

October update



Rail Safety & Standards Board

This monthly e-newsletter aims to inform readers on community safety issues, and is produced by the Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB), in support of the rail industry's efforts to address crime that impacts on rail related safety risk.

The areas of focus include misuse of level crossings, abuse of rail staff and passengers, trespass (including suicide), vandalism and graffiti.

If you would like to contribute to, or simply comment on this e-newsletter, please contact community.safety@rssb.co.uk or 020 7904 7674 - your continued interest is needed in order to ensure that information is shared and lessons are learned by everyone working in community safety.

Gaynor Anderson, Editor

► Getting on TraX

Award for NortherntraX pilot initiative

Train operator Northern Rail scooped the Sir Robert Horton Safety Award at the 2006 National Rail Awards, which celebrates excellence and achievement in the UK rail industry. The award was made for a NortherntraX pilot of the RSSB initiative, MusictraX, aimed at encouraging young people to stay off railway tracks and make

and play music instead. The judging panel commented on this innovative, diversionary approach to the issue of youth railway crime: "This is a wonderfully fresh approach to getting the trespass message across to young people using their interest in listening to and making music. The campaign has made a big contribution to the 25 per cent reduction in route crime and trespass, and the concept is capable of further development and wider application." To visit NortherntraX go www.northerntrax.net

SoutherntraX Launched

This week sees regional train operator, Southern, launch a major new online safety initiative to help reduce deaths and serious injury amongst young people on railway tracks in the South of England.

Under the name SoutherntraX, the company is encouraging youngsters to listen to and create music in their spare time instead of misbehaving on the railways.

All aspiring stars have to do is send their own music in to the SouthernTraX website at www.southerntrax.net. The public will vote on a monthly basis for the best artist, with the top 20 artists judged by professionals from the music industry.

The project, similar to NorthernTraX is backed by music industry giant EMI who will give winning young artists, bands or DJs an opportunity to have their music publicised to



updateupdateupdateupdateupdateup

a wide audience and be featured on a winners' CD of the Top Ten tracks.

The website also features competitions for 'must have' prizes linked to messages about the dangers and consequences of inappropriate behaviour on the railways. Also featured is an online music magazine, plus album reviews, videos, jokes, music articles and lots more.

For more information on getting involved in MusictraX contact

gaynor.anderson@rssb.co.uk

► Southern Wins Awards

Maintenance

Train operator Southern's Area Maintenance Team for South London has scooped a top prize at the prestigious National Rail Awards, held recently at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London.

The award for 'London Operational Team of the Year' recognised the work that the team has put in to the battle against anti-social behaviour, vandalism and graffiti through determination, enthusiasm and teamwork.

The judges were impressed that the team were simply not prepared to be beaten in their continual fight against vandalism and graffiti.

Crime and Disorder Reduction

Southern's Crime and Disorder Reduction Task Force consists of revenue protection officers, a British Transport Police Officer

and contract security officers. These form a unique multi-skilled team in a safety and security Task Force that is working in partnership to improve the local railway community environment.

The Task Force is serving as both an effective, visible deterrent to potential law-breakers and trouble makers at stations and on trains and is providing a valuable 'feel safe factor' to the travelling rail community across Southern's network.

Reported crime on the Southern Franchise fell by 7% in 2004 and 47% in 2005.

► 'The 42 Crew' is minus one

A graffiti artist who sprayed railway depots across England has been given a one-year suspended sentence and 140 hours community service. Christopher Thomas, 22, of Manchester admitted 12 counts of criminal damage causing £14,000 worth of repairs.

He admitted damaging property of rail companies in Yorkshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Bristol and London. Police found a DVD showing him tagging Ilkley railway station when they raided his house along with 50 cans of spray paint, marker pens, and sketchbooks containing graffiti ideas.

Remorseful Thomas wrote to Network Rail apologising for his actions and has agreed to take part in an educational video for the



updateupdateupdateupdateupdateup

Company on the dangers of graffiti, trespass and vandalism.

► **No Messin' in preparation for 2007**

Network Rail's Ian Chapman gave a presentation to the National Railway Crime Working Group on the summer programme of events supporting this summer's No Messin' campaign. The campaign gave thousands of young people opportunities to get involved in local activities, away from the railways. It was backed by celebrities' boxer Amir Khan, DJ Dave VJ and athlete Roger Black. The events were supported by Northern Rail, Central Trains, Southern, English Welsh and Scottish Railways and British Transport Police. Network Rail is currently evaluating the summer's campaign, whilst continuing to work with local youth clubs and community groups to reinforce the message.

The plans for 2007 include 10 to 12 major two-day events with a taster in advance to raise local awareness of what is going on. A number of one-day events are also planned.

To make an event successful it needs volunteers to help communicate the message to small groups and individuals and to help out with the event itself. Support from local organisations, particularly train operating companies, would be most welcome.

Please contact ian.chapman2@net-workrail.co.uk for details.

► **Rough Ride**

David Orchard, a local resident in Adisham, Kent set up a CCTV camera in his home after repeated incidents of anti-social behaviour on the adjacent railway station. The footage captured included that of boys riding their bikes along a railway line in the 'four foot' next to the third rail. At any moment they could have been hit by a train or electrocuted. The footage has been passed to British Transport Police where officers have begun an investigation.

► **Research: Improving the content and placement of anti-trespass signs**

Unauthorised access of young persons to the operational railway environment is a major concern both as a source of harm to those trespassing and also as a precursor of more serious offences with the potential to cause a catastrophic rail accident. The project sought to establish the extent to which the existing policy in regard to the placing and nature of 'do not trespass' signs is effective, and to explore how the efficacy of 'do not trespass signs' might be improved by alternative policies as to their placement and design. In particular, the project explored how the placing and design of 'do not trespass' signs influences patterns of trespass.

To view the research brief go to



updateupdateupdateupdateupdateup

<http://www.rssb.co.uk/pdf/reports/research/T55%20RB%20Final.pdf>

To view the report go to

<http://www.rssb.co.uk/pdf/reports/research/T55%20Report%20Finalpdf>

► **Scottish Station Adopters - One Year On**

In its first year, the First Scotrail Adopt a Station project has seen floral displays appearing at 20 stations across the network. The moves are the product of local people suggesting improvements to their stations. Planters and hanging baskets are maintained with help from community groups at stations including North Berwick, Dalmeny, Linlithgow, Gleneagles, Tain, Spean Bridge and Carluke.

There are also businesses starting to grow, including a charity second-hand bookshop at Pitlochry, and a café launched at Uddingston by Maureen Devlin, a councillor fed up with being unable to buy a coffee at the station while travelling to meetings. The initiative has also helped to find new uses for disused platform buildings, such as a 'Chefs on the Move' employment agency set up at Pitlochry and an ironing service at Dunblane.

► **Stop it, See it, Report it**

Central Trains have launched a new campaign to tackle anti-social behaviour on their trains. The campaign will focus on

violence against rail staff, litter and passengers putting feet on seats. Around 4,000 stickers have been put on carriage windows asking passengers to report problems to the British Transport Police on 0800 40 50 40.

The information will be used by Central Trains to plot the most common types of anti-social behaviour, which routes and what times they are most likely to occur.

Recent examples witnessed include people spraying graffiti on train floors, throwing seat cushions out of a window, brawling and spraying tear gas.

► **Date for your diary - Annual Forum 2007**

On Wednesday 14th March 2007, the Rail Safety and Standards Board will be holding its third Annual Forum for Community Safety practitioners. The event will again be held in Birmingham, and will feature workshops in addition to plenary sessions.

Please put the date in your diaries now - more details will follow in future newsletters. For further information contact our conference manager, Kerry Taylor on kerry.taylor@rssb.co.uk.

Also, if you have any particular suggestions for the event's content, please email community.safety@rssb.co.uk so that the organising committee can use your ideas in developing detailed plans for the day. Thank-you!