

# April update

**PARTNERS IN  
COMMUNITY  
SAFETY**



**This is the monthly newsletter from the industry's Community Safety Support Unit, funded on a two-year trial basis from the RSSB-managed research and development programme.**

**The CSSU works under the wider community safety banner in support of the industry's efforts to tackle railway crime, level crossing safety, personal security and fatalities management.**

**The unit can also provide support if required to industry partners interacting with the victims of railway accidents.**

**If you have items for the newsletter please email the CSSU team at [suenelsoncssu@aol.com](mailto:suenelsoncssu@aol.com) by the 21st of the month to ensure inclusion in the following month's newsletter.**

## Canadian Pacific signs up coast-to-coast

The Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) police service has joined the community safety newsletter family. The officers in charge of policing 14,000 miles of track in Canada and the US are developing community links with more than 900 cities, towns and villages across the CPR network and have requested and are now receiving the e-newsletter each month to share and learn about other railway experiences in the community safety arena. The newsletter, which began in March 2005, has grown rapidly into a community safety network involving thousands of practitioners and interested people from 15 countries.

- For more information about the work of the CPR police service drop them a line at [cpr\\_police\\_service@cpr.ca](mailto:cpr_police_service@cpr.ca)

## 100-plus at National Community Safety Forum

More than 100 community safety practitioners from across Britain gathered in Birmingham for the National Community Safety Forum. Delegates from railway businesses including Network Rail, train operators, and the British Transport Police were joined by others in the community safety field representing local authorities, civil police forces, the Home Office and the Department for Transport. The all-day forum organised by the CSSU and RSSB, featured an opening plenary session, eight workshops outlining examples of good practice in the field, an extensive exhibition show-casing examples of campaigns and initiatives across the industry and a wrap-up question and answer session to round off the day.

Delegates learned about the industry's new community safety arrangements at strategic, tactical and delivery level which are being implemented across the network following a review of activity (see story below). The new approach links with the government's community safety agenda and aligns with the recently published National Community Safety Plan for 2006-2009 which can be downloaded free at [www.crimereduction.gov.uk/communitysafety01](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/communitysafety01)

The workshops included presentations on building better links with crime and disorder reduction partnerships; the use of diversionary tactics with young people; the effective use of data intelligence; using the criminal justice system to get results; tackling workforce violence; managing personal security and safety at stations; making the best use of community safety research and getting effective messages into communities.

The exhibition highlighted several campaigns including work being

delivered by Arriva Trains Wales, Southern, Northern Rail, the BTP and Network Rail. In addition there were interactive elements to the exhibition including demonstrations of how lesson plans are used with whiteboard technology in the classroom - a key facility available through the industry's [www.trackoff.org](http://www.trackoff.org) education website - plus an interactive "ghost box" developed by Network Rail highlighting railway safety messages for youngsters attending crucial crews or junior citizen schemes. Delegates could also view a wealth of DVD and audio visual material produced by the industry for use in communities and schools.

Early analysis of feedback suggests the event was a great success with delegates variously describing it as excellent, thought-provoking, very interesting, extremely useful and a good opportunity to network.

The forum was due to be discussed at the first meeting of the industry's new strategic body, the Community Safety Steering Group, on April 3 to see whether it should become an annual event. This year's forum was the second national gathering of community safety practitioners from across the industry and beyond - the first being held in March 2005 - and was developed based on the feedback from last year's event.

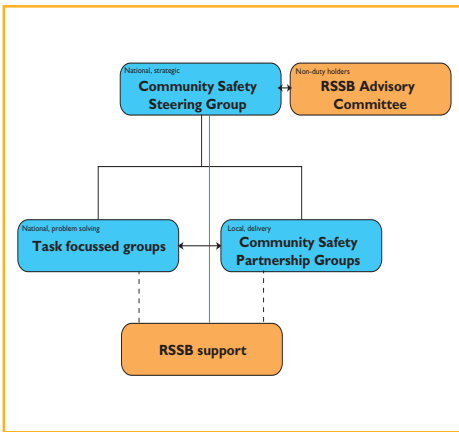
- Coming soon - details on how to access the forum exhibition on line at [www.railwaycrime.org](http://www.railwaycrime.org)



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## ☛ New community safety approach takes off

New community safety arrangements at strategic, tactical and delivery level are being implemented across the rail network following a review of activity.



The Community Safety Steering Group with senior representatives of the main duty holders plus BT Police and chaired by RSSB will set the strategy and priorities, monitor progress and improve effectiveness. There will be nine groups called Community Safety Partnership Groups (CSPGs) to harness cross-industry effort at the local level, responsible for developing and delivering local plans to deliver the national strategy. These groups will be made up of senior representatives of all local duty holders and BT Police, with other stakeholders invited to participate as necessary.

National task groups such as the Rail Personal Security Group will continue to focus on addressing specific areas, new groups being established and others being disbanded once work has been completed.

For further details on the new approach including the CSPGs and the geographical areas they cover contact [maurice.wilsdon@rssb.co.uk](mailto:maurice.wilsdon@rssb.co.uk)

## ☛ Channel Tunnel link stations join RSAS scheme

Staff at Channel Tunnel Rail Link stations are the latest to gain police approval under the Railway Safety Accreditation



Scheme (RSAS). London & Continental Stations and Property Limited has now been officially accredited by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), which means the company will be able to contribute towards community safety and security within the railway environment.

Staff who pass all vetting checks and are trained to the required standard will have limited policing powers allowing them to address low-level disorder and anti-social behaviour on the spot without the involvement of the police.

London & Continental will base their RSAS accredited staff at London St Pancras station and two new stations, at Ebbsfleet, Kent, and Stratford, east London. The company sees the scheme as complementing current initiatives in which station security personnel, police officers and police community support officers (PCSOs) work together for the benefit of station users.

Transport Minister Dr Stephen Ladyman is set to attend London & Continental's official accreditation ceremony at St Pancras on April 26 along with BTP's chief constable Ian Johnston, the assistant chief constable for operations Alan Pacey and Stephen Jordan, managing director for London & Continental Stations and Property Limited.

The company's acceptance to the scheme follows South Eastern Trains

(SET) which gained RSAS accreditation last November. SET currently has 40 accredited staff and plans to introduce another 20 later this year.

- BTP would like all train operators to sign up to the scheme. A key benefit is the creation of formal arrangements between BTP and signed-up TOCs for information sharing and joint operating protocols. Many train operators use private security firms in support of their security policies and from April 2006 all security companies have to be licensed by the Security Industry Authority. The benefit of joining the RSAS scheme is that it meets SIA requirements. For further information contact [jeffrey.booth@btp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:jeffrey.booth@btp.pnn.police.uk)

## ☛ Graffiti crackdown

A team of 50 has undertaken a massive clean-up at Reading station in Berkshire as part of crackdown on vandals and fly-tippers.

The clean-up squad, armed with paint brushes, litter pickers and a pressure washer, cleared the railway line one mile either side of the station of graffiti, litter, scrap and overgrown vegetation.

"This isn't just a spring clean," said Gregg Lunn, Network Rail's Western territory maintenance director. "We are creating a zero tolerance zone to prevent vandals, fly-tippers and trespassers from ruining the look of the area."

Sonia Crosby, First Great Western's station manager at Reading said the work complements measures to improve cleanliness and security at the station which has been accredited under the government's Secure Station Scheme.



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## ☛ 'Sophie' loco promotes trespass message

A Freightliner locomotive is riding Britain's railways bearing the name Sophie in memory of ten-year-old girl who died while playing near the tracks. Sophie Storey was collecting conkers with twin brother Thomas near Staines in Middlesex when she wandered onto the railway and was electrocuted after she tripped and fell on to the third rail.

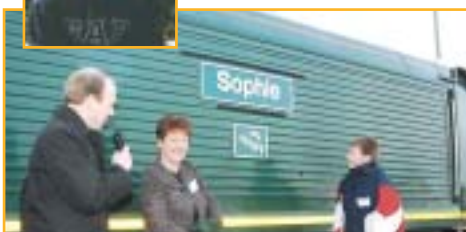
The decision to name the loco after Sophie, who died in September 2003, came after step-dad Terry Dexter contacted Freightliner with the idea of commemorating the youngster and using the opportunity to help raise awareness of the dangers young people face if they venture near railway lines. Now, following a poignant ceremony at Freightliner's Barking depot in London, Class 66 locomotive 66581 carries Sophie's name and the industry's Trackoff logo.

The train naming ceremony was conducted by Sophie's brother Thomas, now aged 14, and their mum Tracey before family, friends and railway staff. Adam Cunliffe, managing director of Freightliner Heavy Haul said: "The loss of life, especially a young life such as Sophie's, on railway lines is a tragedy that can be avoided. We hope this small gesture will help not only honour Sophie's memory but also help to

prevent the same thing happening again."



*Sophie (left) and (below) Adam Cunliffe, with Tracey, Thomas and the loco*



## ☛ Youth deaths investigated

A Local Investigation led by Network Rail is being held following the deaths of two schoolboys who were killed by an 80mph express train on a railway crossing in north London.

Local boys Voker Hasa and Jamie Yuksel, both aged 16, died instantly after being hit by a Liverpool Street-Stansted express on a footpath crossing at Edmonton. British Transport Police said the crossing, which is operated by users pushing open a spring-loaded gate, is on a long stretch of straight track with good views either side. Three friends who were with the boys escaped unhurt.

- Meanwhile, an independently-chaired Formal Inquiry into the deaths of two teenage girls on a crossing at Elsenham station, Essex last December is continuing as planned. The inquiry is being facilitated by RSSB.

## ☛ Advertising watchdog rejects rail complaints...

The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) has rejected 37 complaints about car maker Skoda's latest TV advertising campaign which depicts a person leaping from a bridge onto the roof of a moving train before smashing through a train window.

The advert, shown on prime time TV, horrified community safety practitioners across the industry, leading to formal complaints from RSSB, Network Rail and the BTP, as well as a range of other individual submissions. The ASA's adjudication said a number of complainants had found the advert "distressing and offensive," with five likening the shot of the person

jumping off the bridge to a suicide attempt. One complainant said the window smashing was reminiscent of the aftermath of railway accidents when windows had to be broken to rescue people.

But in rejecting all the complaints the ASA said the advert had a "cinematic quality" and was intended to be "entertaining and exciting." The "action film" context of the advert with the person jumping from the bridge was clearly a "daring feat."

Aidan Nelson, director of policy and strategic initiatives for RSSB said: "Such comments from the ASA show a remarkable lack of understanding about the issues that our industry continually tries to address with young people. We don't want to see the railway being depicted as 'exciting' or 'daring' as this is precisely what leads youngsters to copycat behaviour."

## ☛ ... Now musician Morrissey gets in on the act

The album sleeve of alternative rock musician Morrissey's new album "You Have Killed Me" is dominated by a picture of the artist draped across a railway line. The image, which is also being featured on advertising hoardings, has been barred from appearing at railway stations and complaints have been made to the singer's record company drawing attention to industry concerns.

This is the latest in a series of examples of inappropriate imagery involving the railway being used by advertisers and a more vigorous policy to tackle this is being pursued. For more information contact [suenelsoncssu@aol.com](mailto:suenelsoncssu@aol.com)

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## ☛ Getting ready for No Messin!

No Messin!, powered by Network Rail is moving up a gear for 2006 with the number of live events



being doubled to 10 locations across Britain. All of the locations are known as "hotspots" for railway crime incidents involving young people. Each two-day event will have three separate activity zones which will appeal to a broad range of young people. Like last year the activities will be free and local authorities and police will be backing each event.

So far, dates have been fixed for events in Glasgow (July 10 - 11); Edinburgh (July 13 - 14); Battersea, south London (July 31 - August 1) and Wolverhampton (August 8 - 9). Other events are being planned for Cardiff; Crawley, Sussex; Enfield, north London; Gorton, greater Manchester; Rochdale and Stockton-on-Tees.

This year the company is also offering each of the 10 railway crime hotspots a £20,000 legacy to fund a permanent real alternative to committing crime on the railway. Network Rail will also be looking for other companies or organisations to add to the fund which will make a real difference to young people living in these locations.

The No Messin! message is expanding during the course of the year with information appearing in each Hornby model railway kit, a wide range of targeted football in the community schemes, various youth arts and drama projects and the expansion of work with the British Wrestling Association. For further information contact [ian.chapman2@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:ian.chapman2@networkrail.co.uk)

• Watch out for more details of the industry's summer initiatives in next month's newsletter.

## ☛ It's all in the message...

Hundreds of thousands of school children across Britain are receiving rail safety messages thanks to a dedicated band of industry presenters working across the network.

For example, in Scotland last year, British Transport Police officers visited 494 schools and delivered safety messages to 93,000 youngsters. South West Trains has a team of six who reinforce personal safety messages at crucial crews and junior citizen schemes as well as delivering safety tips in the classroom. In 2005 they saw a total of 60,000 youngsters, 26,000 of them at junior citizen schemes. At peak times in the run up to Easter and summer holidays, one person can be delivering safety talks in up to three schools a day.

It is a similar picture at Network Rail where a team of ten railway crime education managers spread around the country target schools in crime hotspot areas, working closely with their local industry partners to ensure as many schools as possible are covered.

And at Northern Rail, staff continue to work closely with schools to introduce codes of conduct for pupils in hotspot areas. In every location where codes have been introduced there has been a marked drop in crime and anti-social behaviour on the railway. (Contact [chris.leech@northernrail.org](mailto:chris.leech@northernrail.org) for information on the code of conduct scheme).

The industry's school visits programme is boosted by presentations, materials and lesson plans produced for use by

presenters as well as teachers under the Trackoff banner. With 22,000 schools in Britain located within two miles of a railway, presenters are in heavy demand. So making materials and lesson plans available through the industry's website [www.trackoff.org](http://www.trackoff.org) provides a vital service to schools, every one of which has to fulfil personal safety and citizenship requirements as part of the National Curriculum.

• Tell us about any school presenters you have in your organisation. We would love to hear about their work. Contact [suenelsoncssu@aol.com](mailto:suenelsoncssu@aol.com) with the details.

## ☛ New guidance to tackle youth vandalism

A series of five guides aimed at tackling vandalism has been launched by the Home Office and environmental campaigns charity Encams, the organisation behind the Keep Britain Tidy campaign.

One of the guides, Tackling Youth Vandalism, suggests that a combination of education through schools, the use of diversionary tactics through sports and the arts, plus the use of restorative justice schemes is particularly important in managing down crime among young people. Such an approach is already demonstrated through rail industry activities like the Trackoff education programme in schools, Network Rail's No Messin! campaign, the industry's MusicTraX initiative, and reparation schemes led by the British Transport Police in partnership with railway businesses and other agencies.

The guides can be downloaded from [www.railwaycrime.org/public/](http://www.railwaycrime.org/public/) under "research and guides" or from [www.crimereduction.gov.uk/vandalism01](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/vandalism01)

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## ☛ Rail crime award up for grabs

A rail crime prevention award is just one of several on offer as part of the Network Rail Environment Awards 2006. The rail crime award is open to organisations and individuals who can show a measurable and sustained drop in rail crime and/or visual impact issues in their area. Entries might, for example, cover work on reducing graffiti, trespass and vandalism or fly-tipping and could involve diversionary or preventative activities. Closing date for entries is May 12. Visit [www.networkrail.co.uk/environment](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/environment) for more details.

## ☛ Depot vandals in the spotlight

A campaign to stamp out crime at a West Yorkshire train depot has been launched. Operation Palette is being run jointly by British Transport Police, West Yorkshire Police, train companies and Crimestoppers to target vandalism, graffiti and other crime at the Leeds Neville Hill depot, which in one month alone cost £100,000 of damage.

The campaign seeks to enlist the help of the public in the fight to drive down offences at the depot which maintains and services trains for a number of rail companies operating in the West Yorkshire area. Operation Palette will aim to deploy police officers and community support officers at key times of criminal activity to identify and arrest offenders. Campaign leaders also hope to increase the number of callers to Crimestoppers (telephone 0800 555 111) to identify offenders in a bid to deter further crimes, as well as reduce fear of crime among the travelling public.

Criminals targeting the depot use unauthorised access points to the

depot where they vandalise rolling stock by spraying or scrawling graffiti across the sides of carriages and etch glass windows with their "tags." Crimestoppers are offering up to £1,000 rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of offenders.

## ☛ Fare dodge blitz nets 868

A blitz on Metro fare dodgers in central Newcastle and Gateshead caught 868 people travelling without a ticket in just two days. The passengers captured by Metro ticket inspectors were given 21 days to pay a £20 penalty fare or face court action and a fine of up to £500 plus costs, representing the recapturing of £17,360 in lost revenue.

Ken Mackay, director of Metro said: "These blitzes take place all over the system all the time. Gambling on defrauding Metro can prove a very expensive way to travel."

Fraud on Metro has been falling consistently over the last 18 months thanks to close working between Metro ticket inspectors, travel support officers and the police. It now represents no more than 5% of total revenue.

## ☛ £1,000 fine for racial abuse

A man who made racist comments and assaulted a Northern Rail conductor was fined a total of £1,001.20 by magistrates who said the rail employee was a public servant and should be protected.

The offender had made abusive racist comments against the conductor, refused to show his ticket and spat in his face. He faced a total of four charges and was fined £150 on each one, and ordered to pay £100 costs, the price of his £1.20 fare and £300 in

compensation to the conductor after the incident, which began at Leeds City Station. The magistrates said: "We find that this was a racially aggravated offence that caused distress to the train conductor. He is a public servant and as such, should be protected."

Other cases taken to court by Northern's debt recovering and prosecutions unit included a man who was fined more than £550 including costs for avoiding payment of his fare, abusing rail staff and refusing to leave the train. The fare cost just £1.70. In another case a passenger who hid in a train toilet to avoid paying a fare of £1.60 was fined a total of £361.50.

- Tell us how you are dealing with staff assaults and fare evasion. Contact [suenelsoncssu@aol.com](mailto:suenelsoncssu@aol.com)

## ☛ Targeting teen drinkers

A Merseyside paramedic is at the forefront of a campaign warning of the dangers of drink among young people. Steve Evans launched his Don't Walk Away and Leave a Friend to Die campaign after noticing he was picking up more young people who had passed out from alcohol abuse. This mirrors the rail industry becoming more aware of alcohol abuse among youngsters using the lineside as a place to gather "out of the way." In at least two teenage deaths on the railway in the last year, drink was found to be a factor. Now public sector trades' union Unison is to fund a Don't Walk Away DVD for every school in England warning of the dangers of binge drinking and giving advice on how young people can help a friend in trouble. For further information go to [www.merseyambulance.nhs.uk/community](http://www.merseyambulance.nhs.uk/community)

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## ☛ **CCTV success brought into focus**

The success of Tyne and Wear Metro's CCTV network was brought into sharp focus when a man alleged to have assaulted two passengers gave himself up to police rather than see his picture appear in the newspapers.

The 19-year-old waited on a train in the Sunderland area at the station where the alleged assault took place after realising the incident was almost certain to have been captured by Metro's advanced digital system.

When the man was asked why he had stayed on the train he told police he didn't want to have his picture appear in his local paper, the Sunderland Echo. The man has since been charged with two counts of assault.

Metro works closely with the local media to reinforce its crime-busting approach by allowing CCTV footage to feature in local newspapers on local TV in a bid to catch culprits.

Director of Metro, Ken Mackay said: "Assaults are rare on the Metro system, with incidents of violent disorder down by a quarter in the last year, but when they do occur in almost every case the culprits are caught and prosecuted. CCTV plays a major role in that."

## ☛ **Drunk driver abandoned car on rail crossing**

A drunken driver who fled the scene after driving his car on to a railway line at a level crossing was given a 12 month conditional discharge by a crown court judge. This compares to a case in Nottinghamshire only a few weeks ago when a motorist was jailed for a year after he drove his car on to the tracks at a level crossing.

Duncan Kagiri, aged 38, of London admitted endangering the safety of rail passengers for which he received the conditional discharge, and drinking with excess alcohol for which he was banned from driving for 12 months, when he appeared at Chichester Crown Court.

The court heard Kagiri had drunk four cans of lager before driving off in his Ford Mondeo and skidding on to the railway line at an unmanned crossing in Crawley, Sussex. He and an unidentified passenger tried to manoeuvre the car off the crossing but failed, so they fled the scene leaving the Mondeo on the line. A witness called police after she approached Kagiri as he fled and smelt alcohol on his breath.

Sentencing him to the conditional discharge and imposing the driving ban Judge Anthony Thorpe said: "If you hadn't been drinking you wouldn't be in this situation. That's why you lost control of the car."

- Did you know that under the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act endangering safety on the railway by neglect carries a maximum prison sentence of two years?
- Likewise, under the same Act endangering safety on the railway with intent could result in life imprisonment or penal servitude for life.

## ☛ **Level crossing campaign success**

A joint industry campaign to target level crossing abuse in the Shropshire area has resulted in handing out more than 50 notices to prosecute. The initiative, led by Network Rail with the British Transport Police and Arriva Trains Wales has been targeting a

number of crossings in the county where there were 73 offences recorded in 2005. Offences include weaving round barriers and failing to obey warning lights. For further information on the campaign contact [helen.goodall@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:helen.goodall@networkrail.co.uk)

## ☛ **Rail workers stop stone throwers**

Train operator GNER has rewarded four Network Rail workers who caught teenagers preparing to stone high-speed trains on the East Coast Main Line in County Durham. The track workers spotted the youths beside the line and were able to detain them until police arrived.

Tom Lynch, Michael Armstrong, Ian Whittington and Stuart Harvey have each been given a first-class return ticket for two to London and received a letter of thanks from GNER's chief operating officer Jonathan Metcalfe.

## ☛ **Security group formed**

The Australasian Railway Association has formed a new security working group to provide co-ordinated expert advice on security issues as they affect the Australian rail industry. A key responsibility for the group will be to act as a focal point for information exchange, the use of standard terminology, exercise co-ordination and government agency interface. An immediate task is to develop a security risk management code of practice. Contact John Shalders at [cmc@ara.net.au](mailto:cmc@ara.net.au) for more information.

## ☛ **Keep in touch...**

If you want to be added to this e-newsletter's mailing list send your details to [suenelsoncssu@aol.com](mailto:suenelsoncssu@aol.com)