



Frontline

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Nowhere to hide for counties' burglars

- 150 arrests already
- Dawn raids being carried out
- Every officer to play their part in operation
- Aircraft and dogs being used

by Susan Rolling

NEARLY 150 suspected burglars have been taken off the streets of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight in just two weeks as part of Hampshire Constabulary's Operation Nemesis.

The three-month campaign, which was launched by Chief Constable Alex Marshall at the beginning of January, is challenging every officer to help reverse a 15 per cent rise in domestic burglary.

Under the tagline "The burglar's worst enemy, the victim's best friend", the campaign has already recorded 80 per cent more burglary arrests in the two weeks from January 5, compared to the same period at the beginning of 2007.

At a Netley press conference to announce the public face of Operation Nemesis, Mr Marshall said: "Burglary is beginning to go up in the force area.

"It is rather wise to be ahead in stopping it.

"House burglary is a particularly intrusive crime, but I am particularly keen that this is not just about dwelling burglary.

"We are very concerned for

small businesses and people in rural areas."

He said the force is being "particularly robust" with known burglars, meeting and greeting them on a release from prison and writing to them to make known offenders aware that police in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight are keeping track of them.

"If you are a burglar, we're out there to get you, and there are a lot of us," Mr Marshall said.

He outlined the constabulary's work with neighbouring forces to share intelligence and work together to bring down cross-border crime.

He said other agencies had given their support to the operation, including local crime and disorder groups, local authorities and Neighbourhood Watch.

"The Crown Prosecution Service are really good partners who are working with us, using the Proceeds of Crime Act, to get every penny from burglars," Mr Marshall said.

Objectives

Detective Superintendent Sara Glen outlined the objectives of Operation Nemesis:

- To ensure the constabulary works together as one team;
- To provide a citizen-focused response to victims;
- To reassure and protect the public;
- To improve detection rates and secure justice;
- To prevent burglaries.

"We want to put the victim at the absolute centre of every investigation," Det Supt Glen said.

Already, officers visiting Portsmouth homes with crime prevention advice have earned praise from the public.

Inspector Steve Hutchings recalled a conversation with a Southsea resident after a visit from the police: "She said that her road had been checked by local teams and comments made about how to reduce the chance of her suffering a burglary.

"She was really impressed and felt that we had done an excellent job, and she actually felt safer and that we cared."

The first two weeks of the campaign saw a total of 147 arrests: 86 for dwelling burglaries, and 61 for non-dwelling.

There also were notable activities and results in several Operational Command Units.

The Basingstoke rural area car recovered a wood chipper worth £14,000.

The victim said the return of the equipment prevented him going out of business after two previous burglaries.

Fellow Basingstoke officers



CAUGHT IN THE ACT – Sheds, garages, homes, commercial properties... the police will come down hard on all burglars, whatever their targets.

OPERATION NEMESIS
The burglar's worst enemy, the victim's best friend.

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by Geoff Crowe, Joint Branch Board Chairman,
Hampshire Police Federation

FEDERATION NEWS

process and any other concerns you have about the new patterns.

Competency Related Threshold Payments

Last year the force was asked to provide the Home Office with details of the numbers of officers eligible but not receiving CRTP. The force has shared this information with the federation, which reveals 60 constables, 10 sergeants, and 12 inspectors and chief inspectors have never applied for this £1,152 a year payment. Whilst the changes to pay scales have led to some confusion as to when individuals become eligible, if you think you have been on top pay scale

for 12 months, then you are advised to confirm eligibility with Payroll. We have asked that the force take a proactive approach with officers but this appears to be a step too far. If you are eligible by service in rank but think you might be declined CRTP for reasons of attendance or conduct, please submit an application; you never know and it helps provide a fuller picture of the grounds for rejection.

Local duty rate

As the title suggests, this is a locally negotiated mileage rate for police officers. The federation asked the force to review the amounts being paid during the high fuel costs days of early 2008. The chief constable has

taken the decision to dispense with this allowance, in favour of regulated casual or essential user payments. While this may cause some short-term issues with regards the force-imposed conditions for claiming casual user allowance, the rates are far more realistic.

Deductions

Of greater concern is the decision by the chief constable to alter the rules in relation to mileage deductions. Again the federation had asked for clarification over this since force policy referred to a deduction if you passed your normal place of duty, whilst the finance department was applying a 'diverting from your usual commuter route' rule. I was confident that

we had negotiated a more reasonable deduction which would have promoted 'sustainability' (fewer journeys) however, the chief constable has rejected this in favour of a 'normal home to work' deduction. Hampshire Police Federation does not accept that regulations allow for any deduction, and indeed the business mileage tax rules do not apply in this way. I would be interested to hear from any officers who are badly affected by this change with a view to seeking legal advice on their behalf.

Special Priority Payments

I discovered last year, whilst reading some Hampshire Police Authority minutes and budget notes, that the force has not been applying the full 2 per cent of Federated Ranks budget to SPP allocations. The force is in dispute with the Home Office about how this money is repaid to the force in line with the Police Negotiating Board agreement. This money was agreed as part of the Head of Agreement

pay negotiations, which brought in SPP, CRTP and bonus payments. Whilst I can accept that the force should dispute this with the Home Office, I have asked that they have the argument with them and pass on the full amount to officers. I will update you as to the force's position on this when it is confirmed. In the meantime if you feel you are part of a group of officers who deserve an SPP, now is the time to lobby your OCU commander or head of department.

Budgets

No doubt all the above items are influenced by the force's budgetary position. Shortly the police authority will agree the budget for next financial year and I will keep you updated on the position as I see it, but have no doubt that there is no room for growth and further savings and cutbacks will undoubtedly be required. This is already affecting the frontline with over 100 police officer vacancies and the potential for these to rise further.

Shift patterns

The New Year is upon us and in the next few days the new shift patterns for Response and Neighbourhoods will be implemented. Every officer who has been flexibly working should now have had his or her pattern reviewed. I am aware that a number of applications have been declined and are subject to appeal. If you have not already done so, please remember your local rep should be able to advise and assist with this



by Kathy Symonds,
Branch Secretary

Police staff job losses

On January 14 I emailed members with an update reporting the brief details we had at the time of the proposals to shed 100-plus police staff posts. This was information that had been announced at a public consultation meeting I had attended the day before. When I returned to the office I thought it was appropriate to share the information with branch members. So I did.

I was not aware that at the time the proposal had yet to be ratified by the Police Authority, which was why the force had

not communicated details of the proposal to staff.

The following day a global email from the chief clarified the situation. Your UNISON representatives have been invited to meet with the chief where we will discuss the proposals. UNISON is committed to working with the force and to be fully engaged with the efficiency review led by the DCC to achieve these reductions through natural wastage and vacancy savings. Together we aim to ensure the force achieves and maintains financial stability in the forthcoming years.

Budget meeting

This meeting was hosted by the Police Authority. During a question and answer session I did my utmost to promote the professionalism and defend the reputation of police staff workers. I made it clear that a great many staff carry out roles that were previously undertaken by police officers, and are just as capable of carrying out the duties, and were equally committed to the force and policing as officers were. One attendee, having read that the force had 3,853 officers and 3,022 full-time equivalent staff at the end of 2008, stated that he would rather see fewer police staff and more officers. I advised him that UNISON had a different view, and that we welcomed civilianisation where appropriate.

It is a sad fact that successive governments have reported on the numbers of police officers the numerous forces employ, and not on the total numbers of officers and staff employed to carry out the work necessary to keep forces functioning.

I took the opportunity to ask

Adrian Collett of the Police Authority to use his position to influence the Home Office in this regard. It is high time the value of the work carried out by police staff was recognised.

Sickness absence FPP

In the last edition I reported on the progress of the work on the revision of the above Force Policy and Procedure. We have now completed this work, and have a document which is ready to be published.

The new version contains a number of improvements for police staff, including further extenuating circumstances. These include absence necessary following physical injury as a result of any force breaches of health and safety, and bereavement leave, which is different from compassionate leave.

It also makes it clear that once a period of sickness has been determined to be considered extenuating and therefore not counted towards trigger point, unless there is clear evidence to the contrary, that deci-

sion cannot be reversed.

Also, in future no member of staff will have the right to self certify sickness absence removed.

UNISON's intention was to make the procedure more supportive than punitive for staff, with a focus on returning them to or enabling them to remain at work, and ensuring that everything possible is done to assist that.

We had asked that we be included in absence management panels but our request was declined. Instead, there will be regular meetings between the UNISON OCU representative and the OCU Personnel manager where cases involving UNISON members who have approved our involvement in their case can be discussed, so that we can be sure everything that can be done for that member is being done.

Operation Nemesis

By the time you read this Operation Nemesis will be well under way, and I'm sure beginning to achieve its objectives. At the briefing prior to the

launch, it was clear that many groups of police staff workers have a considerable impact on the prevention and detection of crime. While the force will focus on the operation for the first three months of this year, this type of work continues all year, every year. With this in mind we are in discussion with the force on an offer of part-funding crime prevention leaflets that will carry the UNISON logo, thereby promoting the contribution of police staff to the work of the force.

Branch AGM

Our AGM will be held at Netley on March 3. Nomination papers will be emailed to members very soon, and we would encourage them to at least participate in the nomination and election process, if not actually step forward to be a workplace steward or health and safety steward.

We would really like to double the number of representatives we have so that we can deal with the work we do, and would love to hear from you if you think the role is for you.



by Councillor Jacqui Rayment, Chair,
Hampshire Police Authority



On behalf of the members and staff of the Police Authority, I would like to wish you and your families a Happy New Year. The festive period can be an unknown quantity as far as policing is concerned - whether it will be a busy or quiet time of year, whether the public will enjoy themselves responsibly or it will be a catalyst for more problems to be dealt with. Regardless of this, I want to place on record my appreciation for the hard

work of everyone who was working over Christmas and the New Year, making sure the people of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight stayed as safe as possible. At a time of year when most people want to be spending time with their families, the drawback of shift work means for some it is not going to be possible all of the time. However, officers have continued to work hard and deliver the best possible service to the public, and those efforts have not gone unnoticed by the authority.

We were able to go into the festive period with an early Christmas present from the Home Office - not often you can say that! After months of hard campaigning, lobbying and pressure on the government, plans to reform police authorities by introducing directly elected representatives have been dropped. There is general agreement around the

country that the police service does need to be more accountable and representative of its community, but the Home Office proposals were not the way to achieve it, and would have created more problems than they would have solved. Resident surveys, focus groups and conferences were all saying the same thing, and right up to the publication of the Policing and Crime Bill, senior politicians and officials were adamant the proposal would be included. However, at the last minute, it was dropped, bringing with it a collective cheer from police authorities and councils around the country.

However, the problem of how we make the police more accountable is not going to go away, and we are committed to working with the Home Office to come up with the right solution. The political timetable means it is extremely unlikely that something will come for-

ward in this parliamentary session, so there is time to talk with the right people, come up with a solution and get widespread agreement before it is introduced. In the meantime, I want to express my thanks to everyone, both in the constabulary and the authority, for their work to fight off these plans - it is good to know that common sense does prevail at times!

The year ahead

Looking forward to 2009, we have two major decisions to make in the coming months - we have to make some difficult choices over the budget, and there will be more information about that in the next edition of *Frontline*. We are also shortly beginning the recruitment process for two new assistant chief constables to join the constabulary. The advert will be published in

February and interviews will take place in April. There is always a large number of forces looking to recruit ACCs at this time because the newest graduates of the Strategic Command Course at Bramshill are looking for positions. It has been said by chief constables past and present that Hampshire is one of the best forces in the country to work for, and I hope this is reflected by a large number of applications. Following Alex's appointment as chief constable, and Simon's promotion to deputy chief constable, these ACCs will complete a big change in the Association of Chief Police Officers team that has taken place in recent months, and I look forward to working with them all as they shape the future of policing for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

...continued from front page

arrested two men in connection with a £500 distraction burglary.

Assisted by Roads Policing Unit and Trident, Basingstoke officers also arrested a man who is believed to be linked to nine car key burglaries.

A stop check in Basingstoke led to the discovery of stolen items and the arrest of a driver and three passengers.

Also in North and East OCU, a teenager was charged with a non-dwelling burglary in Hook, following a series of shed breaks after work by local officers and Neighbourhood Watch.

Another juvenile was charged with a non-dwelling burglary in Hook, where the victims were left very distressed.

Good work by local officers, the Bobby Trust, Victim Support and local fencing expert Goslings helped the victims feel safer.

Officers in Western OCU arrested two Southampton suspects for a dwelling burglary after their vehicle was seen at a break-in in a neighbouring county.

Another man was arrested in connection with a commercial burglary and was subsequently charged with six burglaries.

Southampton officers succeeded in arresting a suspected receiver of stolen goods when they executed a search warrant, and another two handlers were arrested and charged after being found in possession of items from a burglary the night before their arrest.

In the first 10 days of Nemesis, Southampton officers made six arrests for dwelling

burglary, four for non-dwelling, and carried out seven searches.

The Air Support Unit (ASU) earned praise for its assistance in spotting a suspected Southsea house breaker in the early hours of the morning and guiding officers to an arrest.

The ASU and dog units were also praised for their work in arresting two men, again in the early hours, at a commercial break-in in Bitterne.

Read the next edition of *Frontline* for further Operation Nemesis success stories.



PRESS CONFERENCE – Chief Constable Alex Marshall and Detective Superintendent Sara Glen officially launch Operation Nemesis to the press pack at Netley Training and Support Headquarters.

Courts get tough on burglars

THE launch of Operation Nemesis comes just days after the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales called for tougher sentences after stressing that domestic burglary must always be treated as a “serious criminal offence”.

Lord Judge said there must be more consistent sentencing recognising a victim’s trauma and loss.

Lord Judge said: “There is a long-standing, almost intuitive belief that our homes should be our castles.”

He issued formal guidance for all courts in England and Wales calling for a robust approach to domestic break-ins.

The guidance came in a Court of Appeal judgement upholding sentences against six burglars.

The judgement means sentences should now recognise both economic losses and the importance of the family home.

“Burglary of a home is a serious criminal offence,” said the

Lord Chief Justice.

“Something precious is violated by burglary of a home and those who perpetrate this crime should be sentenced and punished accordingly.”

Lord Judge said that it was not just the theft of valuable goods that affected victims, but theft of items of sentimental value.

“Many warm and happy memories of bygone years can be destroyed as a direct consequence of burglary.”

“For some, indeed, their home becomes something of a prison as they barricade themselves behind the security arrangements they believe they need.”

“Whether or not the burglar has any specific intention to cause harm, he runs the risk that the victim or victims may suffer serious adverse consequences.”

“Where this happens, sentences should be reflective even of unintended consequences.”

“Where goods of slight economic but significant sentimental value are taken or damaged, the impact on the victim is likely to be high, not least because these objects are irreplaceable.”

“A photograph is worth nothing, except to the person who owns it.”

“But it may be the only image left of grandparents or now deceased parents.”

“The loss or destruction of letters written in the early days of courtship may distress the widow or widower who has lost them far more than the disappearance of valuable electrical equipment.”

Burglars who are caught for a third break-in should be jailed for at least three years, said the judgement.

The judgement will act as important guidance to crown courts in England and Wales by clearing up previous misunderstandings over sentencing for burglary.



PUTTING VICTIMS FIRST – Lord Justice Judge has called for more consistent sentencing recognising a victim’s trauma and loss.

Men admit Sol Campbell abuse chants

by Mel Turkington

AS *Frontline* went to press, four men had admitted indecent chanting aimed at Portsmouth defender Sol Campbell during a football match.

Campbell was subjected to alleged homophobic and racist chants at a game with Tottenham Hotspur at Fratton Park, Portsmouth, in September.

The admission by the four men follows a Portsmouth Operational Command Unit investigation and is the first time any UK police force has taken such a move against indecent chanting at a football game.

Police received a number of complaints about the chanting during September’s match and launched an investigation.

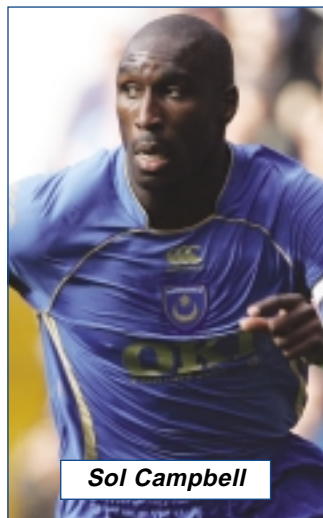
Footage from a police-evidence gatherer soon pinpointed a number of people who appeared to be at the centre of the abuse.

This problem of how to identify these people soon became apparent. A decision was taken to release their pictures to the national media.

After an enormous amount of planning by the OCU Media and Corporate Communications team, working with the investigating officer, the FA and both

football clubs, photographs of 16 people were released to the media.

The images were also published on the Hampshire Constabulary website after a dedicated page was set up by the internet team in Corporate Services.



Sol Campbell

The force’s Media and Corporate Communications office quickly became swamped with enquiries from media. This led to Superintendent Neil Sherrington spending a whole day giving interviews to agencies such as Sky Sports News,

BBC Radio 5 Live and ITV as well as to numerous newspapers.

The internet also played its part, with the constabulary’s web page on the operation receiving nearly 5,000 hits on the first day of the appeal. Many news organisations also published the pictures on their sites. The scale of the media’s response was such that by the end of the first day three of those pictured contacted police and attended the custody suite at Portsmouth Central.

In total, 11 people were identified and charged with indecent chanting at a designated football match. On Tuesday, January 20, four of the men pleaded guilty at Portsmouth Magistrates’ Court.

Magistrate Susan Waddle said they had “acted like animals, like a herd... decent members of the public found this very offensive”.

The four were each given a three-year football banning order and fined a total of £510 including costs.

The remaining seven defendants, including three juveniles, will now go to trial in May.

Christmas drink-drive figures disappointing

POLICE say they are disappointed with the number of people who continue to drink and drive, despite continuing public education campaigns warning them of the dangers.

The constabulary’s month-long drink and drug-driving enforcement initiative ran from December 1, 2008 to January 1, 2009, with designated operations led by the force’s Roads Policing

Unit (RPU) taking place across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Throughout the month 6,138 breath tests were carried out, with a total of 307 people being arrested for refusals or failures.

As part of the force’s clamp-down on drug-driving, 63 field impairment tests (FITs) were also conducted, resulting in 14 arrests.

Inspector Peter Hughes, from the Roads Policing Unit, said:

“We are very disappointed with the number of people who are continuing to drink or take drugs and drive.”

“We have a year-long campaign committed to making the roads safer, but clearly there is still an element that doesn’t appreciate the risks and we will continue throughout the year to target these persistent offenders.”



Force is UK's best for LGB staff

by Tim Feltham

HAMPSHIRE Constabulary has been honoured as the UK's best police force for lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) officers and staff.

The force has been ranked second in this year's Stonewall Workplace Equality Index, which lists Britain's top 100 employers for LGB people.

Top of the list is Lloyds TSB, which means the constabulary is also the top public sector organisation.

Chief Constable Alex Marshall said: "I think it's fantastic news.

"A huge effort has gone into this organisation in recent years to make sure people feel comfortable and valued.

"To get this recognition is the icing on the cake.

"For a police force, such recognition is hugely important.

"We want to give an excellent service to the public, we want to be active in every neighbourhood and we want to catch as many criminals as possible.

"To achieve all of those things we need a workforce that represents all the communities we serve and brings all the skills that a diverse workforce can bring.

"I'm delighted that people from a gay, lesbian and bisexual background feel comfortable joining us, that they'll be valued within the organisation, and that

their skills, along with everyone else's, will be recognised."

The application to Stonewall was submitted by members of the force's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered resource group and the Personnel department.

Inspector Paula Hennighan-Finlay, who leads the resource group, said: "I'm thrilled our hard work has once again been recognised nationally by Stonewall.

"Our success is not about political correctness or bringing our personal lives to work; it's about ensuring the organisation treats employees with respect and allows everyone to do their job to the best of their abilities."

For the first time, Stonewall this year invited staff to fill out an online satisfaction survey as part of its assessment of the constabulary.

It was distributed via the resource group's confidential mailing list.

Insp Hennighan-Finlay continued: "Although we've seen more officers and staff joining the list this year, being openly gay for many is still not an option.

"That's why support services like the mailing list are still vital."

If you'd like to be added to the mailing list, please email Insp Hennighan-Finlay.



JOB SATISFACTION – Area car driver PC Michael Hughes is proud to be a gay officer working for Hampshire Constabulary.

PC Michael Hughes, 26, is an area car driver based at Newport on the Isle of Wight.

He has been with the force for nearly four years and says he's received nothing but support from the constabulary throughout his career.

"When I first thought about joining the police I thought my sexuality might have been a problem, but I'm very pleased to say that it hasn't.

"Working as a PC is the first job I've done where I've felt comfortable enough to be 'out' to my colleagues.

"In previous jobs this has always been difficult.

"If you're not out, it's near impossible to talk about life at home with colleagues and friends at work and you have to choose your turn of phrase very carefully.

"To be open about my sexuality at work makes life much easier because I'm happier and being happier motivates me to get on with the job of being a police officer: to catch, disrupt and detect criminals.

"I've had nothing but support from my colleagues about my

Diversity Champion

ONE of the roles Chief Constable Alex Marshall takes on as head of Hampshire Constabulary is that of the force's Diversity Champion.

"We've had a great success with Stonewall.

"Going forward, I want to see us being just as successful with people from black, minority ethnic backgrounds and people with disabilities.

"We will give these two areas a high priority this year as well as the wider issues of diversity."

Speaking in his weekly message posted on the intranet, Mr Marshall added: "Having recently made big changes to the diversity team at headquarters, with most of the team returning to frontline work, some might think our Stonewall success and the changes at headquarters are

contradictory.

"I disagree.

"We needed this expertise at the centre to help the organisation deliver on fairness and equality.

"We now have to live it in every corner of the constabulary"

Mr Marshall also took a strong line on distasteful remarks made by members of the public on the comments section of a newspaper's website following the Stonewall announcement:

"These comments were clearly unacceptable.

"Whilst the majority of readers make valid points, or seek to challenge us about the way the constabulary operates, this is not the place for any type of abuse, whoever it's aimed at.

"We spoke to the paper and I'm pleased to say the comments were removed as a result."

sexual orientation.

"If anything, I'd imagine it's almost seen as a skill area.

"Historically, the gay community has been distrusting of the police and it can be difficult for members of our community to speak to officers as they're fearful of the reaction they might receive.

"As an openly gay officer, if I or anyone else can make it easi-

er for one gay person to make a report to the police then that makes it worthwhile, not only for my team but for the constabulary as a whole.

"This is why the support services are there, so we can actively reflect the communities which we serve."

Partnership working reels in weighty loan shark

by Neil Miller

OFFICERS from the Central Operational Command Unit (OCU) Tasking Unit have recently concluded a successful investigation into illegal money lending conducted in Gosport.

The operation was carried out in co-operation with Trading Standards, the results of which were a conviction for 42-year-old Richard Blair.

After pleading guilty to the charges of illegal money lending, Blair received an eight month prison sentence suspended for two years, as well as a require-

ment to complete 200 hours community service.

He also had thousands of pounds seized as part of the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Blair was convicted after the police investigation revealed he had been making extortionate interest charges to customers, as well as growing cannabis plants in his address in Avenue Road, Gosport.

Detective Inspector Justin Norris said: "Stripping £45,000 from Mr Blair, a criminal who has been a long-standing persistent threat to the residents of

Gosport, has been challenging.

"Working in close partnership with Trading Standards has made it possible to successfully prosecute Mr Blair.

"This operation demonstrates that working with our partners does pay dividends.

"The result was that £18,750 was obtained from the proceeds of Mr Blair's crimes for Hampshire Constabulary funds."

"All officers involved in this investigation should take a great deal of pride in their professional and dedicated approach, both individually and as a team."



STRIKE FORCE – The net closes in on loan shark Richard Blair as officers put his front door through.

State of emergency – would you know what to do?

by Avril MacDonald

WHAT IF flood waters reached your front door, or there was an explosion at the local chemical factory?

These were just two of the questions listeners across the country were asked recently by BBC Radio as part of a three-day interactive programme with emergency planners and the blue light services.

Each day followed a different 'What if?' scenario designed to help families prepare for emergencies such as flood, fire, chemical leaks and pandemic flu.

Hampshire Constabulary was on hand at the BBC Radio Solent studios in Southampton to offer expert advice, together with other partner agencies, on the Jon Cuthill show.

BBC Radio Solent assistant editor Chris Harris, a member of the Local Resilience Forum's Warning and Informing group, said: "The aim of the programme was to encourage communities and individuals to harness local resources and expertise to help themselves, in a way which complements the work of the emergency services.

"We used a scenario framework to ask the public what they would do in a particular situation, explored issues such as evacua-

tion procedures, what people can expect at rest and recovery centres, and re-iterated the key message of 'Go in, stay in, tune in'."

On the first show, aired on January 12, the topic of what to do in a flooding situation was discussed by emergency planning officers from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, Hampshire County Council and the South Central Ambulance Service, together with representatives from the Met Office and the Environment Agency.

The following day the scenario was an explosion in a local chemical factory and was based on Operation Lazarus, which the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Warning and Informing group had piloted on air at Radio Solent previously.

Inspector Roger Petherbridge from the Roads Policing Unit - and the constabulary's hazardous materials expert - joined the discussion panel.

During the drive time programme the same day, Inspector Peter Hughes, also from the Roads Policing Unit, was called on at short notice to provide driving advice for people who find themselves trapped in traffic due to bad weather conditions.

The final programme gave advice on pandemic and seasonal flu and the panel representatives were from the Health Protection

Agency and Primary Care Trust. Donna Taylor from the British Red Cross was also present to explain how the voluntary sector supports the emergency services.

Ian Cameron, head of BBC Nations & Regions, said: "Last year, the BBC held a conference called *Beyond the Floods*, inviting emergency responders to discuss the lessons they had identified during the devastating UK floods of 2007.

"One of the main outcomes was a consensus between the BBC and other interested parties that warning and informing advice needed to be provided before the next floods not when the water was lapping at the door.

"Another significant learning point was the huge number of people who turned to the BBC web pages for advice during the 2007 floods - 7.9 million in two weeks hit the Radio Gloucestershire site.

"BBC local radio is the main vehicle that people use in a crisis as it is a robust medium that stays on even if the power is down, through battery or wind-up radios."

You can find out more about how to prepare for emergencies by visiting the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum website: www.hampshireprepared.co.uk/.

First hunting with dogs conviction in Hampshire

by Julie Jones

OFFICERS from the Basingstoke Rural Safer Neighbourhoods team have secured the first conviction in Hampshire for hunting with dogs.

The offence occurred at around 5pm on April 26 of last year when police received a report of illegal hare coursing on private land in Huish Lane, Old Basing.

A member of the public had seen a group of men using dogs to hunt and catch a hare.

When officers arrived, three men were found in the field with four lurchers.

The men told PC Andy Reid they were walking their dogs; however the officer knew the men did not have permission to enter the land.

Further enquiries discovered a dead hare in the field that had recently been killed.

Closer examinations found the injury to the hare was consistent with a dog bite.

All three men were reported for an offence and were issued a summons under the Hunting Act.

Three men were convicted at Basingstoke Magistrates' Court on December 15.

Each defendant was fined £200 and ordered to pay £100 costs.

The court also ordered the forfeiture of their dogs.

PC Andy Reid, who carried out the investigation, said: "I have already received several comments from members of my local Farm Watch who are

delighted with the result.

"We hope this conviction will send out a message to any offenders who are thinking of coming to this area to commit illegal coursing and poaching that not only do they face being fined, but they also face losing their vehicles and dogs.

"Illegal hare coursing is a major problem within rural communities in the Basingstoke area, despite offenders being reported, having their vehicles seized and being brought to court.

"However, we are receiving fewer reports than previously after a great deal of hard work by rural beat officers, working in partnership with local communities and PC Lee Coleshill of the Country Watch scheme.

"Consequently we have had success, with over 30 men being reported for poaching-related incidents during 2008.

"The impact on the rural community of this type of crime is considerable.

"Damage can be caused to sown crops by people and dogs walking across it or by vehicles driving onto the land.

"Wildlife is disturbed by dogs running around and farmers and gamekeepers have previously been intimidated when challenging the people involved with this type of offence.

"Some farmers have actually shot brown hares to eradicate them from their area, in the belief that if there are no hares, there will be no illegal hare coursing taking place on their land."

Mark Gammon, Crown

Prosecution Service lawyer, added: "This was a very satisfactory outcome.

"The order for forfeiture of the dogs in particular was significant as it removes the dogs from the offenders, thus preventing them committing such offences again.

"It is an order that is only rarely granted by a court, so to have a forfeiture order made in this case was especially gratifying.

"This was the first time that the CPS in Hampshire has pursued a prosecution under the Hunting Act.

"Indeed, it has only been used in a handful of such cases nationwide.

"We will certainly be looking to use this legislation again in similar circumstances.

"The clear lesson to be learned from this case is that the courts are prepared to hand down severe sentences for such offending.

"This should act as a warning to anyone who might be thinking of acting in this way in future."

The Hunting Act was passed in 2004 and outlawed hunting with dogs in England and Wales from February 2005.

Hare coursing involves participants who spread across a field and disturb a hare from its form.

Dogs are released onto the hare with the aim of a dog catching it first.

Participants will bet on which dog will catch the hare first which means that in some cases, large sums of money can be involved.

Sharp drop in violent crime over festive period

by Carolyn Miles

VIOLENT crime in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight fell by 14 per cent over Christmas as a result of the force's crackdown on drug and alcohol-related incidents.

As reported in edition 143 of Frontline, throughout December Chief Constable Alex Marshall tasked police officers and police staff to focus on dealing with alcohol-related violence, which accounts for almost half of all violent crime.

Latest figures suggest this concentrated policing effort has paid off: in December there were 1,048 substance-related

violent crimes compared with 1,215 such crimes for the same month in 2007. That's 167 fewer violent crimes committed as a direct result of drug or alcohol use.

Mr Marshall said: "This is a great result for all the police officers that were out on the streets this Christmas and we will continue to work to further reduce the number of incidents across the force.

"Alcohol-related violence occupies many hours of my officer's time and we receive calls everyday where alcohol is the root of the problem.

"I'd prefer my police officers to be out patrolling neighbourhoods across Hampshire and

the Isle of Wight, catching burglars and preventing crime from happening in the first place."

As part of the force's Christmas crackdown, huge posters with the tagline 'Offender or victim? How will your night end?' were displayed on the sides of Advans travelling around Hampshire throughout December.

The posters contained hard-hitting images showing the same person being both the aggressor and the victim with injuries that could have been sustained in a drunken brawl.

Extra police patrols were also out on the streets during the festive period.

Winning idea sends DC Diaper to Dubai

by Sarah Julian

ONE of Hampshire Constabulary's detectives has been presented with a national award for innovation and £1,000 - and it all started with Brainwaves, the force's long-running staff suggestion scheme.

The award was made by ideasUK, which recognises the best ideas from public and private sector suggestion schemes.

DC Paul Diaper, from the Financial Investigation Unit (FIU), picked up the top prize in the Finance and Accounting award category for his idea which involved the courts and hearings connected to the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA).

Under POCA, Hampshire Constabulary has a responsibility to apply to magistrates courts requesting orders to retain cash over £1,000 seized by police.

The FIU, based in Southampton, takes responsibility for these applications.

However, police carry out searches all over Hampshire and the Isle of Wight on a daily basis and cash seizures can be made anywhere.

For each cash seizure the FIU is required to attend or re-attend court every three months to explain the progress of the investigation and if the money is still to be retained or the reasons why the money has been retained.

As a result, financial investigators are required to attend court (accompanied by a lawyer) at any of the magistrates' courts in the counties to make an application to retain the cash in the area in which it was seized.

DC Diaper facilitated an agreement with Southampton Magistrates Court to accept all the initial POCA applications regardless of where the cash was seized in Hampshire.

Magistrates agreed to grant one court day a month for further detention applications (these occur every three months).

On the last designated court day, magistrates dealt with 19 applications in 90 minutes - pretty speedy compared to the travelling to different courts, investigator time, lawyers' fees and mileage claims that would have been involved previously.

This idea has since been used by other forces, and DC Diaper will go forward to an international ideasUK award ceremony in Dubai.

DC Diaper said: "I am truly grateful for having had the opportunity and the support from the Brainwaves team in their efforts to ensure we were properly represented and my idea recognised."

"I would say to all those who feel if you submit an idea to Brainwaves that all you will get is a pen and a key ring to think again.

"I received £2,100 tax free, the highest award so far from Brainwaves, two great days in Cheshire staying in a 4-star hotel to attend the awards ceremony and a trip to Dubai for the international awards as a finalist!"

Also nominated were Chief Inspector Tim Ashman and Crime Prevention Officer Sarah Badham from Southampton, for the creation of a partnership-funded student safety and security DVD.

This is the first time Brainwaves has won a trophy from ideasUK, having been finalists for the previous two years.



POLICING OUR COUNTRYSIDE – PC Andy Reid meets a local gamekeeper.

Band's new fundraising record

LAST year proved to be a bumper one for members of The Band of the Hampshire Constabulary in their charitable fundraising efforts - they managed a 110 per cent increase on 2007.

Charities benefited by nearly £10,000 thanks to the popular concert wind band performing in

and around the force area throughout the year.

Band Chairman David Basson explained that the rise in donations was due to a few more events in the band's calendar together with larger audiences being attracted by better publicity from organisers.

The band recently resumed

practising at Netley Training and Support HQ.

Any instrumentalists interested in knowing more should contact the secretary Andrew Wood via email at festivalm@aol.com or visit the new website at www.hampshirepoliceband.co.uk.



CASH CONVERTER – DC Paul Diaper (left) is presented with his award for innovation on behalf of ideasUK.

Roger jolly at prospect of retirement

by Neil Miller

FORMER sergeant, Roger Matcham, is enjoying his retirement after more than 40 years service with Hampshire Constabulary and the Coroner's Office.

Roger retired on December 31 after being a police officer for 30 years and a coroner's officer for more than a decade.

Roger first joined the police as a cadet in 1959 before becoming a PC in 1962 and later a sergeant.

He served in multiple locations during the 30 years, including working out of stations in Petersfield, the force control room, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Gosport, Fareham and Bishops Waltham.

Roger left the force in 1992 to take up a post as a licensing

officer for East Hampshire District Council.

He became a coroner's officer in 1997.

Roger said: "I thoroughly enjoyed my time working with Hampshire Constabulary.

"As a police officer I had the chance to work in stations all across Hampshire and had first-hand experience of how the constabulary has changed over the years.

"Latterly, working with the coroner's office has been an experience I will never forget, especially helping families through what is understandably a very difficult time with the death of loved ones.

"I have made a great many friends and worked with extremely professional colleagues over the years and I shall no doubt miss them as I

enter retirement.

"I've had a lot of job satisfaction because of the good working relationships I have maintained and I'd like to say thank you to everyone who has contributed to making my time with Hampshire Constabulary a pleasure and a rewarding job."



Officer raising awareness of life-limiting disease

by Duncan Smith

A POLICE officer is drawing inspiration from the TV exploits of movie star Ewan McGregor for a challenging journey in support of a cause close to his heart.

Sergeant Phil Smith, who lives and works on the Isle of Wight, is preparing to ride his motorcycle around Britain in May to raise money for the Earl Mountbatten Hospice and the Motor Neurone Disease Association on the island.

Last year, at the age of 50, Sergeant Smith's wife and mother-of-two, Bessie, was diagnosed with motor neurone disease, a condition that attacks cells in the body, causing weakness and wasting of muscles, increasing loss of mobility in the limbs, and difficulties with speech, swallowing, and breathing.

There is no known cure for the condition, although medication can be prescribed to slow down its effects.

Bessie remains strong physically with no weakness in her limbs at the moment, but she has had to give up work as a nurse and stop driving.

The onset of the disease has altered her personality and behaviour.

Phil said: "The situation has changed my perspective on life. "You think 'why us?'"

"There is a sense of disbelief and you feel alone.

"It's difficult dealing with my wife's behaviour as a result of her condition.

"It means she is unable to organise herself in a way many of us would take for granted.

"It can be like having another child in the family because she is not able to understand and

respond."

Bessie receives day care and physiotherapy twice a week at the Earl Mountbatten Hospice in Newport where there are dedicated facilities and expert staff.

The Isle of Wight branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association has supplied specialist equipment worth thousands of pounds for Bessie to use at home, including a lightwriter communication aid, which converts text to speech.

Phil said: "I felt I needed to do something in return to recognise the invaluable service provided by the association and hospice staff.

"They are making day-to-day life better for Bessie."

The idea to ride motorbikes across Britain was inspired by the TV programme *Long Way Round* starring Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman, who completed a 20,000-mile motorcycle trip around the world in 115 days.

Phil and friend Steve Olding

will be riding 1,500 miles around the country, passing through locations connected with the life of former IOW governor Lord Louis Mountbatten whose memory prompted an appeal to open the Isle of Wight Earl Mountbatten Hospice in 1982.

Phil added: "It takes an immense amount of mental stamina and concentration to ride a motorcycle over long distances on a range of road surfaces in varying conditions.

"I hope completing this challenge can give more people renewed strength to continue raising awareness of motor neurone disease, and money for research into its exact causes."

Nearly £240 was raised at the Isle of Wight OCU Christmas ball, and you can find out about more about Sergeant Smith's challenge, and how to support him, by going online to www.justgiving.com/mountbat-tenmnd



GEARED UP – Sgt Phil Smith is preparing to ride 1,500 miles for charity.

Long-serving island officers retire

by Duncan Smith

TWO Hampshire Constabulary officers based on the Isle of Wight have retired from the force after putting in 62 years between them!

PC Tony Witt has spent 30 years in frontline policing, while his inspector, Glenn Cairns, has fulfilled a variety of roles in his 32-year contribution.

PC Witt joined the force in 1978, serving in Hythe before moving to the Isle of Wight where he was based at Ryde police station for more than 20 years.

He received a Chief Constable's Commendation for tackling a woman armed with a knife, and an award from the RSPCA for helping to rescue a horse and rider stranded on a beach.

PC Witt said: "It's great to have been on the frontline, making decisions on your feet, dealing with a huge variety of unpredictable jobs.



PC Tony Witt

"I've thoroughly enjoyed working on the Isle of Wight, seeing people - who've taken your advice - grow up on the straight and narrow.

"I've always tried to treat people how I would expect to be treated myself.

"There's a very enthusiastic team on the island, almost like a family unit, where morale is high."

PC Witt's final shift was on Friday night, December 19.

His shift inspector, Glenn Cairns, said: "It's unusual to find an officer of the calibre of PC Witt who is willing to spend 30 years in uniform on the frontline.

"The fact that he chose his last tour of duty to be one of the busiest nights of the year speaks volumes about his character."

Insp Cairns joined the force in 1976 and held a wide variety of roles in areas including roads policing, public order, firearms, custody, security, and licensing.

He made a huge contribution to the welfare of the force through his involvement with the force lottery, the force rugby club and various other sports and social groups.

He spent his last nine years on the Isle of Wight after service in Bitterne, Portsmouth, Alton, Aldershot, Farnborough, Havant, Netley, Cosham, and Eastleigh.

Insp Cairns headed up search operations for the visits of 44 VIPs from around the world, including US President Bill

Clinton, when he worked closely with the American Secret Service.

Insp Cairns' final shift was on Boxing Day. He said: "Retirement will be a huge change for me.

"Being in the police service, being part of the community, and serving the public professionally and as a volunteer, has been rewarding and has totally consumed my energies for over half of my life.

"I have had some sad times, seen some terrible things, but I wouldn't swap it for anything.

"They have been outweighed by the positive experiences of working with, being taught by, and commanded by, some very lovely, dedicated, intelligent people.

"In retirement I intend to relax, continue to help the local community when I am able, and spend as much time on the water as possible."



Insp Glenn Cairns

Gary's marathon training up and running

SERGEANT Gary Cable from the Priority Crime Unit at Southsea is in training to run the London Marathon in April to raise money for Crimestoppers.

Frontline is following Gary in his preparations to take on the gruelling 26-mile 385-yard challenge.

This is his training diary:

"My training continues to go well, even during the freezing cold weather.

I am now running between 10 and 12 miles twice a week and also doing another two days of shorter, faster runs.

I have received some advice and guidance from Chris Brier, the estates manager for Portsmouth OCU.

He is a trainer for Portsmouth Joggers Club and he has run in a large number of marathons.

I have a copy of his training programme which has proved very helpful, and if anyone else taking part this year would like a copy please contact me.

The hardest part of training is getting out and started, but it helps that I am really enjoying

running at the moment and not finding it a chore.

I still managed to fill myself with sweets and treats at Christmas (obviously to keep my carbs and fats up - very important!).

The training has begun well and the 16-week countdown started on January 3.

I have decided to also run the Fleet Half Marathon in March as part of my ongoing training, and one of the local field intelligence officers in Portsmouth has kindly offered to run with me.

I am still looking for sponsorship and have made approaches to a number of larger companies, however the 'credit crunch' would appear to be having a devastating effect on donations to charity!

Saying that I have been told by the Crimestoppers team in London that January is always a quiet time and as the marathon gets closer the sponsors will begin to come forward.

I am grateful for any amount people can pledge, no matter how much, as it all counts towards my £1,250 target, and hopefully

more.

I am also working hard in placing newspaper articles similar to this, to remind people that Crimestoppers is a worthwhile charity and needs funding.

I want to keep the profile raised to emphasise the importance of this organisation.

The manager of Gunwharf Quays has kindly offered to sponsor me with equipment and I am looking at a number of other ways to raise funds. I have a number of ideas but if you are able to make any suggestions please do.

I have a web page that enables people to sponsor me online: www.justgiving.com/garycable4crimestoppers, or alternatively you can call or email me using the internal system.

Next time you have a spare five minutes, please log onto www.crimestoppers-uk.org and see what they do and how they work within the communities of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Until next time, thanks for all the support I've received so far and let's hope the weather warms up soon!"

Special constable honoured RPU officer honoured for his work on the Isle of Wight

FORDINGBRIDGE Special constable Ann Sevier has been named Hampshire Constabulary Special Constable of the Year 2008.

Ann, who has been working as a Special for 17 years and is well known in the community, has also been nominated for the South East Region Special Constable Awards, the date of which has yet to be announced.

Ann provides a valuable service to the community by open-

ing the enquiry office at Fordingbridge police station between 6pm and 7pm from Monday to Friday.

On learning she had received the award Ann said: "I am very rarely lost for words, but on opening the letter I was left speechless.

"I am very honoured to receive the award and I hope this is also in recognition of the work of all rural Specials in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight for the help they

give to the local community."

Chief Superintendent Richard Rowland, commander of Western Operational Command Unit, made a trip to Fordingbridge to surprise Ann and personally congratulate her.

He was accompanied by New Forest district liaison manager Inspector Kevin Leckey and the Special Constabulary's New Forest acting district officer Simon Bagshot.



ANN'S SO SPECIAL –
Inspector Kevin Leckey, Special Constable of the Year, Ann Sevier, and acting District Officer Simon Bagshot.

By George, chorister takes title!

HAMPSHIRE Police Male Voice Choir member, George Jenkins, recently won the Coronation Trophy at the 2008 Gosport Memorial Festival.

The 77-year-old Welshman, who lives in Southsea, was awarded the trophy after singing Elegie by Massenet.

George was a police officer in the old West Sussex Constabulary between 1954 and 1964 and has been a member of the Hampshire Police Choir for five years.

His achievement comes 55 years after the Portsmouth City Police Male Voice Choir, now known as the Hampshire Police Male Voice Choir, were the first winners of the trophy, which was donated by the Gosport Borough Council in 1953 to celebrate the Queen's coronation.

The following article appeared in the Portsmouth News all those years ago:

'Portsmouth City Police Male Voice Choir, under the direction of Mr John Davison, were the first winners on Saturday of the Coronation Trophy offered for the best combination of mixed or men's voices competing in Gosport Music Festival.

Their performance was one of the outstanding events in a day of choral singing, and Dr Herbert Howells, who adjudicated, heard nearly 40 groups of singers of varying ages.'

Former Portsmouth City Police officers may recognise many of the faces in the accompanying photograph.

BACK ROW: Ron Lovett, Bob Gigg, Frank Bennett, SC John Arnold, Derek Southgate

TRIO STANDING LEFT: Noel Kirkby, Norman Morris, Jack Richardson

MAIN GROUP, LEFT TO RIGHT: Herbie Jones,

Unknown, Norman Smith, Bill Woolvern, Ted Gurd, George Norman, Tommy Holland, John Davison, musical director (with baton), Bob Douse, Aubrey Moore, Russell (Porky) Bennett, Frank Stevens, Jim Brooker, George Jones, Len Sawyer

There is one unidentified officer, sat between Herbie Jones and Norman Smith.

If anyone can put a name to this face please let Brian Wareham know.

The police choir would like to welcome male serving officers and civilian staff, or male partners, family and friends to join, which practises on Wednesday evenings at the Parish Rooms, Sarisbury Green.

If you would like further information contact Brian Wareham on 07771 724421 or Geoff Culbertson on 07971 783660.



RPU officer honoured for his work on the Isle of Wight

by Duncan Smith

THE mother of a teenager who died as a result of a car crash on the Isle of Wight in 2006 has spoken to *Frontline* about her admiration for the Hampshire Constabulary family liaison officer who supported her.

Wendy Newnham nominated PC Clive Richardson of the Shanklin Roads Policing Unit for an award to recognise his work with the community.

PC Richardson was named Emergency Service Person of the Year at the Isle of Wight Radio People's People Awards.

The accolade recognised a member of an emergency service organisation who has gone beyond the call of duty, or displayed extraordinary levels of bravery whilst helping others.

As family liaison officer (FLO), Clive kept Wendy informed about every stage of the investigation into the death of her son, Martin, and it was this professional relationship that forged a lasting friendship built on mutual trust and respect.

With PC Richardson's support, Wendy now provides road safety education using her powerful and poignant testimony about the intense emotions felt by a parent who has lost a child in a road crash.

Wendy said: "I nominated Clive for this award as a way of thanking him for all the undivided attention, guidance, understanding, integrity and, above all, trust which he brought to our family during what I would call the darkest time of our lives.

"There were other reasons for his nomination though: for his dedication to road safety, for his

time that he gives to educate our young people of the consequences of their choices, and for being a good partner to work with in the classroom.

"He can be very entertaining and manages to command great interaction with the students.

"I admire the work of family liaison officers because who in their right mind wants to do 'the knock on the door'? Who wants to be taking a mother to the morgue?"

"I'm proud to have met Clive, I hold him in the highest regard and there isn't a recognition high enough for this special man."

PC Richardson, who has 32 years' service with Hampshire Constabulary, said: "I was gobsmacked to receive the award, but I was touched and humbled too.

"I feel I'm just a normal PC, just doing the job to the best of my ability.

"It's recognition for family liaison officers everywhere.

"As a FLO, you make a contract with a family so they have a transparent, intimate knowledge of the investigation.

"Usually this relationship ends when the investigation ends, but occasionally you meet people with whom you have more of a bond. I'm always willing to do anything to support Wendy.

"The award is a testament to the honesty with which a FLO must treat relatives during a road death investigation.

"Making next-of-kin feel they're the only family you're working with is a quality I strive for."



PEOPLE PERSON – PC Clive Richardson receiving his award from Rebecca Death of sponsors Wight Fire.

A trust you can depend on

IF YOU'RE a police officer then you'll know just how potentially dangerous your role can be. And while officers should always look out for number one, have you ever considered what would happen to your family if you were involved in a serious accident or even killed? How would your spouse and children cope financially?

The Police Dependents' Trust is a registered charity which was formed in 1966 following the murder of three police officers during a routine vehicle check in London's Shepherds Bush. The shooting of the three officers led to donations being sent to the Home Office and an appeal was subsequently set up. Before long more than £1 million was raised and the Police Dependents' Trust was created.

In November 2008 the trust merged with the National

Police Fund, which was a smaller charity sharing similar aims.

The trust exists to assist in the following cases of need: dependants of police officers or former police officers who die or have died as a result of an injury received in the execution of duty; and police officers or former police officers who are or have been incapacitated as a result of an injury received in the execution of duty, or dependants of such officers.

Examples of assistance include maintenance grants to maintain or improve living standards, children's grants for physical and educational support and special purpose grants to ease disabilities.

To be able to make a request for assistance you must fall into either of the above categories and be registered with the trust. Don't wait until you need assis-

tance, register with the trust at the earliest opportunity.

The subscription rate is currently 25p per month. However if, as an officer, you subscribe to the constabulary's welfare fund, then this donation is automatically made on your behalf.

Last year 33 Hampshire applicants received over £39,000 in assistance and since the trust's inception over £39 million has been paid out to 6,000 beneficiaries.

If you believe that you qualify for registration with the trust then please visit the website www.policedependantstrust.org.uk or call 0208 941 6907

If you do not support the welfare fund on a monthly basis then please reconsider this decision.

Don't leave it to someone else; it may be you or your family who needs the assistance.

Officers' exceptional exam success

IN the National Investigators' Exam held in November 2008, 36 officers from Hampshire Constabulary passed. A total of 40 Hampshire Constabulary offi-

cers sat the exam, and two of them received exceptional marks. They were PC Danielle Daltrey, from Bitterne, who came 11th out of 703 entrants after scoring

87 per cent, and PC Aidan Jeffery, from Basingstoke, who also came 11th out of 703 with an 87 per cent exam score.

Spotlight

Inspector Paul Pressley

What job do you do with Hampshire Constabulary?

Citizen Focus Inspector.

What does that involve?

The aim of Citizen Focus is to provide an excellent service for all communities tailored to their needs. My role is to co-ordinate development of citizen focus in the force by liaising across OCUs and departments, identifying effective practice both within the force and nationally and making recommendations to the chief constable and Citizen Focus Gold group.

How long have you been with the constabulary?

Fifteen years in Hampshire after three years with Avon and Somerset.

What attracted you to work for the police service?

It is a job in which you can make a real difference to people and there are a variety of work and opportunities available.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

Managing change and working as part of a team.

Tell us a little bit about your job history, what jobs you liked and disliked?

I started as a probationer in Taunton, Devon. After trans-

ferring to Hampshire I worked on shift at Fleet and Andover then in CID for five years. I was a response sergeant at Farnborough and custody sergeant at Aldershot (one of the best jobs) before various inspector roles in North and East including Safer Neighbourhoods for Rushmoor District. More recently I was on the planning team for the Farnborough Air Show 2008 (really hard work but great fun during the show) before moving to my current role.

If you could do one thing to improve the force, what would it be?

Concentrate more on victims and witnesses. My current aim is to increase our referrals to Victim Support - they provide a great service

and help significantly with the follow-up contact to victims of crime.

What are you most likely to be heard saying?

"Yeah right, Truman" or "Did someone mention tea?"

What annoys you?

Bad manners and boredom.

What makes you happy?

My family, winning at squash; stew and dumplings.

Who would play you in a film of your life and why?

A young Michael Caine. My fiancée says George Clooney - she wishes!

Back to the past, or forward to the future? Where would you like to go and why?

Neither, live for today and enjoy it.

Who are your top three



dinner party guests?

Peter Kay, Jeremy Clarkson and Beyonce.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

A pilot.

What would your dream job be now?

Pro-golfer.

Tell us one thing about yourself that no-one reading this will know.

I can fly a hot air balloon.

New island play facilities

by Duncan Smith and Anna Symcox

NEW play facilities and a dedicated shelter for teenagers have been installed in Venner Avenue Play Park in Northwood on the Isle of Wight thanks to successful partnership working.

Hampshire Constabulary, the Northwood Community Partnership, and the Isle of Wight Council worked together to respond to the needs of local residents after a lack of suitable play equipment and somewhere for teenagers to spend time was highlighted to PCSO Stephen Oatley from the Cowes Safer Neighbourhoods team and members of the Northwood Community Partnership by residents.

The partnership worked together to raise funds for new play equipment while the council funded an upgrade of existing equipment and will fund the ongoing maintenance of the new facilities.

PCSO Oatley said: "This is a fantastic example of partnership working and tapping into the youth opportunity funds.

"We have seen a drastic

reduction in reported anti-social behaviour in the Northwood area, a top priority action highlighted by residents."

Councillor Roger Mazillius, who is a member of the Northwood Community Partnership as well as the local IW councillor and a Northwood parish councillor, said: "I am so pleased that the Northwood Community Partnership and local police worked together to identify funding for the project and that together with the IW Council's Parks and Countryside Department, added these much used additional play facilities for local children.

"In addition the council has re-turfed much of the football pitch in the park.

"All these changes have resulted in a real surge in use by local children, which I know they and their parents appreciate."

Peter Crews, 15, from Northwood said: "Behaviour is better since the new facilities opened.

"They've attracted more people to the area.

"Parents bring their kids out, and there's more pride in the community." Robin Crews, 14, said: "The basketball hoop is getting used every day, sometimes by as many as a dozen kids and teenagers.

"They're not causing trouble any more."



Junior PCSO scheme receives O2 award

by Katie Wilson

POLICE in Gosport have received an O2 It's Your Community Award to support the borough's Junior PCSO scheme.

Officers were notified by the telecoms giant in August last year that they were to be given £1,000 to spend on the scheme, which has been running since October. In December, O2's Chris Scott presented the cheque to PCSO Dawn Ayres at Brockhurst Junior School before an audience of the scheme's young members.

PCSO Ayres has already recruited 21 Junior PCSOs, aged between seven and 11, all of whom are pupils at the school and work together to help the community.

PCSO Ayres said: "Our Junior PCSOs are extremely keen to get out into the community and help make a difference.

"So far we have carried out a litter pick and planted shrubs at an elderly people's residence, and distributed leaflets about Halloween and trading standards.

"The children have also received talks about road and cycle safety from the police, and officers from Hampshire Fire and

Rescue Service have met with them to talk about arson and fire safety.

"The children are already aware of signal crime in the area and regularly point out graffiti, overgrown gardens and damaged property.

"We have lots of plans for the future, including a visit to the local fire station and participation in a recycle fashion show.

"We are still looking at ways we can help the public and the children would love to do more for their neighbourhood. So if you live in the area and you have something you would like help with, please get in touch with us."

Sergeant Marcus Cator said: "This scheme has been set up and run by PCSO Ayres to allow a group of youngsters in our community to work with us and our partner agencies make a positive impact in the areas of Elson and Forton.

"This group will be working with us to restore parts of the neighbourhood and remove evidence of signal crimes such as criminal damage and graffiti, returning ownership and pride to the community and hopefully reducing the fear of crime in the

area. "The young people involved will learn responsibility and ownership while gaining respect for and from the community.

"This is an excellent opportunity for development and understanding between partner agencies and many aspects of our local communities."

Chris Scott, local branch manager for O2, said: "This is a fantastic project and I'm delighted It's Your Community has been able to get involved.

"The It's Your Community Award was created to benefit projects just like Gosport's Junior PCSOs.

"We are trying to help people bring their communities together and PCSO Ayres is a great example of someone who does this.

"O2's It's Your Community exists to inspire people to apply for cash awards to drive small community changes that can collectively make a big difference - we hope that Dawn can inspire others."

For more information about the projects supported so far and how to apply for an award log onto www.itsyourcommunity.co.uk.

knight polson advert

Obituaries

The chief constable deeply regrets to announce the death of the following retired police officers:

Superintendent William Arthur Playdon, who died on December 16, 2008. He served with Hampshire Constabulary for 30 years before retiring on December 31, 1976. He served at West End, Eastleigh, Petersfield, Gosport, Havant, Totton, Farnborough, Christchurch and Lyndhurst.

Constable Robert George Fisher, who died on December 17, 2008. He served with Portsmouth City Police for 15 years and was medically retired on May 1, 1975. He served at HQ

Recruiting, HQ Training, Cosham, CID HQ and Southsea.

Constable Jack Albert Day, who died on December 19, 2008. He served with Hampshire Constabulary for 25 years before retiring on March 20, 1977. He served at Southsea and Cosham.

Inspector Philip Leonard Felton, who died on December 25, 2008. He served with Southampton City Police and Hampshire Constabulary for 25 years before retiring on June 1, 1975. He served at Southampton City and Fareham.

Detective Constable Cedric Alfred Shinar, who died on December 27, 2008. He served with Hampshire Constabulary for 29 years before retiring on June 18, 1980. He served at

Farnborough, Portchester, Scenes of Crime Fareham and Scenes of Crime and Stolen Vehicle ÆOí Dept SE Support HQ.

Detective Constable Stanley Gillespie Robinson, who died on January 3, 2009. He served with the Royal Ulster Constabulary and Hampshire Constabulary for 29 years before retiring on April 14, 2002. He served at Lyndhurst, Andover, Whitchurch, Stockbridge, Headquarters, Special Branch (Eastleigh Airport) and Basingstoke.

Constable Donald George Percy Stevens, who died on January 12, 2009. He served with Hampshire Constabulary and Isle of Wight Constabulary for 30 years before retiring on August 31, 1983. He served at Lyndhurst, Gosport, Longparish and Whitchurch.



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Frontline on tape: A talking version of *Frontline* is produced on tape by volunteers from Winchester Talking Newspapers for the Blind. Please contact Keith Vincent on 01962 884088.

The contents of *Frontline* do not necessarily represent the views of the chief constable, the editor or Hampshire Constabulary.

Mike in plane appeal

A HAMPSHIRE Constabulary police staff member needs your support in keeping the world's only flying Vulcan Bomber in the skies.

Mike Child, who works in the Roads Policing Unit's Incident Management Unit Records, is a supporter of the Vulcan to the Sky Trust, the organisation which operates the world's only flying Vulcan Bomber, known as XH558.

The Vulcan is a delta wing subsonic bomber that was operated by the Royal Air Force from 1953 until 1984. It was part of the RAF's V bomber force, which fulfilled the role of nuclear deterrence against the Soviet Union during the Cold War. It was also used

in a conventional bombing role during the Falklands conflict.

After a monumental effort by the Vulcan team and its supporters, XH558 was flown again for the first time in 14 years on October 18, 2007, and has since been returned to the airshow circuit. Airshow attendances in 2008 increased by 20 per cent as a result of the 'Vulcan Effect'.

Historically, the Vulcan is extremely significant for numerous reasons and both the team and supporters believe it is very important that the Vulcan continues to fly in order to educate people about the role it played, and also because of the iconic appeal the aircraft

has.

Mike Child said: "Sadly, despite the efforts of the Vulcan team and all the supporters, there is now a possibility that the Vulcan may not fly again due to an extreme lack of funds. No major commercial sponsors have yet come forward to support the project, despite the excitement the return to flight has created."

A government petition has been set up at <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/vulcan-XH558/> to prove how much support the Vulcan has.

If you'd like to know more and support the Vulcan project, please visit www.tvoc.co.uk.



Power of music puts paid to anti-social behaviour

by Alan Smith

A MUSIC project initiated by a New Forest based PCSO has helped reduce incidents of youth-related anti-social behaviour.

The project has been a tremendous success with approximately 30 young people regularly attending the sessions, during which time there have been no reported incidents of anti-social behaviour in the Ashley area.

The Youth and Play Forum comprises a multi-agency group supporting the youth in the community. The new group includes representatives from Action for Youth, Hampshire Constabulary, CODA Music Centre and Arnewood School.

At the inaugural meeting in late September, it was agreed that a project was needed to support the

youngsters with something constructive and worthwhile and the Ashley Music Project was set up as a trial activity.

Youth representatives Jack West and Dan Mawer attended the meeting and agreed to survey their peer group about the value of the project. The response was positive and it was agreed to target and invite those aged 14+ to participate. The head teacher at Ashley School was also contacted and agreed to allow use of the school for the project on Thursday evenings.

Funding was generated through donations from the New Milton Lions and the New Milton Town Partnership.

The project initially involved six taster sessions in beat-boxing, DJing, music technology, drumming and guitar playing.

PCSO James Mitchener, who before joining Hampshire Constabulary was an active musician, has been part of the project from the concept and has been at every session contributing to and connecting with the young people of his beat.

James said: "To combine my role as a PCSO and my love for music is a true gift.

"I have enjoyed these sessions and so have the kids.

"It has been a real eye-opener to see the talents of young people and how people stereotype them without knowing truly what they are capable of."

The excellent response to the trial has encouraged the multi-agency team to seek additional funding to help sustain the project in 2009 and beyond.

Adverts placed in the Sell Out section are charged at £5 for three editions, £10 for six editions or £15 for nine editions (one year's worth). Adverts are restricted to a maximum of 28 words. Cheques should be made payable to

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Forest officers earn their brownie points

by Natalie Galloway

NEW FOREST police officers and staff have been helping Milford-on-Sea Cubs and Barton-on-Sea Brownies to complete a personal safety and crime prevention badge.

PC Karen Kingsnorth, PCSO Alan McCaffery and crime prevention officer Ron Smith have visited the groups to help them earn their badges.

PC Kingsnorth said: "Police in the New Forest have teamed up with New Forest District Council to work with young people at schools and youth groups, educating them about the consequences of criminal damage.

"We are visiting young peo-

ple to talk about the damaging effect this has on our communities.

"We're also highlighting the importance of personal safety."

The Cubs and Brownies have been tasked with designing posters carrying an anti-vandalism message, putting together a crime-prevention play and investigating ways in which they can keep themselves safe when out and about.

Once the Cubs and Brownies have completed their work they will receive their badge and a certificate from Hampshire Constabulary.

PC Kingsnorth is also working with both groups to organise further events in the spring.

Sell Out



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WANTED: Secure lock-up garage in the Southampton, Eastleigh area to house an historic police vehicle - reference available, also "corker" crash helmet (large size) as worn on 'Heartbeat' Tel: 02380 602046

WANTED Sweater patches of the Hampshire Constabulary Marine Unit and Air Support Unit. Brian James Ret. PC. 01746 862520. E-Mail brian@junabria.entads1.com.

POLICE BADGES: Southampton, Hants and Isle of Wight. Inspectors and PCs cap badges of pre-amalgamation era. Also Southampton helmet plates. Bob Kendall 02380 779047

THE HAMPSHIRE Police Male Voice Choir practice takes place Wednesdays 7pm - 9.30pm at the Parish Rooms, Sarisbury Green. New members welcome. Call Brian Wareham on 07771 724421 or Geoff Culbertson on 07971 783660

HISTORIAN, Author and Collector seeks to purchase British police uniforms, equipment, ephemera, photographs and books from WWII. John Leete, 07748 310996. Southampton.1@btinternet.com

Letters

□ **HAVE YOUR SAY:** Write to *Frontline Letters, Media and Corporate Communications, Hampshire Constabulary HQ, Romsey Road, Winchester SO22 5DB* or email frontmail@hantspol.gov.uk.

Letters and emails must be no longer than 300 words and must include your full name and home town. We reserve the right to edit or omit letters. Please be aware Frontline is reproduced on the internet and circulated to the media.

Just the job

I write in response to PC Ashley's letter in edition 143 of *Frontline* regarding the fairness of the current Special Priority Payments (SPP) format.

Without also wishing to get embroiled in an 'us and them' type war of words, I feel I have to put the record straight on a few issues he raises in defence of Safer Neighbourhood teams (SNTs).

The whole question of SPP is a debate in itself as is the question of who is more deserving. However, beat officers (SNT) have never said they are more deserving than shift officers (Targeted Patrol teams) so it is unfair to 'cherry pick' SNT out of all the other qualifying roles for SPP.

I would suggest PC Ashley needs to pop down to the beat office in Fareham as he seems to believe that SNT do not get deployed to any jobs. He also seems to think we do not cover gaoler duties and many other abstractions for the OCU.

The role of an SNT officer is to deal with ongoing, long-term community issues and not quick fixes. We do not and cannot just walk into a job, make an arrest and leave it just as quickly as we'd picked it up. We continually deal with protracted issues which in the end alleviate the need for TPT to be sent there again.

As a local beat officer I have already served my time as a TPT officer on a 24/7 shift pattern with an overflowing crime account and I took the decision to move to the beats. It would seem PC Ashley did likewise and has since moved on. This luxury is afforded to all other police officers within Hampshire Constabulary once out of their probation.

PC Rich Baldwin, SNT, Whitchurch

To the point

The letter from PC Sharon Lewry in your last issue is interesting mainly in that she has managed to miss completely the point raised by PC Shutler before her.

The whole idea of Special Priority Payments (SPP) is to reward officers who work in pressurised and unpopular roles. To call him narrow-minded for suggesting that Targeted Patrol team (TPT) is a more stressful role than Safer Neighbourhoods team (SNT) defies belief. I have served as both a PC and a sergeant on both SNT and TPT and while I appreciate fully the role SNT carry out I believe it would take a very brave person to try and assert that the life of a frontline SNT officer carries the same pressures as that of a TPT officer.

PC Lewry talks of the rift between SNT and TPT. If she believes there is one then I would suggest that this is possibly more down to instances where SNT officers ignore their radios even when being asked for simple tasks such as assisting with prisoner transports.

PC Lewry states "we are all police officers". Speaking as someone who spends his life trying to fill 'unfillable' gaps, I have seen little evidence to suggest a majority of SNT officers actually feel this way. As I type I have just had to beg, borrow and steal to get an SNT officer to assist with a Grade 1 robbery. Surely if we are all police officers then we should all be volunteering to attend Grade 1s when there are no other units free rather than waiting for a patrol sergeant to beg for help.

I got promoted to obtain more

responsibility. Turns out the life of a sergeant on TPT is simply one of the willing doing the impossible and being unappreciated for the effort.

In my opinion the only difference between TPT and SNT officers is that we on TPT don't get to use the phrase "not in my remit". Ever.

It would be nice if the SPP was a representative reward for this.

Sergeant Martyn Gorse, Fratton

Think again

I have read a number of letters recently in *Frontline* that have given me cause for concern and show that presently there is a severe lack of communication and understanding of the differing roles that officers are involved in. Sadly, while we spend so much time niggling with each other and disputing each other's rights to Special Priority Payment (SPP) and argue over who works the hardest we actually seem to be missing the whole point.

Now we can all put a positive spin on our roles and a negative spin on others and we can tell ourselves that we work the hardest, but whether you are Targeted Patrol team or Safer Neighbourhoods team, the role is equally as important and just as demanding. I have done both roles and although the demand is different it's still there. The aim is still the same, which is to make life better for the communities we serve.

Nobody has forced any of us to join the service and yes we are going through a difficult time, but if you don't particularly like your role then look for another one. If you still don't like your role maybe you should consider a career change altogether, but don't put your colleagues down and belittle them.

Some officers and police staff serving the constabulary have family who have been or are currently on active service abroad. One soldier I know has recently received a Queen's medal for a defiant act of bravery against all odds. I find it saddening that despite us having a higher salary than a large proportion of these brave people, there are colleagues of mine arguing over who deserves SPP.

Our role was once described to me as a role where 98 per cent of the time we are paid too much, the other 2 per cent we could never be paid enough. This is still true today but we all do still have the choice. Spare a thought for

those facing danger on a daily basis.

Sergeant Robert Kearley, Gosport

Letter of the law

Members of police staff recently received a letter, individually addressed in envelopes, telling us about Standards of Professional Behaviour and how we should conduct ourselves.

Myself, and many of my colleagues, felt this was an insult.

This information has already been drawn to our attention in other ways.

I am sure the cost of this mailing could have been much better spent.

Julie Hughes, Havant CJU

Chief Superintendent Ann Wakefield, head of Professional Standards, replies: *The Standards of Professional Behaviour for both police officers and staff changed in December and every member of the constabulary received a letter to update them regarding the changes. Every organisation has a responsibility to ensure its employees understand the standards expected of them and the fact the letter was signed by the chief constable and his deputy is an indication of how important they consider the matter.*

We were also keen to follow feedback from external organisations such as the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (who were involved in the national work leading to these changes) that it was important that all staff are aware of the standards and regularly reminded of them throughout their career.

Clearly it was not the intention to patronise or insult anyone and I am sorry if this is how you perceived the update.

I totally understand that the vast majority of staff and officers within Hampshire Constabulary conduct themselves in a professional manner and do not need to be told how to behave. However it is not uncommon for a member of staff who is being dealt with for a disciplinary matter to state that they did not understand what they were doing was unacceptable and it is clearly important that this should not be the case and that the standards expected are absolutely clear to everyone.

Can I also reassure you that the cost was considered. By using the internal mail for all but those who choose to receive their pay by post the total cost was minimal.

Happy New Year

I feel I have to write to ask your views on how the New Year's Eve policing operation went.

It appeared to me that we didn't have enough staff working and the custody situation was appalling! As the clock struck midnight in Southampton all hell broke loose and units were being deployed left, right and centre. The main issue was drunken violence which I expect was mirrored around the force and all staff were working very hard. Targeted Patrol teams, Safer Neighbourhoods teams, Roads Policing, Armed Response Vehicles - even the senior management from 5 OCU were out in force dealing with jobs and responding to critical incidents.

As such it wasn't long until custody was full. I appreciate each custody suite only has limited space but why were we trying to arrange for sergeants to open custody in stations to take prisoners to on the night?

We know when New Year's Eve is, it's the same night every year. Why was this not planned in? Surely it would have been better to have every possible custody area - designated and non-designated - open at the start of the evening.

Why did we not have a proforma prisoner booking-in system in place? Officers were taken off the streets for hours while they waited in holding cells or back yards all over the county. One officer from Hythe travelled to Havant to book in a prisoner.

At one point in Southampton there were no vans left for transport and no officers to deal with yet another drunken fight scenario. All the controllers could do was request CCTV operators gather as much evidence as possible.

I expect you will tell me that the New Year's Eve policing operation was a success and in a way I would agree. I witnessed all my colleagues working very hard and I was impressed with the controllers and how they dealt with the night.

I just feel we should have learnt as an organisation how to police this night by now. I am sure if you ask the officers on the ground and staff in the control room you will get some great ideas on how to improve the operation for New Year's Eve 2009.

Sergeant Phil Lamb, Totton RPU

Temporary Assistant Chief Constable (Territorial Operations) John Campbell replies: *First of all, my thanks go to all the police officers and police staff who worked over the Christmas period and particularly those on New Year's Eve, where volumes of work can be at their most challenging.*

New Year's Eve is always a time of high demand for our services. Extensive preparation is undertaken by operations departments to ensure we deliver the best possible service to the people of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

This year we had a 13 per cent increase in frontline officers from both Territorial Operations and Specialist Operations, on duty between 4pm and 3am compared with last year. Many officers worked later shifts extending beyond their usual finish times. This increased presence seems to have helped towards a reduction in the level of calls for service. There were 1,530 incidents compared with 1,679 in the same period last year, and this follows a trend of reduction over the past three years.

There will always be a challenge around custody provision, and that is a challenge that we face on most weekends, particularly during the summer. Long travelling distances conveying detained persons are not ideal and certainly for Southampton the new police station and OCU headquarters will deliver a much improved custody centre.

Do I think the overall policing response was successful? When I see a general reduction in incidents, more officers on duty at the time of peak demand and many anecdotes of the whole organisation working together as one team, I certainly think we are moving in the right direction.

Could we do it better? Well, that has to be the aim, improving all that we do, whenever and wherever we can. I welcome the views of colleagues within the organisation on how we can improve our service. As a frontline operational officer you have a vital input to make our processes and systems more effective and I hope that you will put forward your thoughts through your local management so we can all work together to make our policing response even more effective next year.

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SUDOKU PRIZE PUZZLE 144

THIS month we have a special Sudoku Prize Puzzle. Calling all super sleuths and wannabe crime scene investigators. This is your chance to pore over evidence, police documents and memorabilia with *The Bill's Official Case Book*. Containing a previously unpublished collection of removable memorabilia, intricately reproduced in facsimile form, and many never-before-seen photographs, this unique boxed set provides an amazing history of Sun Hill police station. While you comb through each department, re-examining some of Sun Hill's toughest cases, you'll discover all sorts of fascinating documents, including: Bob Cryer's firearms card; June Ackland's warrant card; Magda Ryan's alibi statement, which cleared Reg Hollis of murder; Des Taviner's Charge Sheet and an old betting slip of Jim Carver's. Send completed entries to Sudoku Prize Puzzle, *Frontline*, Media and Corporate Communications, Hampshire Constabulary HQ, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire, SO22 5DB. Closing date February 12, 2009. The solution to puzzle 144 will appear in edition 145 of *Frontline* along with a new puzzle for Sudoku fans. The winner of puzzle 144, a copy of *The Bill's Official Case Book*, is Anne Webb, SEO, Basingstoke.



2				8	4		
		4		5	3		7
		7				2	6
	6			2			
1							9
				1		3	
4	7				2		
8		3	1		7		
		1	6				3

Shown below are the answers to Sudoku Prize Puzzle 143

5	1	4	2	3	9	8	6	7
6	9	3	4	7	8	1	5	2
2	8	7	6	1	5	3	4	9
8	5	9	1	6	3	7	2	4
3	6	2	9	4	7	5	1	8
7	4	1	5	8	2	6	9	3
1	3	5	8	2	4	9	7	6
9	2	8	7	5	6	4	3	1
4	7	6	3	9	1	2	8	5

Prize Crossword no. 144



FRONTLINE is offering the sender of the first all-correct crossword entry to be drawn from the hat a £25 gift voucher to spend at John Lewis or Waitrose stores throughout the UK courtesy of WestQuay shopping centre in Southampton.

You can also spend the voucher online at johnlewis.com and ocado.com.

Send completed entries to Prize Crossword, *Frontline*, Media and Corporate Communications, Hampshire Constabulary HQ, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire, SO22 5DB. Closing date February 12, 2009. The winner of crossword puzzle 143 is Kate Money, ICTU, Netley.

1		2		3		4	5	6		7
					8					
9										
10							11			
	12		13			14				
15						16				17
18						19	20			
21										
22									23	

ACROSS

- Bay, inlet of the Tasman Sea surrounded by the suburbs of Sydney (6)
- "Teeth 'n' ---", 1975 play by David Hare (6)
- 1965 film for which Rod Steiger was nominated for Best Actor Oscar (3,10)
- Pear-shaped fruit used to make guacamole (7)
- Ole, American comedian whose partner was Chic Johnson (5)
- The edible internal parts of an animal (5)
- Samuel, diarist who recorded the Great Fire of London (5)
- Fourth month of the year (5)
- Tropical plant which is the source of tapioca (7)
- West Indian batsman who in 1948/9 completed five centuries in successive innings in Tests (7,6)
- Duke of Illyria in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* (6)
- Edwin, known as Buzz, second man to set foot on the moon (6)

DOWN

- Comic book character whose alter ego is Bruce Wayne (6)
- 1957 novel by Muriel Spark featuring the character Georgina Hogg (3,10)
- African lake also called Lake Malawi (5)
- Philip, character in Chandler's *The Big Sleep* (7)
- Character played by Mark Hamill in the film *Star Wars* (4,9)
- Draped skirtlike garment worn by men and women in the Pacific (6)
- "The --- Field", novel by Joseph Wambaugh (5)
- Washington, American romantic painter of the Hudson River School of artists (7)
- Texas frontier town on the Rio Grande (6)
- "--- of a Woman", 1992 film starring Al Pacino (5)
- Ted, actor who played Sam Malone in the comedy *Cheers* (6)
- "--- Magnolias", 1989 film based on a play by Robert Harling (5)

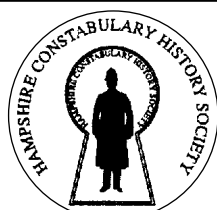
SOLUTIONS TO 143

Across: 1 Southernwood; 7 Nylon; 8 Aloha; 9 S.O.B.; 10 Metreveli; 11 Albert; 12 Monaco; 15 Galantine; 17 Leo; 18 Egret; 19 Anton; 21 Così Fan Tutte.
Down: 1 Star-Spangled; 2 Hel; 3 Renate; 4 Whalebone; 5 Obote; 6 Casino Royale; 7 Nabob; 10 Marinetti; 13 Allen; 14 Cicada; 16 Largo; 20 Tit.

Crossword scribble pad

Past Times by Clifford Williams

● Visit the new Hampshire Constabulary History Society website:
www.hampshireconstabularyhistory.org.uk/



HAMPSHIRE Constabulary is now in its 170th year of existence. The constabulary was formed in December 1839 with 92 police officers. In the same year our neighbours Wiltshire also created a county force. Our picture - a painting based on a photograph - shows PC 82 David Barnes, who joined the Hampshire Constabulary on June 5, 1846. This is one of the earliest images we have of a Hampshire police officer. The painting, in private hands, dates from the 1930s but the whereabouts of the original photograph is unknown. PC Barnes was born in Nether Wallop, near Stockbridge, and served at Kingsclere, Fareham, Ringwood and Emsworth. He retired on March 15, 1877. Old copies of the force's Routine Orders are kept at the Hampshire Record Office in Sussex St, Winchester. The following entries appeared 100 years ago:

● 1/1909 2nd Class PC 329 JA Betteridge fined 1 week's pay and placed at the bottom of the list of constables awaiting

married stations for "committing a breach of Article 17, Section 1 Instruction Book by getting married without first obtaining the permission of the chief constable".

(PC Betteridge was then posted from Bournemouth to Woolston)

● 4/1909 Gaolers and all constables entering cell passages when prisoners are in custody will have their truncheons and handcuffs with them.

● 6/1909 Second Class PC 330 AE Davis reduced to the 3rd Class PC rank from 5th April "having been guilty of serious misconduct in making water out of a railway carriage door when travelling with a prisoner in his custody on 18th Nov. 1908".

The Hampshire Constabulary History Society website now has a new address:

www.hampshireconstabularyhistory.org.uk/

Thanks to retired officer Peter Stoddard for maintaining the excellent website and managing the move to the new server.



POLICE PROFILE - PC David Barnes served with Hampshire Constabulary from 1846. This picture of him, painted in the 1930s, is one of the earliest images of a Hampshire police officer.

Boat anglers net top spot

Hampshire Constabulary's Boat Angling section recently won the Police Sport UK National Championships in style.

Andy Cleeve, Glen Milligan, Nick Lark and Gary King all won their respective boats in the one-day species competition fished out of Weymouth. Four first place finishes to win a national boat angling competition has never been achieved by any team since the competition was reformed as a species hunt in the early 1990s.

The Hampshire team beat off 43 other teams from forces across the UK to lift the Kent Shield at the presentation meal and prize giving ceremony held at the Rembrandt Hotel in Weymouth later that evening.

As with all PSUK boat angling competitions the scoring is done on a species-hunt basis with the competitors scoring points for each fish and each species they catch. Each team member fishes against the other anglers on their particular charter boat and is awarded a boat place depending on their score.

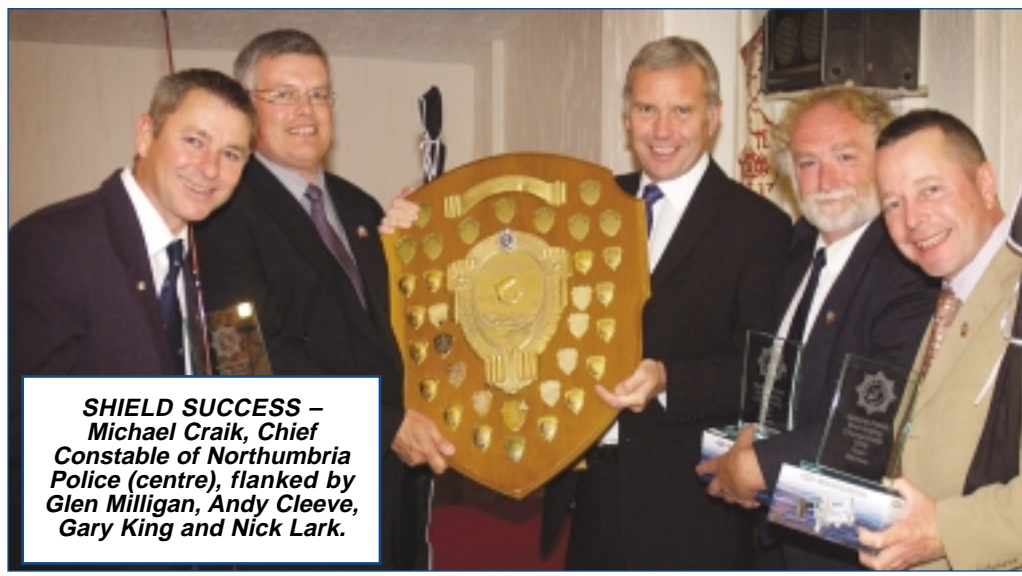
It was a particularly pleasing result for two members of the team as this was their last chance to fish for the county. Andy Cleeve, having recently retired from Hampshire as an intelligence officer, has now moved to Northern Ireland, while Glen Milligan, a PC on the Surveillance Unit who is beginning a new venture as a charter

boat skipper/owner out of Gosport.

Nick Lark, a PC from Portswood, and Gary King, a retired DC from Portsmouth, are both looking forward to representing the county in the future.

The win tops off an impressive year for the force's Boat Angling section having won the PSUK South East Regional League without being defeated and also winning the regional competition held in July.

If you're interested in boat angling, whether for competition or pleasure, the secretary of the section, Keith Plumridge, would like to hear from you. Email him at keithplum1@gmail.com.



SHIELD SUCCESS – Michael Craik, Chief Constable of Northumbria Police (centre), flanked by Glen Milligan, Andy Cleeve, Gary King and Nick Lark.

phil williams advert

Force anglers a shore bet

Hampshire Constabulary's shore anglers came away from the recent Police Sport UK regional and national championships with highly respectable placings for both teams and individuals.

Sussex Constabulary hosted the South East Region Shore Angling Championship held at Pevensey Bay, near Eastbourne, to which Hampshire sent two teams of four anglers.

For six hours the fishing was very slow and only a few fish were caught.

Species included whiting, flounders and plaice.

The final team result saw Kent 'A' win the match with a total of 145 points, Hampshire 'A' (Andrew Berry, Duncan Beck, Kim Andrews and Bob Parkhouse) being runners-up with 110 points and Hampshire 'B' (Gary Walker, Carl Harper, Pete Kerley and Chris Seymour) in third place with 97 points. The individual winner was Stuart Roberts from

Sussex with 60 points, second was Steve Coulter (Kent 'C') with 55 points and third was Kim Andrews (Hants 'A') with 50 points.

The Hampshire squad then travelled to Folkestone in Kent for two days of fishing at Hythe and Walmer/Deal beaches.

A total of 39 teams - consisting of 156 anglers - representing police forces from across the UK took part.

A total of 5,560 fish were caught, which were all returned to the sea to live and fight another day.

Species included codling, dogfish, whiting, dabs, sole, pouting, rockling and bass.

Hampshire 'A' team (Andrew Berry, Duncan Beck, Kim Andrews and Bob Parkhouse) took third place with a total of 73 points, behind runners-up Kent 'B' with 56 points and the PSUK National winners Northumbria 'B' with 55 points.

The best individual perfor-

mance put in by a Hants angler was Carl Harper who finished fifth overall having come second and fifth in his zones over the two days.

In a third and final event, Hampshire anglers Duncan Beck and Kim Andrews joined the British Police team, consisting of the top 15 police anglers in the country, to fish against the national squads of the fire and rescue service, combined armed forces and SAMF (England Internationals).

This match was fished over two days in Kent at the same venues as the PSUK National Championship.

The SAMF team won, with the combined armed forces coming runners-up, the police in third place, and fire and rescue service in fourth place.

If you're interested in joining the Hampshire Police Shore Angling section, please email Kim Andrews.

Fly-fishing – 2008 review

After early season success in April at Bewl Water, Kent, the Hampshire fly-fishing team moved onto the next match at Grafham Water, Cambridgeshire, in early May.

The water had a high clarity with strong winds and bright skies making the fishing extremely difficult with many blanks.

Colin Alexander had the best of the fishing for Hampshire that day, fishing small imitative nymphs to get his eight-fish limit.

The next match was at Pitsford Reservoir in Northampton on a day when two fish was a good score. Next it was back to Grafham Water in June when very high winds made fishing on the drift a high speed sport. Colin Alexander took second place in this match to boost the team result but again many boats came in empty.

Ian Broach, having qualified as individual runner-up from the annual regional eliminator competition in 2007 held at Bewl Water, attended the PSUK National Fly Fishing finals, again at Bewl Water, on June 5.

It was a hard day's fishing with many anglers failing to catch but Ian weighed in two fish; he would have liked to have done better especially as his boat partner caught his limit and finished as runner-up overall.

On September 4 Ian took part in the PSUK International Fly Fishing competition as part of the PSUK England team at Llyn Brenig Reservoir in North Wales. It was a close competition despite the very difficult weather conditions and England came away with a silver medal.

The regional eliminator was again at Bewl and this time in extremely strong winds.

Half the field of 30 blanked and most fished fast sinking

lines with the odd trout being caught.

Colin Alexander fished the surface layers with a floating line based on some knowledge from his membership of the Bewl Bridge Flyfishers' Club and picked up four rainbow trout for a winning weight.

Colin now goes on to represent the force as part of the England Police team in 2009 and will fish in the English Boat Championships at Eyebrook Reservoir, Northamptonshire, in April, the National Championships at Chew, Bristol, in June and in the International Championship in Wales in September.

The Hampshire teams blooded some new members in 2008 and held a very enjoyable friendly day at Farmoor

Reservoir, Oxford.

The regional league competition season ended with four Hampshire rods in the top 10 placings from a field of 32 anglers.

Alan Lonie gained a very creditable sixth place and Mike Broach was tenth in his first full season.

Regular rods Phil Gardiner and Callan Cessford had individual moments of glory and novice Tom Tobin now carries a photo of a trout with him so he can see what a fish looks like.

New members are always welcomed to the reservoir world of trout fishing, which is not for the faint-hearted when gales blow on open water.

For further information contact Ian Broach or Colin Alexander.



HIS CUP RUNNETH OVER – Colin Alexander in celebratory mood.