On Wednesday 9th September 2015 Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip took part in the Borders Railway Opening Celebrations and travelled the entire Borders Railway route on board a steam train. They were joined by 150 invited guests and were greeted by well wishers at Edinburgh Waverley, Newtongrange and Tweedbank stations, as well as many from local communities who viewed the occasion from vantage points along the whole route. Chief Superintendent John McBride D Division Area Commander and Deputy Chief Constable Adrian Hanstock from BTP were among the invited guests.

The Union of South Africa steam train which is one of six remaining LNER class A4 steam locos in the UK which were built in Doncaster in 1937 was used for the event and attracted a very high level of interest from the rail enthusiast community and the public in general.

The success of the policing activity in respect of the Royal opening was enhanced by excellent planning and close partnership working with industry partners and events organisers. It will certainly be a day to remember for all officers involved and particularly those from the Borders Team who delivered operational policing and community engagement during the construction phase of the project.
Borders Celebrations Continue

Borders Railway Opening Celebration Events
On Saturday 5th September officers engaged with invited guests at the Golden Ticket Day which was an event to give nominated deserving people the opportunity to travel on one of the very first Borders Railway journeys. 160 golden tickets were given to each of the communities for the stations at Tweedbank, Galashiels, Stow, Gorebridge, Newtonrange, Eskbank and Shawfair and to mark the occasion community events had also been arranged at each location and lead by the council area where the station is located.

Officers also conducted on train patrols on Sunday 6th September, which was the first day the new railway was open to the public. Services were very busy with passengers enjoying the experience of first day travel on the Borders Railway.

It is expected that the Borders Railway will enjoy a high level of future passenger travel in respect of commuting and leisure passengers and BTPs engagement with the project over the last 3 years will have contributed to minimising disruption and keeping the railway environment a safe one.

On Monday 24th August PC Alan McLaughlin BTP EGIP Industry Liaison officer took part in a celebration with rail industry partners and Scottish Government to celebrate the official re-opening of the adjoining bridges at Greenhill Road, Bonnybridge. The bridge works were part of Network Rail’s route clearance activity in preparation for the future electrification of central Scotland’s rail infrastructure. This section of work was completed ahead of schedule and was the 52nd structure completed under the Edinburgh Glasgow Improvement Programme (EGIP).

Photo – centre left - Rodger Querns, Programme Director of EGIP Network Rail Scotland, centre right Michael Matheson MSP and PC Alan McLaughlin along with industry partners.
PRIDE Glasgow 2015

Officers from D Division were honored to be part of the PRIDE Glasgow march last weekend.

Led by the Police Scotland Pipe Band officers marched with colleagues to Glasgow Green where they manned a stall at the Community Expo and promoted the Travel with Pride campaign - aimed at encouraging victims of hate crime to come forward.

“Sergeant David McVean commented: "There was a really warm and friendly atmosphere, and a sea of vibrant colours, which was reminiscent of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow last year."

Cancer Support

On the 24th August we had MacMillan Cancer support in Central Station with their isolation box. It was to simulate the feeling of isolation cancer sufferers feel when undergoing treatment. We took part to help promote it on social media via the BTP Twitter account.

Days of Action

Central officers have been taking part in many days of action over the last few months setting up stalls on the main concourse and interacting with the public, there has been numerous days promoting “Help us Help you”

0800 40 50 40 or visit www.btp.police.uk
Hate Crime Awareness Week: time to make a stand

Hate Crime Awareness is already well underway with officers from across the Force raising awareness and encouraging the public to report hate crime.

The week coincided with the publication of our new Hate Crime Strategy for prioritising hate crime - whether it's due to race, sexual orientation, religion, gender identity, disability or any other perceived or actual difference.

On the 12th October BTP and Network Rail Partners including Police Scotland, Community Safety Glasgow and Glasgow City Council were present as well as a number of third sector organisations and charities. Network Rail at Glasgow Central also became a Third Party reporting centre for reporting Hate Crime. We believe this is the 1st commercial company to do this in Scotland.

Pooch Reunited with Owners

A runaway dog that boarded a train from East Renfrewshire and headed for the bright lights of the city has been reunited with its owner.

Springer spaniel Angus made the solo train journey from Busby to Glasgow city centre on Wednesday. The one-year-old dog managed to escape from owners Debi and Ross Parker’s garden and hopped aboard the train when it stopped off at the south side suburb. The train conductor noticed the lone pooch and brought Angus to the British Transport Police (BTP) at the final stop. Luckily Angus had the owners contact details on his tartan collar so they were able to reunite them within an hour.

Angus' owners described him as a mischievous dog, who has been known to go off on the odd adventure.

Inspector Lynda Lang commented, "It's pretty unusual for us to have stray dogs found on trains usually, however, we've managed to take in three separate dogs over three days.

"What I think was a Maltese and cockapoo, George and Susie, were found on the Barrhead train on Monday but were reunited with their owners very quickly."

“Angus was good fun though he was jumping about all over the place including the tables and we gave him some breakfast.”

Pictured PC’s Marshall and Moran and a lively Angus

Justice Secretary visits Central

On Wednesday 7th October Glasgow Central had a visit from Michael Matheson who met with officers and rail partners to see how we Police the railways and understand our working relationship with the partners that helps us reduce crime within our stations on the same day an Op Wiggins day of action was held. Marking bikes of members for the public and giving out advice on bicycle theft and to best protect themselves from becoming a victim. It was well advertised prior to the event via our BTP TWITTER account over 40 bikes were marked. Police Scotland also attended and registered mobile property on the NMPR system.

Safety4Kidzs working group

BTP attended a Basketball Event in Dalmuir Community Centre which was part of the Experiential Learning Safety4Kidzs working group.

Safety4Kidz is a 9 day multi-agency initiative for all West Dunbartonshire Primary Seven pupils providing Safety Education prior to attending High School education and explores a wide range of community safety issues. Approximately 960 Pupils will take part in high impact interactive workshops by partners from British Transport Police, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue,Trossachs National Park Rangers ,Y Sort It and West Dunbartonshire Council where they will learn various safety outcomes through 'hearing, seeing, saying & doing' followed by the opportunity for reflective learning when they return to their school environment.

0800 40 50 40 or visit www.btp.police.uk
North Sector NPT’s

BTP’s ‘What matters to you’ public consultation launched Monday 19 October 2015

Increasing passenger confidence forms part of BTP’s 20:20:10 objectives and is one of the most important priorities for the Force.

Our ‘What matters to you’ campaign launched on Monday 19 October 2015 and is running for 5 weeks until Monday 23 November 2015. A series of engagement days will run throughout the consultation where officers across the Division will be engaging with the public and handing out the survey questionnaires. There is also the opportunity to participate online by visiting btp.police.uk/whatmatters

Multi-Agency Initiative tackling Metal Theft

On 29th September 2015 Constable Andrea McGhee, Inverness, spent a day on patrol alongside her counterparts from Police Scotland and numerous partner agencies, including SEPA, DVLA and VOSA.

The Highland and Multi Agency Day of Action facilitated a specific focus on those involved in the metal and cable recycling businesses. The collaborative operation saw countless vehicles stopped and searched and provided opportunities for BTP to enhance its response to metal thefts.

Perth NPT

On Tuesday 12 October, PC Gayle Crancher (Perth NPT) was joined for the day by a support worker and two service users from Capability Scotland, who provide education, employment and care services of disabled people, as well as campaigning with them on issues affecting them.

Speaking after the event, PC Crancher said “It was a busy afternoon with several members of the public taking a keen interest in what we were doing. Those members of the public took away some information about BTP as well as an increased awareness of Capability Scotland.”

Education & Safety

Stirling NPT has been working closely with Network rail and the Scottish youth theatre with targeting areas that will be affected with the ongoing Edinburgh to Glasgow Improvement Project (EGIP) The schools and youth clubs that have been identified have benefited from a rail safety presentation from the BTP with also the Scottish Youth Theatre running a Rail Respect work shop which highlights the dangers of Trespass, Stone throwing, obstructing the line and explains the dangers of the overhead power cables whilst promoting positive behaviour whilst traveling on the Rail Network.

The safety presentations and the workshops have been greatly received with positive comments coming from the staff and the pupils within the identified schools. This partnership working will continue until the EGIP works are complete and Stirling NPT looking forward to attending more schools and clubs.
Good Work – Road Traffic Collision

It’s always nice to hear that we make a difference when it matters so a well done to PS McCoy and PC Harvey, Stirling NP, who along with two Police Scotland officers received excellent feedback from a member of the public involved in a road traffic collision. “All 4 officers were supportive respectful and just plain caring! They kept us safe and reassured until we were able to be picked up by friends and our car was towed away. They are a credit to the Force.

Stirling

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Dundee

On Thursday 15 October 2015, PC Pete McAndie and SC Connor Phillips (Aberdeen NPT) were joined for the evening by retired Guide Dog Jack, and Guide Dog Puppy Yoko, their handlers and a few extra volunteers from Guide Dogs Scotland who very kindly agreed to speak with passengers about the difficulties encountered by blind people, as well those with other disabilities.

The deployment of the Guide Dogs alongside Police Officers for this event proved to be popular with PC McAndie commenting “Jack and Yoko were great companions for the evening. Usually at events like this Police Officers have to try to get peoples attention and they often don’t want to stop and talk, but few could resist Jack and Yoko, and after making a fuss of the dogs everyone was more than happy to speak to us about why we were there, and to take leaflets to read during their journey.”

Much positive feedback was also received from passengers, for many of whom the presence of Jack and Yoko at the station after a long day at work was a welcome surprise, a fact reflected by their generosity, with Guide Dogs Scotland raising £92 during the event

Inverness

On 29th September 2015 Constable Andrea McGhee spent a day on patrol alongside her counterparts from Police Scotland and numerous partner agencies, including SEPA, DVLA and VOSA on a Highland Multi Agency Day of Action which allowed her to focus on those involved in the metal and cable recycling business, enforcing BTP’s enhanced response to metal thefts. Andrea was involved in the stopping of countless vehicles with a view to identifying enforcement opportunities and positively no offences were identified for Andrea to report on.

Aberdeen

On 14th October, after deciding to build closer relationships with the surprisingly large number of faith groups we have in the North Sector of the British Transport Police (BTP), Constable O’Neill made a visit to Aberdeen’s Synagogue where he was shown around by Debbie Taylor.

The visit was extremely interesting and informative. Constable O’Neill said after the meeting; “I learned a lot about the faith and the challenges the Jewish Community face. However, what struck me most after my visit was the ever present threat of being the victim of Anti-Semitism and more concerning to me was the idea that some of this behaviour has become ‘the norm’ for many people within the Jewish community. This should never be the case and if the problem is going to be addressed at a national level then even the most minor of incidents needs to be reported to the police. Nobody should be made to feel unsafe, threatened or vulnerable. The British Transport Police will not tolerate behaviour where someone is targeted because they are different, whatever that difference is, and we would encourage anyone who is a victim of any type of crime to report it. Sadly, as I have already said, this type of behaviour has become ‘the norm’ for some and they may be tempted to shrug it off but if you don’t tell us then we don’t know it’s happening and can’t stop it getting worse for you or someone else. I would also encourage anyone who witnesses any form of hate crime to report it to the police”.

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