



BRITISH
TRANSPORT
POLICE

Safer station safer journey

The Neighbourhood
Policing Newsletter



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Daredevil Officers Abseil In Aid Of Deafblind Scotland

Officers Jamieson and Davanna recently reached the dizzy heights of the Forth Rail Bridge to help raise awareness of and funds for Deafblind Scotland.

The British Transport Police (BTP) Neighbourhood Policing Team, who patrol the line between Edinburgh and Glasgow Queen Street, normally spend their shift warning of the dangers that the railways can pose or dealing with issues raised by station users.

But on Sunday, 6 June 2010, Constable Donna Davanna and Constable Keith Jamieson 'trespassed' on the Forth Bridge. But, they weren't arrested by their BTP colleagues - as it is for an extremely worthy cause.

The daredevil BTP team, based at Edinburgh Waverley station, actually abseiled 165 feet from the iconic structure to raise funds for Deafblind Scotland, whose head office is situated on the team's beat, next to Lenzie railway station.

Donna (32) has five years BTP service and lives in Edinburgh. She said: "I am looking forward to doing the abseil. It's a 165ft free fall, or SAS style, which is something completely different to what I've done before. Keith and I have had regular contact with Deafblind Scotland since January

this year and all donations are for a very worthwhile cause. Any donations would be greatly received and I would also like to say a big thank you to all the people who have sponsored me so far."

Keith who is aged 52, a resident of Burtisland and has seven years police service added: "I was unaware of the difficulties dual sensory impaired railway passengers encountered on a daily basis. I am happy to be doing the abseil and looking forward to raising funds for such a worthwhile cause and hope it also helps raise public awareness of Deafblind Scotland."



PC Keith Jamieson & PC Donna Davanna pictured under the Forth Rail Bridge

So far the team has raised over £1,000 - you can still donate to help raise funds for Deafblind Scotland by clicking on:

<http://www.justgiving.com/KeithandDonnaBTP>.



0800 40 50 40 or visit www.btp.police.uk

Great Result For Subway Station Staff

On 6th May 2010 Jackie Fleming was on duty at Cowcaddens Station, when a passenger handed her a wallet which had been found aboard a train.

This wallet was found to contain a UK and a Dutch driving licence each with the same photograph but different names on the driving licences. Jackie became suspicious and called BTP. The full circumstances were reported to our CID and Lothian and Borders Police CID also had an interest.

As a result of Jackie's initial good work a male person has now been charged with possessing a False Identity Card together with Drugs



Pictured above Cowcaddens Underground Station.

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Our NPT's Got Talent

PC Drew Cutler (North Electrics NPT) has reason to be beaming with pride after his mother, Janey Cutler (pictured right) reached this years final of Britain's Got Talent.



Singer Janey Cutler Of Wishaw, North Lanarkshire who reached the Final of 'Britains Got Talent'.

The singer who comes from Wishaw, North Lanarkshire and lives with her dog Tara is still belting it out at the impressive age of 81 years.

Janey sang her rendition of Edith Piaf's Non, Je Ne Regrette Rien, and received glowing praise from the judges even gaining the admiration of Head Judge Simon Cowell. Janey Said "I'm over the moon just to have been able to perform on the programme, that's all I have ever wanted to do. This subsequent interest is making it even more of a dream come true. I'm really excited about it all."

Drew who is based at Glasgow Queen Street Station, said "I'm so proud of my Mum and delighted with how well she did getting all the way to the final show."

Special Visit To Glasgow Subway

Pupils from Notre Dame High School spent an afternoon touring the Subway with the BTP Neighbourhood Policing Team last week.



L2R – PC Jack Mitchell, Allison Murry (Subway Line Supervisor) and PC John McCrone together with 5 pupils from Notre Dame High School.

The visit came about after the school's deputy head teacher Isobel Taggart attended one of the Team's recent PACT meetings in Hillhead. Jack and John have given talks at Notre Dame in the past, but Friday's visit gave five second-year students a unique access-all-areas view of the system.

Together with Subway line supervisor Allison Murray, the group toured stations and travelled to the Broomloan depot workshop and control room.

Jack said: "Pupils travel to Notre Dame from all over Glasgow. Many use the Subway on a daily basis, so we thought they'd like to know a bit more about how it works.

"The school has been very supportive of our work in the community, and we made sure pupils know they can approach us or SPT staff if they need any assistance. We also spoke about our busy periods, such as football match days, and how we police these.

"The girls had a shot in the driver's cab, but the highlight was visiting the control room, where they were able to watch CCTV footage of themselves entering Hillhead station earlier that day."



NPT Officers from Glasgow recently took part in 'The Paperclip Experiment' which is a youth community initiative driven by visible fictions and supported by a number of other agencies.

The initiative was set up to support young people and their artistic interests through a series of events which will engage the general public in conversation, debate and performance. Event One – saw an organized graffiti wall where young people could try for the first time or hone their skills. The event was well attended and feedback received from the young people taking part was extremely positive.

NPT officers look forward to being involved in future events organized by visible fictions.



Pictured above is the finished product of the graffiti wall.



Two of our NPT finest recently shadowed staff from the Glasgow Street Services Team to gain a greater understanding into their role and vital services they provide.

PC Alisdair Burnie said: "This offered an excellent opportunity to gain an insight in to the fantastic work being carried out by the teams within the Glasgow area. When dealing with homeless individuals in the future, I will not hesitate to put them in touch with the team, confident in service they provide. All in all this was a very humbling and eye opening experience".

NPT officers hope to work on the relationship between the two services over the coming months to help provide as comprehensive a service as possible.



New NPT Patch Glasgow to Stranraer

Constables David Howie and Lynsey Groves recently took on the new NPT beat between Glasgow Central and Stranraer, after a number of issues were identified through the 'Help Us Help You' scheme.

David and Lynsey intend to work closely with on train staff and other partner agencies to reassure the traveling public that the BTP are fully committed to policing this line.

In particular both officers will be working hard to prevent any further instances of anti social behavior. This line is safe to travel.

An on-train PACT meeting is in the process of being arranged with a date/time to be negotiated. Further details can be found on our neighbourhood web-pages.



Many passengers making use of the Glasgow to Stranraer rail service do so to reach the ferry terminal a short distance away.

The 2010 BATHGATE HIGHLAND GAMES

NPT officers from the Edinburgh and Bathgate recently helped to raise awareness of potential dangers the new Airdrie to Bathgate railway link could pose if misused.

Constables Derek Jackson, Mark Taylor and Steven Johnstone attend the Bathgate Highland Games towing with them, Network Rail's 'No Messin' trailer. The trailer has up to the minute audio visual equipment, from which the officers showed those attending a series of recent trespass and near miss incidents which occurred in the Scottish Area. They also distributed literature relating to railway safety and the new extension itself".

PC Derek Jackson, an Education Engagement Officer, said "This new extension is an exciting addition to the local infrastructure. I hope that during the games we were able to give an insight into just how dangerous the rail network can be if misused". Further details relating to the new extension can be found at www.airdriebathgateraillink.co.uk



One of the many competitors.

0800 40 50 40 or visit www.btp.police.uk

BTP Sets Its Sights On LGBT Charter

The Scottish Area has is working in collaboration with LGBT Youth Scotland to begin populating an evidence document which will show its commitment to assisting and supporting the LGBT Community.

The LGBT Charter of Rights is a list of rights based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) that some LGBT people feel that they are denied due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

PC Frazer Robertson (Glasgow Central NPT) said "I'm delighted to be heading up the working group for this project and I'm really looking forward to identifying new ways in which we can develop and adapt our approach to assist us when working with members of the LGBT community and beyond".



The above Charter Mark will hopefully be displayed at all BTP Scottish Station Front Counters in due course.

"This was a very humbling and eye opening experience."

PC Alisdair Burnie – Glasgow Central NPT



NPT Beaming With PRIDE!

NPT officers from throughout Scotland helped represent the BTP at this years two Scottish GAY PRIDE EVENTS held in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

BTP Scotland working in collaboration with LINK (the forces LGBT Staff Support Network), the Gay Police Association and Strathclyde Police, took an extremely comprehensive approach to interacting with the LGBT community at Scotland's two largest PRIDE events.

A contingent of NPT officers took part in the PRIDE Scotia and PRIDE Glasgow marches (marching in uniform), interacting with the crowd and highlighting its continued commitment to diversity.

Community interfacing stalls were also erected in Edinburgh Waverley Station and in the 'Big Tent' on George Square. This provided a further opportunity for BTP Scotland to communicate the role of the force within the UK.

Why Drive Youth Project

NPT Officers recently linked up with staff from Network Rail to actively participate in and support the 'Why Drive' initiative delivered to all sixth year pupils in West Lothian.

The initiative strives to educate young people and in particular new and/or learner drivers of the dangers and consequences of careless and irresponsible driving.

BTP NPT officers outlined the importance of remaining vigilant when negotiating railway level crossings, outlining the approved manner within the letter of the law.

The initiative is an extremely factual, honest and hard hitting event which uses real life experiences from emergency service personnel, rail industry staff and victims family testimony, together with photographs and video clips to get its point across. The initiative aims to dramatically reduce the instances of road traffic incidents involving young drivers in the West Lothian area and beyond. BTP hopes to continue to support this extremely important initiative in the future.



L2R PC Linda Shields, PC Frazer Robertson, PC Elaine Johnstone, PC Drew Cutler & Inspector Sue Maxwell

GAY PRIDE EVENTS

Gay Prides have their history in protest, often as demonstrations against brutality and discrimination in the 1970s. However in the 1980s the previous liberation marches were taken over by more organized and less radical elements of the gay community. Today, Prides are an expression of self and community affirmation, a symbol of unity and celebration catering to a regional, national and often international audience.

The UK plays host to over 40 large scale PRIDE events every year. London PRIDE is by far the largest UK event. In 2009 the event saw over one million people from throughout the world converge to help mark this extremely important and significant day in the LGBT Calendar.



L2R PC Frazer Robertson, SPC Stewart Gray (Strathclyde Police) & PC Drew Cutler

