

December 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 by the 21st of the month to ensure inclusion in the following month's newsletter.

☛ Ex rail worker accused

A former rail worker appeared in court via a live video link on December 1 to answer 12 charges relating to damage caused to the railway network. Allan David Nicol, from Yardley, Birmingham, spoke only to confirm his name during a five-minute preliminary hearing at the city's crown court. Judge David McCarthy remanded the 46-year-old in custody until February 24 when the defendant is expected to enter pleas to the charges. Nicol is charged with one count of criminal damage, one of arson with intent to endanger life and a further 10 of obstructing the railways. It is alleged that Nicol, who is being held at Birmingham's Winson Green prison, committed the offences between June last year and November this year.

☛ MusicTraX goes live....

Thousands of young people are now taking part in a new internet-based initiative to divert youngsters away from the railway and focus on their love of music. Less than two weeks after the new website was quietly posted up on the internet there has been more than 50,000 hits on the site as word has spread.

The initiative, which has been developed by Partners Against Railway Crime, an umbrella organisation made up of rail industry, police and other organisations, encourages young people to play and make music instead of hanging about on the railways.

Train operator Northern Rail is working with RSSB to pilot the initiative to help gain momentum ready for national roll-out in 2006. Under the pilot scheme a website www.northerntrax.net has been set up to act as a portal for a number of attractions for young people available through the host site, www.musictrax.net. Both sites are being facilitated and managed on behalf of the rail industry through the PARC partnership which is facilitated by RSSB.

A key element of the initiative is the encouragement of industry sponsorship of performing arts-oriented activities (e.g. music, dance etc) in school holidays, particularly during the spring and summer months. The aim is to directly divert young people into doing something they want to do at times when the rail network has most crime. It is proposed industry sponsorship can be targeted at major cities and areas where there are particular problems of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Global music giants EMI are backing the initiative, which will also give some young musician, band or DJ a once in a

lifetime opportunity to have their music professionally recorded in a music studio. Research shows that the one activity that all young people enjoy in their spare time is listening to music - with an increasing number also making their own music in a band, as a solo artist or increasingly at home using computer technology.

Not only does the website offer young people a chance to make their mark on the music world, it also offers competitions, online music magazines, album reviews, videos, features, photo galleries and loads more, plus details of music gigs and holiday music/dance/art workshops organised by local authorities and others.

A secondary school creative arts competition has also been developed by PARC under the banner MakingTraX. The competition invites schools to encourage pupils to come up with creative ideas in music, multimedia, drama and art that can be used by the rail industry in its wider educational campaign. With a top prize of £2,500 and category prizes of £2,500 each, the overall winner will win £5,000. Other prizes include a free subscription to the on-line music archive, PlayTime, and other substantial prizes.

For more information visit the websites or contact suenelsoncssu@aol.com



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☛ **No Messin'! expands for 2006**

Following the success of Network Rail's No Messin'! campaign this summer, the initiative is set to expand in 2006. Events attracting young people are being planned in up to 10 locations across the network in areas where there are known problems of railway crime involving youngsters.

A wide range of activities is being planned under various themes including sport, fitness, health and music. Network Rail is also working with Nacro, the crime reduction charity, to explore the possibility of leaving permanent activity features - for example, skateboard ramps - in place for local communities once the events are over. Planning is still at an early stage but for more information contact ian.chapman2@networkrail.co.uk

☛ **Rail and communities linking together**

A specially convened 'think tank' is meeting in December to explore how the rail industry can work better with community safety partnerships to combat crime and anti-social behaviour.

The brainstorming session in Leeds has been organised by the Home Office, the rail industry's Community Safety Support Unit (CSSU) and the Government Office Yorkshire and Humber (GOYH). Attending the session from the rail industry will be senior people representing Network Rail, passenger and freight train operators, the British Transport Police and West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, plus the CSSU. To complete the loop there will also

be representatives from the Home Office, Department for Transport, GOYH and members of local crime and disruption reduction partnerships (CDRPs), also known as community safety partnerships.

The session has been organised as a result of previous work between the Home Office and the rail industry, which identified the desirability for closer working between the railway and CDRPs. While there is recognition that railway crime issues can be broadly mirrored in the wider community and examples of joined up working do exist, it is clear that joint guidelines on how to work more closely together would be of considerable benefit to practitioners.

For further information contact roger.fisher@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

☛ **Soccer rail rowdies in the spotlight**

British Transport Police are highlighting their tough stance with soccer rowdies who travel by train through a league table of clubs with the worst offending supporters. West Ham pushed Sunderland into second place in the league of shame as a result of its fans being involved in more serious incidents on trains. Manchester United came third, while Liverpool, Chelsea, Millwall and Leeds are also in the top ten.

BTP figures show that a hard core of so-called fans have been involved in more than 100 incidents in the past three months alone. They range from anti-social behaviour towards other passengers to staging pitched battles with rival fans on station platforms. The BTP has now

launched a zero tolerance stance against fans that terrorise passengers and rail staff with aggressive, rowdy and drunken behaviour. Although hard line measures have reduced violence at matches and around club grounds, senior officers and rail businesses are concerned that violent fans are causing problems on the rail network. Last season, out of 125 English and Scottish clubs - including those in the championship and first and second divisions - fans from a staggering 96 of them were involved in some form of football-related disorder with a total of 292 arrests made.

☛ **Police target drunken revellers**

British Transport Police officers are patrolling trains travelling through Tayside in the run-up to Christmas to combat crime and anti-social behaviour by drunken revellers. The initiative, called Safe Journey, involved uniformed and plain-clothed officers targeting problem services. During the busiest periods a mobile unit will meet every train between Dundee and Arbroath so any problem passengers can be dealt with.

Officers will focus on evening and late night trains to address low-level disorder, including festive drunkenness. They will also be on the lookout for anyone carrying knives or drugs, while patrols will be boosted at stations to break up gangs of loitering youths and reassure the public. Special constables are being drafted in to assist with the operation, which will run until January 8 with the support of train operator First ScotRail.

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☛ **BTP gets mobile**

More than 2,000 phones, laptops and PDAs are lost or stolen every day in the UK. But although tens of thousands are recovered, they are never returned because of difficulty in tracing the owners. Now the British Transport Police has joined forces with the Mobile Industry Crime Action Forum, the Metropolitan Police, other forces and Transport for London in a bid to encourage people to register their mobile lifestyle equipment. People can record details of their mobile phones, laptops, PDAs, gaming devices, music players and cameras on a secure database. Recorded information can help people complete insurance claims and with reporting stolen property to the police and mobile phone networks. It's quick, easy and free - go to www.immobilise.com for further details.

☛ **Graffiti headache for volunteer railway**

Volunteers who persuaded the public to give them another £75,000 to avert a cash crisis and keep their privately run railway operating have had thousands of pounds wasted by a second graffiti attack in seven days. Eight carriages on the rural Wensleydale Railway in North Yorkshire were hit. The railway, which needs every penny to run trains to the East Coast Main Line at Northallerton, suffered two graffiti attacks in August, but the latest incidents have left its directors, staff and volunteers determined to catch the culprits.

☛ **Two arrested over rail graffiti attacks**

Two people have been arrested for causing £22,000 of damage by daubing graffiti across Scottish railway stations. A 16-year-old boy and a 26-year-old man were held in a major operation led by Glasgow-based British Transport Police after a dawn swoop. The pair were charged with 11 offences before being released pending further inquiries and a report to the procurator fiscal. It is thought more charges may follow. The raids are said to be a major coup for the police as the pair were considered to be well-organised, persistent offenders.

☛ **Food for thought....**

The state of Queensland, Australia has now banned the general sale of spray paint in an effort to reduce graffiti.

☛ **Teenagers held over train fire**

Two 17-year-olds have been arrested on suspicion of starting fires on trains. Passengers fled after a South Eastern Trains carriage was set alight in Kent on a Charing Cross to Hayes service. The fire caused £75,000 of damage. The youths have been remanded on bail until this month while a report is submitted to the Crown Prosecutions Service.

☛ **Level crossing safety on the small screen**

Two hard-hitting television commercials showing the

consequences of level crossing misuse are currently being broadcast in Australia. Funded by the South Australia state government they show the risks taken by pedestrians, cyclists and motorists to get across the line. The adverts have now attracted world attention after being shown at an international railway safety conference in South Africa to more than 120 delegates representing more than 12 countries. Delegates also learned about the South African take on level crossing safety where they have adopted a 5 Es approach - education, engineering, enforcement, environment and emotion. This follows the 4 Es approach (engineering, education, engineering, enforcement with a 'silent' 5th E of evaluation) operated by Britain's railway industry for crime and community safety issues. To learn more about the Australian campaign and view the TV adverts, go to www.transport.sa.gov.au/safety/rail/advertising_campaign.asp

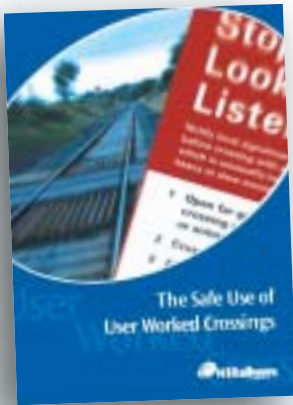
☛ **Drop in youth offending crime figures**

The number of young people in trouble with the law fell for a third successive year in 2004, according to Home Office statistics. The figures revealed that 137,000 10-18 year-olds were proceeded against last year, 13,000 fewer than in 2001. The number of 18-21 year-olds proceeded against fell sharply from 222,000 to 206,000 in 2004.



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☛ **Private crossing group promotes safer behaviour**



Translink, which operates Northern Ireland Railways, has set up a user worked crossings (UWC) management group to better handle issues around the 200 or so crossings of this type on its network. The group, which meets monthly, involves a cross-section of experts and stakeholders. Its remit includes management of UWCs; an ongoing programme to close as many as possible; rolling review of risk with the development of initiatives to reduce risk both at individual crossings and collectively; the development of an annual education programme for users that reinforce dangers and encourage safe use, plus better identifying and communicating with users. The group regularly meets users such as farming groups, Royal Mail and health trusts and recently set up an e-mail account and installed contact posters at every crossing to encourage users to get in touch. This was very useful in helping identify those actually using the crossings, and Translink now has a substantial database of users to help with its communications programme. The group also produces information

booklets (pictured) for general distribution or aimed at specific crossings where there may be a particular issue. For more information contact Ian Morrow, Translink's safety, quality and environmental manager, at ian.morrow@translink.co.uk

☛ **Train cocaine smuggler caught**

A drugs courier from Blackburn, Lancashire, has admitted smuggling cocaine worth almost £60,000 into Scotland by train. Acting on a tip-off, detectives were waiting for 20-year-old Haroon Zafir at Edinburgh's Waverley Station when his train pulled in, the High Court in the Scottish capital heard. He had travelled from Manchester's Piccadilly station with blocks of cocaine in a shoulder bag. He told officers he had been ordered to collect a package from two men at a petrol station in Bury and take it to Edinburgh for which he was to be paid £1,000 courier fee. Sentence was adjourned for reports.

☛ **New sentences for young offenders**

The Home Office is considering abolishing the sentence of being sent to a young offender institution and redefining the age of a young offender in a fundamental shake-up of criminal justice. A statement by Junior Home Office Minister Fiona MacTaggart said the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is developing a "new strategy and standard for the management of younger adult offenders in custody and the community." Ms MacTaggart said

NOMS would consider implementing Section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, which effectively abolishes the sentence of being sent to a young offender institution. This would not necessarily mean the abolition of young offender institution themselves.

A Home Office spokesman said the idea of reforming sentences for young offenders was linked to the introduction of Custody Plus, a government plan to replace custodial sentences of less than a year with a shorter custody period coupled with a longer period of licence in the community. It would be similar to the Detention and Training Order currently given to juvenile offenders.

☛ **CCTV Code of Practice Down Under**

The Australasian Railway Association (ARA) has developed a draft code of practice for the management of CCTV, which is currently being reviewed by stakeholders and interested parties. The code may have useful "good practice" pointers for practitioners elsewhere. For more information contact John Shalders, the ARA's code of practice manager at jshalders@ara.net.au

☛ **And finally...**

Keep safe wherever you are or wherever you go this Christmas. The community safety team wish all readers a happy and peaceful festive season. See you in the New Year.

☛ **Keep in touch...**

If you want to be added to this e-newsletter's mailing list send your details to suenelsoncssu@aol.com