



BRITISH  
TRANSPORT  
POLICE

# Safer station safer journey

The Neighbourhood  
Policing Newsletter



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## SCOTTISH POLICING AWARDS

The SPT Subway in Glasgow has been policed by two British Transport Police officers since January 2007. As recognition of the role which they have played on the network since that day, the officers, PCs Jack Mitchell and John McCrone were commended at the Scottish Policing Awards in October.

The duo, who are well known to a wide and ranging community using the subway network, were commended and recognised for their efforts in the Criminal Justice and Tackling Crime category.

The award ceremony took place at the Scottish Police College in Fife on Tuesday (20 October). Jack and John were presented with their award by Councillor Paul Rooney Chair of the Scottish Police Authorities Conveners Forum.

The pair first met as probationer officers and reunited to work in the Subway nearly three years ago. Between them they have almost 60 years of policing experience.



0800 40 50 40 or visit [www.btp.police.uk](http://www.btp.police.uk)

## SCOTTISH AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAMS

There are seven established Neighbourhood Policing locations namely:

- Glasgow Central (including low level to Hyndland)  
Contact them on:  
07917 071191, or  
[Glasgowcentral.np@btp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Glasgowcentral.np@btp.pnn.police.uk)
- Glasgow Queen Street (including line of route to Croy).  
Contact them on:  
[Glasgowqueenst.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Glasgowqueenst.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk)
- Edinburgh Waverley (including Haymarket).  
Contact them on:  
07917 068630, or  
[Edinburgh.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Edinburgh.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk)
- Edinburgh to Glasgow line of route.  
Contact them on:  
07919 528953 or,  
[Edinburgh.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Edinburgh.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk)
- Glasgow Subway.  
Contact them on:  
07917 174320 or,  
[Glasgowsubway.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Glasgowsubway.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk)
- Stirling.  
Contact them on:  
07880 503581 or,  
[Stirling.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Stirling.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk)
- North Ayrshire.  
Contact them on  
Or,  
[northayrshire.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:northayrshire.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk)

Jack said: "We were nominated by Chief Inspector Marshall, Neighbourhood Policing lead in the Scottish Area of the British Transport Police, for the policing work we do in and around the Subway. The 15 Stations and Broomloan depot effectively form our 'neighbourhood'. "Through this work we've been able to share our experiences across BTP, letting our fellow officers know which approaches we've found particularly effective and helping to shape best practice for the force."

John added: "We spend 40 hours a week in the system and our work is dedicated to the Subway, so we have built up relationships with staff and passengers, as well as a great deal of local knowledge.

"That rapport is really what neighbourhood policing is all about. The Government wants every area to eventually have its own police officer and with our work in the Subway, BTP is ahead of the game on that front."

The Scottish Policing awards were created this year to identify work that demonstrates policing contributions towards the Scottish Government's five national strategic objectives. These are: *wealthier and fairer*; *healthier*; *safer and stronger*; and *smarter and greener*.

To further enhance the partnership between BTP and SPT Subway, a new police office has recently opened on the main concourse of St. Enoch Subway station. This allows the officers to start and finish their duty in the heart of their beat thus providing an improved presence.

## NORTH AYRSHIRE UP AND RUNNING



In the last Newsletter it was reported that there was an emerging team in the North Ayrshire Area. Following an evaluation process this team is now established and fully functioning as a Neighbourhood Policing team. PC's Elaine Johnstone and John McGuire are based in the British Transport Police office at Kilwinning Station and have responsibility for stations in the North Ayrshire Local Council area. Their contact details are shown on the left.

## Y-DRIVE

On 29 and 30 September 2009, PCs Elaine Johnstone and John McGuire of the North Ayrshire Neighbourhood Policing team attended a Road safety awareness event held at the Menzies Hotel in Irvine. The event was hosted by North Ayrshire Council and included participation from Network Rail, Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and local council road safety officers. The aim of the event was to educate 16-17 year old youths in a range of road safety matters. The stand co-hosted with Network Rail concentrated on the types of level crossing available and how to properly use them. This was enhanced by the use of an interactive level crossing display called Lexy. 730 pupils attended the event over the two days.

Colin Kay, Road Safety Officer (North Ayrshire Council) who hosted the "Y" Drive Safety Event at Menzies Hotel in Irvine said. "The 2 day event was well received by the 9 schools which attended, 8 North Ayrshire and 1 South Ayrshire. Please pass on my personal thanks to John and Elaine who were a welcome asset to our stand."

Libby Gallagher Operations Risk Manager for Network Rail Scotland added, "Owing to the success of our stand at "Y" Drive 2009, we have already received an invitation to attend "Y" Drive 2010. We have also received a further invitation to a similar event in West Lothian in August 2010 which is attended by over 1000 16/17yrs olds over a 3 day period.



## **STOP THIEF!**

PC Stuart Cowan, NP Officer based at Waverley Station, was faced with dealing with a series of shoplifting offences from Boots the Chemist on Waverley main concourse. Over the course of a couple of months a male had stolen over £800 worth of stock from the shelves. There was no pattern to the thefts and it was only after in store CCTV caught the male in the act that more fruitful enquiries could be carried out. A wanted bulletin was issued which led to the offender being identified by an officer from Lothian and Borders Police who had previously dealt with the man. He was traced and questioned regarding the offences before being charged with a total of 4 crimes. The matter has still to go to court.

## **MULTI TALENTED**

In addition to the key role they play in Neighbourhood Policing, many members of the teams are multi talented fulfilling roles as search team leaders and members, Public Order trained and trained to deal with CBRN incidents. One such multi talented officer is PC Nicky Ritchie of the Stirling NP team. Nicky is a trained air observer and is utilised in a number of situations.

The Network Rail/BTP Police helicopter is an aerial observation and communication platforms, providing an often-vital resource to officers across the BTP Policing area. The main activities undertaken by the Air Observers/Air Support are described below;

**Suspect Searches:** This is the most common request for the unit, whenever a suspect has gone into hiding in a particular area. With an aerial view, suspects who have concealed themselves from sight of officers on the ground are often visible to the crew in the helicopters, and they will direct ground officers toward the suspect. With the use of the onboard thermal image camera the aircraft crew can see just as clearly at night as they can during the daylight hours and often use the spotlight to assist with both searching and directing officers on the ground.

**Vehicle Pursuit:** The aircraft will be assigned to attend all vehicle pursuits immediately, however this is normally done by a Home Office Force, but this tactic has been used by BTP when responding to calls involving fleeing suspects. When above the pursuit commences the crew will video and record the incident. The presence of the aircraft allows the supervisors to manage the pursuit in accordance with national guidelines. To manage the risk of a pursuit, the helicopter should enable the police car to pull back to a safe distance from the suspect vehicle. This option reduces the risk of injury to members of the public, fellow police officers and the suspects. Only when the vehicle comes to a stop will ground units be deployed.

**Missing Persons:** The aircraft and crew can deal with searches for missing persons, as it is faster, easier and more effective to search large open areas from the air. This also enables other resources to be deployed elsewhere to continue to make local enquiries and searches. During darkness all subjects, police, suspects and missing persons appear as a silhouette on the thermal image camera and it is because of this the crew work closely with ground units in order to check any identified heat sources

**Public Order:** To enhance public and police safety, almost all pre-planned public order events require the services and facilities of aerial support. All events are recorded on video for evidential purposes. Regular events covered are demonstrations, marches and many football matches.

**Crime Reduction:** A priority of the BTP is the reduction of crime. Areas run varying operations to target particular areas with high visibility patrols. The Air Observer works to support these initiatives, by flying or patrolling for short periods of time over a prescribed area and at lower levels than normal, being overt in their presence. Similar tasks have shown a reduction in reported crime. The Air Observer continues to be involved with operations such as route crime initiatives and anti-graffiti. Also whilst patrolling these specific areas the aircraft is often requested to assist with other local incidents and can respond quicker whilst in the air.

**Counter Terrorism:** The unit provides a wealth of information in various forms to enable the search advisors to perform their role with efficiency and effectiveness. The aircraft can be deployed to monitor a variety of vital points throughout the country. We also work closely with Police Search Advisers prior to events requiring a high level of security, i.e. Royal Visits and political events (conferences and the like).

**VIP Escorts:** to assist the Special Escorts with the transport of both VIP's and high-risk movements, the aircraft will also video the movement. Although the route is not always known, the Air Observer will attempt to look ahead and pre-warn the escort of any potential problems.

