail and ORR is the first of its kind and aims to reduce the number of accidents on level crossings.

**For more information, please contact: ORR Press Office: 020 7282 2007/2188**

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## Partnership investment in St Albans Abbey station

Stations that are tidy, clean with clear wayfinding and surveillance are more likely to give customers a sense of personal security and improve the overall experience for passengers travelling by rail. Rail operator London Midland and Hertfordshire County Council have joined forces with volunteers to give St Albans Abbey station a makeover – and the new look will help deflect the kinds of activities which run counter to the principles of community safety, including graffiti, fare evasion and anti-social behaviour.

Improvements to the station include the installation of CCTV, planters, modern lighting, a ticket vending machine, new information display cases and signage, a new waiting shelter, more bicycle storage and new seating on the platform.

Community Artist Emily Fuller worked with a local school, St Peters, to design and install award winning mosaics. The result is a beautiful piece of art that has already impressed passengers on their way to the platform.

The station also benefitted from voluntary service freely given by staff of local firm Faber Maunsell who cleared rubbish and cut back vegetation on the site.

Hertfordshire County Council's Passenger Transport Unit has provided £150,000, with London Midland adding £40,000.

The Community Rail Partnership provided another £35,000 to fund the new pavement, the mosaic, the landscaping and the new planters.

Groundwork Hertfordshire project managed the whole project, coordinating the volunteers from Faber Maunsell and the community artist with the school children.

London Midland managing director Steven Banaghan said the changes had made a positive impact.

"We're so impressed with developments here that St Albans is now a model for London Midland's other unstaffed stations," he said.

"This is the first scheme to be completed under the Quality Rail Partnership and we're looking forward to rolling this out to other stations across our network."

Executive Member for Environment, Transport and Rural Affairs, Stuart Pile said:

"We hope that more of the local community will use the Abbey Line, which continues to be a crucial link to Watford from St Albans.

"With increased accessibility and safety features now in place, the Quality Rail Partnership has already provided the station with a vast amount of improvements for the benefit of all users - long may it continue."

Further work planned at St Albans Abbey includes the introduction of a real-time visual information display and a phone help point.

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

## East Coast stations win security award

Twelve railway stations on the East Coast Main Line have been awarded a national security rating.

The stations, all of which are managed by National Express East Coast, have won 'Secure Stations' status from the British Transport Police (BTP) and the Department for Transport (DfT).

The Secure Stations scheme is a Government-backed initiative aimed at improving personal security at railway stations.

The national scheme covers all rail and underground networks policed by the BTP. It sets out good practice standards and recognises stations which work with the transport police and other local partners to implement security measures.

The 12 stations which now have Secure Stations status are:

- Dunbar, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Newcastle, Durham, Darlington, York, Wakefield, Westgate, Doncaster, Retford, Newark North Gate, Grantham, Peterborough,

To qualify for Secure Stations status, there are four key levels of security which have to be reached:

- The design of the station has to conform to standards set by the British Transport Police to prevent and reduce crime.
- The way the station is run has to allow for crime prevention, response to incidents and communication with customers.
- Statistics for the station for 12 months prior to an inspection must demonstrate positive efforts to manage crime.
- A survey of station users has to demonstrate that on the whole, customers feel secure when using the station.

National Express East Coast's head of stations Anna Heathcote said:

"Our customers should feel safe and secure at all times. This important accreditation is the result of a lot of hard work by our employees, in partnership with the transport police.

"We are investing in our stations as safe and welcoming gateways to rail travel."

The 12 stations managed by National Express East Coast have benefited in recent years from improvements, including new and extended CCTV coverage, improved lighting and signage.

**For more information, please visit: <http://mediacentre.nationalexpresseastcoast.com/>**

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## BTP raises the profile of the Crime Reduction Unit

March saw the launch of a new promotional leaflet entitled 'British Transport Police Crime Reduction Unit – How They Can Help You',

The promotional leaflet is aimed at all members of the railway industry, to try and encourage the use of the Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) and allow users to benefit from the knowledge and skills the Crime Reduction Officers (CRO's) have.

Crime Reduction Officers are spread across the seven BTP Areas and based at Force Headquarters. They are all specially trained in both Crime Reduction techniques and Architectural Liaison (Designing out Crime) and are dedicated to providing a service solely for the railway industry. Involving a CRO in a project, can reduce the levels of offending and reduce the fear of crime for both staff and passengers alike.

CRO's need to be brought in early within any project so as to maximise their input with the potential to save money in the longer term. They have access to other specialists e.g. CCTV, Counter Terrorist Security Advisers, who may also have an input into the project.

**For more information on the CRU or the leaflet, please contact: Phil Bennett: [phil.bennett@btp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:phil.bennett@btp.pnn.police.uk) or Chris Bunyan: [Christopher.bunyan@btp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Christopher.bunyan@btp.pnn.police.uk)**

## Level crossing intelligence shared at European forum

European railway specialists have been discussing and sharing the latest safety intelligence on level crossings at a forum in Vienna. The European Level Crossing Forum (ELCF) held its ninth meeting last month with 40 people from 14 countries in attendance. Key issues for discussion included:

- ELCF signing up to the European Road Safety Charter (as reported in last month's UPDATE), which aims to reduce the number of fatalities on the roads of the EU from a staggering 40,000 each year. By signing the charter, ELCF and its members, commit to take actions, assess results and heighten awareness about the need to reduce road accident fatalities at level crossings. The forum will do this by sharing ideas and practices, so that everyone can learn from each other. This will make safety initiatives more visible across Europe.
- An international level crossing awareness day, planned for 25 June 2009, coordinated by the International Union of Railways (UIC) and supported by RSSB, Network Rail and ORR. This will raise awareness of the critical risks at level crossings, with 20 countries so far pledging to incorporate the message, STOP ACCIDENTS: EUROPE FOR SAFER LEVEL CROSSINGS. In the UK Network Rail will use this message as part of its Don't Run the Risk campaign.



The forum also shared experiences of human factors research including why people misbehave at level crossings.

**For more information about ELCF visit [www.levelcrossing.net](http://www.levelcrossing.net) or contact the secretary, Alan Davies at RSSB, [alan.davies@rssb.co.uk](mailto:alan.davies@rssb.co.uk) 020 3142 5371**

## Perfect Score for North Fambridge

National Express East Anglia's North Fambridge station has just achieved a perfect score of 100% in the latest mystery shopper survey.

Grace Stevens, Community Rail Officer for the Essex and South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership commented:

"The vigilance and gardening work undertaken by the station adopters John and Win Wait as well as the maintenance provided by Norman Christenson from National Express East Anglia is a wonderful example of community rail partnership. Together they ensure that this station is kept to a high standard and has achieved this outstanding score."

All stations are assessed for Service and Quality Standards on a regular basis and mystery shoppers experience the station as any member of the public would. The Service and Quality Standards criteria are based around the cleanliness, customer service and condition of all areas of the station including the car parks, shelters, platforms, announcements and customer information.

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

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# 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)**

### Future Events:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
The 14th Annual Conference of the National Community Safety Network	<i>Tuesday 9 – Wednesday 10 June 2009</i>	<b>Venue:</b> Leeds For further information: <b><a href="http://www.community-safety.net/conference2009/home.htm">http://www.community-safety.net/conference2009/home.htm</a></b>
ACORP - Value of Volunteers	<i>Wednesday 15 July 2009</i>	<b>Venue:</b> Brian Jackson Centre - Huddersfield For further information: <b><a href="http://www.acorp.uk.com/">http://www.acorp.uk.com/</a></b>
ACORP Community Rail Awards – Carlisle	<i>Friday 25 September 2009</i>	<b>Venue:</b> Carlisle For further information: <b><a href="http://www.acorp.uk.com/">http://www.acorp.uk.com/</a></b>
ACORP- Working with other modes	<i>Tuesday 24 November 2009</i>	<b>Venue:</b> TBC

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

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