



VOLUNTEERING MATTERS

ISSUE 10 - AUTUMN 2014



**CITIZENS IN
POLICING
PROBLEMSOLVE
TOGETHER**
SEE PAGES 8-9



WELCOME

Volunteering Matters would like to welcome you all to Issue 10 and thank the Police and Crime Commissioner Kevin Hurley from Surrey for introducing this quarters edition.

The volunteer spirit is precious and I am keen to do what I can as Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey to raise awareness of the great work being done by volunteers in the county. In my own office, without our team of volunteer

Independent Custody Visitors (ICV's), I would not be able to uphold my duty to hold Surrey Police to account, ensuring that detainees in police custody are being treated correctly.

We currently have 37 ICV's in Surrey and between them they have dedicated 173 years of service to the scheme. In the year to date, they have made 159 visits to police custody suites and had access to just over 1250 detainees. This represents a total of around 250 hours in custody. In addition to that, they have collectively attended 450 hours of panel and steering group meetings which ensure the effectiveness and focus of the scheme and more than 300 hours of training. What a contribution to make to our county. They are magnificent people.

At Surrey Police, the Special Constabulary are out there doing outstanding work, protecting the public and fighting crime. The Force also has a team of 250 Police Support Volunteers helping in all manner of ways, such as assisting in the training of our new police constables; maintaining our cars and vans; supporting our safety camera teams and helping run public meetings and events. I could go on for pages listing all the work being done for others by volunteers in Surrey. Space forbids me from doing that, but needless to say, I - and more importantly the public - am grateful to them all. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank readers in other parts of the country for the work that you do to make things a little bit better for everyone.

I am keen to encourage more people to volunteer and can often be found at public meetings asking people to give it some thought. My words are one thing, but I know that the best advert of all for volunteering is you, the people who do it. So my one request of you is to always put your best foot forward and be proud of what you do. You are an example to us all!

Kevin Hurley, Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey

Volunteering Matters has learnt that a research report has been released that explores the impact volunteering has on employee learning and development, and identifies ten key skills and behaviours employees can develop through voluntary activities, such as confidence, team-building, self-awareness and creativity

The 'double benefit' that employee volunteering has both for the community and for employees and the organisations they work for, is highlighted in a new research report from the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

Volunteering to Learn: Employee development through community action aims to delve into the link between volunteering and employee development in order to understand how employees develop through participating in volunteering schemes.

It provides insight for those who are new to employee volunteering or those with established employee schemes. It also provides insight for not-for-profit organisations seeking to connect with employers.

The report can be found via the below link:

www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/sites/manchestercommunitycentral.co.uk/files/volunteering-to-learn-employee-development-through-community-action_2014.pdf



Research report
September 2014



Volunteering Matters is produced with support from SC Graham Holmes, College of Policing, volunteers and volunteer practitioners.

Please send your views, ideas and articles to:
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Front Cover photo: Police Support Volunteer Donald Goodman, GMP

If you would like to be placed on the e-subscription list please email: tina.shelton@gmp.police.uk

VOLUNTEER GOES THE 'EXTRA MILE'



A volunteer with Warwickshire and West Mercia Police went the 'extra mile' assisting police to manage two different but necessary commitments. Police were called to a distressing murder enquiry which was a very challenging incident to deal with as officers had a number of scenes under their control. Due to the limited number of forensic staff available for this serious and very sad incident, they found themselves getting inundated with administration and simple, but long winded, inputting documents onto the various systems.

Lisa Di Salvo volunteered to go to the scene cordon tent having already done the best part of a day's administration in the office, and act as administrator helping with inputting onto the computer, filling out exhibit labels and exhibit sheets etc, thus freeing up the Scene of Crime Officer's to spend more time on the examination. Lisa was not involved in the chain of evidence so was not required to complete statements or attend court, but simply assisted in the mundane but very important administration.

Secondly, while the murder enquiry was in full

flow, the forensic department were required to provide a display and presentation for the Telford Police Station Open Day. This proved to be highly challenging as they had to bring equipment back from the crime scene to set up the display.

Furthermore, with the high abstraction rate of staff on the murder enquiry, it was left to two people to build, operate and then dismantle the Forensic Display.

Once again, Lisa stepped up to the mark and volunteered her services for the day! She was in from first thing in the morning and provided the much needed

artistic and practical input to the display. She came up with some extremely useful ideas, adding a bit of realism to the scene, and then volunteered tirelessly throughout the open day talking through the scenario with the visitors and keeping the whole thing flowing seamlessly.

At the conclusion, not only did she assist in the draw down and clear up, but volunteered members of her family to help! Without her assistance the force would not have put on nearly as good and rounded display and presentation, and the clean up would have taken twice as long.



SAFE BUS DRIVES DOWN CAPITAL CRIME RATES



Left to Right: Pierre Stapley (Police Support Volunteer), Faraz Alauddin (Welfare Sabbatical officer, Cardiff Student Union). PC Tim Davies (Student Liaison Officer Universities of Wales). PCSO Fran Richards (University Liaison Officer), Charlotte Fry (Police Student Volunteer Co-ordinator), Yaz Rich (Police Student Volunteer)

A safe bus organised by Student Police Volunteers in Cardiff is celebrating success by driving down crime in the capital city, achieving runner up status in the Suzy Lamplugh Trust Safety Awards 2014.

This award is for the best safety campaign. The award criteria set could be around any issue effecting personal safety such as street crime, safer travelling, being safer online or anything that has has campaigned to make people feel safer or be more aware. It can be a campaign by an individual, police force, local authorities, and charities and can be local or national. The Safe Bus, supplied through the Cardiff University Students Union, is organised by Police Student Volunteers.

Police Community Support Officer Fran Richards, Student Liaison Officer for Cardiff University, said: "The volunteers are out from 8pm until sometimes 3 or 4 am twice a week. The primary goal is to identify vulnerable persons, for example lone females, and escort them to a place of safety. The bus has undoubtedly prevented vulnerable students becoming victims of crime and the safe bus has played a huge role in keeping this part of the City safe. Prior to the introduction of the bus there had been an increase in robberies and sexual assaults. Since the safe bus has been in operation there has been a significant decrease in both robberies (75%) and sexual assaults (over 50%) in the area of Cathays, Cardiff where the bus operates."

Victoria Coren Mitchell, one of the Judges for the Awards commented, "There is a sense in the national press that if people are drunk on the streets at night then they only have themselves to blame for anything bad that happens. It's completely understandable why people would feel this, which is why it strikes me as particularly open-minded and kindly for a group of people to cut through all the "blame issues" and provide a simple practical way to protect the young people of Cardiff from robbery, violence and sexual assault when they are in vulnerable situations. Since the change in licensing laws there has been an increasing problem with inebriated people on the streets at night, and we simply must find ways to reduce the danger this creates. It would be easy to turn a blind eye, or for a police force to approach these young



people solely as a hazard or annoyance rather than people who might be in danger - I am impressed and moved to see the South Wales Police take a braver, more sympathetic and more practical approach, and hope these buses can be rolled out as a wider scheme around the country."

The Finalists

Eve Thomas

NYP @ Uni - North Yorkshire Police
Safety Bus Scheme - South Wales Police
Safer Travel at Night - TFL

CUMBRIA POLICE SUPPORT VOLUNTEER IS A COUNTRY CRIME FIGHTER RECOGNISED AT NATIONAL AWARDS



On Thursday October 9th, a Cumbria Police Support Volunteer, Nigel Sutcliffe, attended the National Farmers Union (NFU) Rural Crime Fighters awards ceremony held in Saddlers Hall in London where he was awarded Highly Commended in the Equine crime prevention section.

Nigel became a volunteer with the Constabulary in 2013 in order to help the Constabulary improve its engagement with the equine society in the county, and to help improve the crime prevention information available to that section of the community.

Following lengthy research and consultation with existing members of the 'Horse Watch' community in Cumbria, Nigel has been instrumental in;

- The creation and availability of a bespoke Horse Watch sign

- Improved communication and engagement with the British Horse Association and other equine groups operating on Social media
- A series of advice documents produced and posted on the Constabulary website
- The re-launch of Horse Watch in Cumbria resulting in rise of 10.3% in membership

Nigel is now the lead on Horse Watch matters for the Constabulary and is working on projects to further increase membership of Cumbria Horse Watch through awareness raising events at key shows and events, and identify opportunities for Horse Watch groups to engage with Neighbourhood Police Teams on common interest issues.

Andy Baines is the Safer & Stronger Communities Manager with Cumbria Constabulary with responsibility for coordinating activities associated with watch groups and nominated Nigel for the award. He said, "Volunteers within the Constabulary do not replace police staff, but do provide support and added value. It's probably fair to say that not many staff have detailed knowledge and appreciation of issues affecting the equine society in Cumbria, so when Nigel offered his services, he was helping fill knowledge gaps and add value to our work. His energy and enthusiasm is amazing and he thoroughly deserves this recognition."



OVER 60 YEARS DEDICATED SERVICE WITH GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE BAND



Reginald Eaton plays for the Greater Manchester Police Band and has done so for over sixty years.

Reginald left Trafford Road School in the summer of 1951 when he became a Police Cadet and joined the then City Of Salford Police Band, playing a tuba. He remained in the band for three years before undertaking his obligatory period of national service. 'Reg' joined the RAF and undertook his training at Hereford, before being posted to RAF Harper Hill at Buxton.

On completion of his two years national service, he re-joined Salford City Police as a constable and returned to band duties, which at that time was a full time police role. Then, as now, the band undertook many high profile events, parades and community engagements in which Reg played his part as an ambassador for the Force. He took the time to learn how to play almost every instrument within the band, with the exception of the Trumpet and Oboe.

The band transferred to the City of Manchester Police in September of 1966 shortly before the amalgamation of the Salford and Manchester Forces in 1967. Reg remained a committed, dedicated and active member of the band until his early retirement from the Force in February 1983, after being injured in a road traffic accident.

In 1983 the Force became Greater Manchester Police. The police authority at that time decided that the band should cease, returning the full time

police officers to normal police duties. Having now retired, Reg, together with a few other band members were determined to keep the band in existence for the benefit of the community, and reformed it. Through their hard work, dedication and commitment, the band began to grow. Members of the community were now able to volunteer their services, and the band went from strength to strength. The band was "re adopted" by the Force and continues to perform many

concerts, civic ceremonies and both local and national award ceremonies together with raising money to assist charitable causes both within Greater Manchester, and more recently, via RETRAK, in both Uganda and Ethiopia.

For over 60 years, Reg has continued to volunteer his services both through his playing, and conducting the band at community

engagements. The band has a vast library of music and Reg has also devoted his spare time as band librarian to ensure all the band music is appropriately documented, recorded and filed. Reg has also managed and conducted the GMP Ladies Choir since the early 1980's, further engaging the community on behalf of the Force.

Having joined the band at the age of 15, in September 2014, Reg will have completed over 61 years of truly dedicated service with the band, both as full time member and over 33 years, as a volunteer. What an incredible commitment to the community of Greater Manchester.



VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT SCENES OF CRIME



Left to right - Wendy Fryer, David Lawson and Sophie Bane

State of the art crime scene investigation boxes have been introduced for Post Mortems and Crime Scenes in West Yorkshire after volunteers gave up their time to lend their expertise to the force. These boxes are affectionately known as Red and Green boxes.

The scheme proved so successful that an additional arrest bag was suggested by David Lawson. This bag provided the essential needs of the officers to enable them to arrest an offender without taking a full box. It reduced the need to re-check and clean a full box when only a small amount of items may have been used. This proved to be another significant improvement in the service. The team behind the changes were presented with a prestigious Divisional Commanders Commendation for their efforts.

The new boxes came about after officers fed back a

frustration when they found the equipment they required at crime scenes was not always available. David Hibbert, the volunteer co-ordinator held a skills list for the volunteers and identified David Lawson due to his previous work with the Ambulance Service as a major Incident Controller.

His previous career meant he possessed the necessary foresight and knowledge to take the project forward. David set up a small team with fellow volunteers Annette Barnes and Sophie Bane. He designed and implemented the new system with the changes being approved by Detective Sergeant Seth Robinson.

Seth commented "The hard work by David and his team has provided the officers with the confidence that when they attend a crime scene they will be in possession of all the exhibit packaging equipment they could potentially need. The systems they have in place

also ensure that the equipment is stored and packed in a suitable environment that will withstand any potential future review

The new system now ensures all officers attend crime scenes fully equipped with the necessary tools. David provided an inventory for the boxes and identified the essential items to stock in them. A new packing system was also organised so that the more regularly used items were the first to hand. A dedicated packing room was

identified and kitted out to store stock and Annette and Sophie ensured that supplies were always readily available. The stock room has become a veritable Aladdin's cave of everything officers and staff could need at a crime scene. Wendy Fryer and Barry Dawson have now joined this vital team of volunteers.

This has been recognised internally at our Protective Services Department as an excellent system and is held up as best practice by other forces. The original system has been tinkered with and improved even further after additional feedback.

This is a fantastic example of the way that volunteers can provide improved service to officers and the public in the normal day to day activities of the Police. The volunteers have a varied and wide range of skills that can be identified and used for the benefit of all."

GMP CITIZENS IN POLICING – WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



Led by Special Sergeant Jared Simpson, the GMP Citizens in Policing (Specials, Cadets and Police Support Volunteers) recently organised a partnership agency initiative to help address problems that were affecting both policing, partners and the community, coming together to address issues of public safety.

The Citizens in Policing liaised with Oldham Council to target the Hathershaw area in Oldham to allay the tensions in the community caused by issues such as fly tipping, which last year led to fires during the firework period.

The Citizens in Policing volunteers in partnership with Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service (GMFRS) Volunteers, and Oldham Council promoted the use of the “Tidy Oldham” smart phone app and took photos of the problems they identified out in the community, which were then sent directly to Oldham Council, who would then look to resolve the issue. As there is a large Romanian community in this area, Special

Sergeant Simpson also arranged for a Roma speaker to be with the volunteers, so that the community fully understood why they were in the area

Jared said “We wanted to worked together to promote volunteer work in Oldham and also be able to problem solve to help ensure the area remain safe over the bonfire period. Fly tipping, overloaded and abandoned skips, abandoned vehicles and insecure properties caused issues last year with fires set in alleyways and so on. It is hoped that through volunteering together we will reduce demand in Hathershaw for the fire service and police over this period.”

On the night of the event, the Citizens in Policing and GMFRS volunteers received a briefing from Special Sergeant Simpson, and Niki Quigg, Oldham Councils Community Development Officer.

Everyone was actively engaged with identifying fire hazards as a preventative measure or identifying

other health and safety hazards within the community Working in teams of mixed volunteers, with different levels of experience and knowledge, also supported by the local Police Community Support Officer, teams explored the Hathershaw area and located the following:

- 6 abandoned fridges





- 2 abandoned trailers
- 2 abandoned calor gas bottles, when inspected by GMFRS volunteer was still found to contain gas
- Several mattresses
- 2 abandoned sofas
- Several rolls of carpets abandoned in alleyways
- Many locations used for fly tipping located
- Telephone exchange with wiring on show
- Alley gates open - crime prevention advice given to residents
- Graffiti located
- Intelligence submitted regarding a possible cannabis farm

of the public. who were positive about our intentions and approach to providing high visibility partnership work to assist in the area. The 'Tidy Oldham' app reports sent directly to Oldham Council have already resulted in areas being cleaned. This was a great opportunity for volunteers to meet volunteers, share experiences and come together to resolve community problems."



- 1 male advised by officers under S80 Explosives when witnessed to throw a lit sparkler in the air on public road

Jared said "Many residents approached us on the night to ask what we were doing, and this gave Cadets the experience of speaking with members



Police Support Volunteer Donald Goodman, supported this initiative by contacting Home Watch and KIN members for the area promoting the volunteer partnership and findings. He also informed the contacts that the removal of items found contributed to a 90% decrease in calls from the community.



NORTH MANCHESTER CADETS TRIUMPH IN CADET 5-ASIDE

On Saturday 25th October Blackley Volunteer Police Cadets hosted Greater Manchester Police's first annual 5 aside competition, with Cadet units from across the force coming together to compete for the Trophy. The event was fiercely contested with a strong rivalry emerging between the North Manchester Division Cadets and the Salford Division Cadets.

All the Cadets that represented their Divisions did their units proud and put on a feast of football for the Team Leaders, parents and family present.

The event was held at the fantastic facilities at The Co-op Academy, Blackley on the brand new 3G pitches. Thanks must be given to the school who continue to support the Volunteer Police Cadets on the North Manchester Division.

In the end it was the North Manchester Blackley Cadets that triumphed thrashing Salford in the final 6 nil.

It is hoped the event will now grow year on year and look to involve more units from St John's Ambulance and the Fire Cadets on top of GMP's Cadet units.



TELEPHONE BEFRIENDING SERVICE



Jenny Jenkins and T/ACC Nikki Watson and some of the RVS telephone befriending volunteers; Joy Eccles, Annie Sparkes, Ruth Weaver and Ray Weaver

In 2012, Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) and Avon and Somerset Police began a joint telephone befriending service. It has run as a pilot for two years and is now business as usual.

The idea is that police call handlers identify vulnerable adults who contact the Constabulary about non-police matters and offer them over-the-phone support from RVS telephone volunteers.

The focus has widened to include other vulnerable adults, typically those who were elderly, lonely, and housebound or had suffered from Anti-Social Behaviour or crime. These individuals are identified by Neighbourhood Teams, referred to RVS and matched to a volunteer who befriends them over the telephone.

The scheme provides a personal support service to people in their own homes. Trained and fully vetted volunteers managed by RVS provide:

- A friendly caring voice and a confidential listening ear
- Regular pre-arranged calls
- Information about local support networks and services
- Access to other RVS services
- Support to feel more confident in your own home
- Support to be independent and active in the community

The scheme has broken new ground by establishing a precedent for handing operational delivery of services to the voluntary sector in a structured and 'safe' way. Beyond achieving its stated aims, the scheme has opened the door for other business areas, for other third sector organisations, and for other forces to co-operate where they identify a 'match' between the demand identified by the police and the service offered by the voluntary sector.

If you would like to find out more about the scheme please contact Kate Masters at Avon and Somerset Police on 01275 816862 or via email at volunteers.avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk

BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME

Avon and Somerset police have evaluated the service, showing it to be successful. The RVS are now aware of and can support more vulnerable people. Service users have seen benefits in terms of greater feelings of safety and reduced isolation. The police have had fewer calls about matters which do not need a traditional police response.



Jenny Jenkins Service Manager for the scheme receiving a certificate for her outstanding contribution to the scheme from T/ACC Nikki Watson of Local Policing



THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS AT THE FLOWER POT INN IN WEST YORKSHIRE

On a warm autumnal evening the pseudo pub the Flower Pot Inn at the new Carr Gate Training Complex in Wakefield opened its doors to host a unique event which saw members of the community, volunteers, specials, potential specials recruits, police staff, dog handlers and their dogs from across West Yorkshire come together.

The event was designed to deliver a whole host of benefits. The key aims were to facilitate team building and additional search training for Specials from the OSU and the newly formed Safer Roads Team and training for the passive drugs dogs, whilst engaging members of the community and providing them with an insight into some of the specialist training delivered.

Forty eight people from the community, role played - partying the night away as a warrant for drugs was delivered. These people comprised of current West Yorkshire Police Volunteers, the new West Yorkshire Police Apprentices and family members of Normanton Dog Training Club.

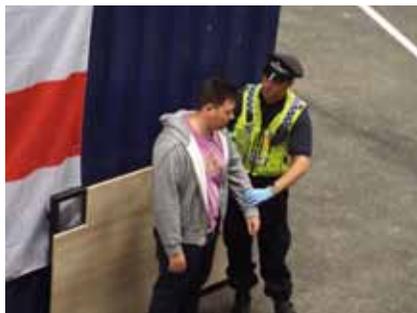
The evening was also used as a platform for potential Specials to get a taste of the role of a Special, meet current Specials and ask those delving questions on a one to one basis and observe an operation from a safe place. Emma

Fretwell one of the potential recruits quotes 'I thoroughly enjoyed it – it was a great opportunity

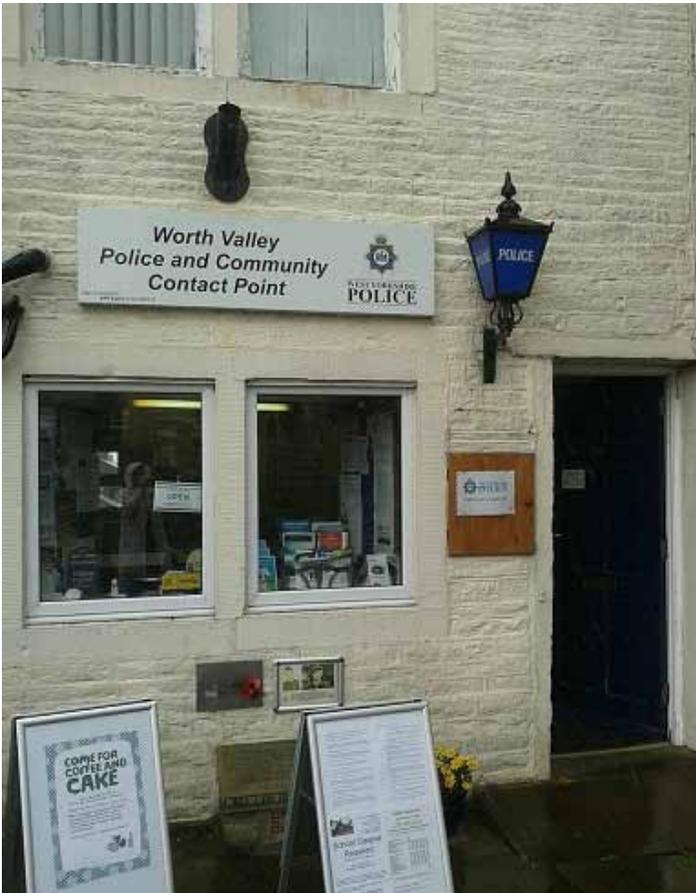
to gain some insight into what the training is like for Special Constables and I'm very excited and eager to start my own career as a Special.' Rob Lister who is looking to change one volunteering role for another added 'I found the drugs dog event exiting and interesting. The Officers who conducted the searches were Special Constables and it gave me a great insight into the work which Specials undertake whilst they are on duty. As someone who is already a Police Support Volunteer for West Yorkshire Police I feel that this event enabled me to further develop my skills and abilities and learn something about different opportunities. My aim is to become a Special Constable whilst still completing my studies, and this event confirmed that it would be an excellent next step and assist me in developing a whole host of skills I can't wait to join.'

The evening was an overwhelming success on so many levels, the force believe they have recruited numerous more Specials, trained

their Specials on searching, and facilitated teambuilding between the two Protective Services Operational Teams plus forty eight members of public had an insight into the working of Specials and specialist dog training.



VOLUNTEERS AT THE CONTACT POINTS IN BRADFORD, WEST YORKSHIRE



In 2001 when the small but well-loved Police Station in the village of Haworth, West Yorkshire was threatened with closure, the Parish Council along with some dedicated volunteers fought to keep a Police presence in the village. Twelve years later the Worth Valley Police & Community Contact Point is a thriving success story.

The flagship Contact Point is run by a team of Police Volunteers headed by a Co-ordinator paid for by the Parish Council. Each volunteer does a two or four hour shift on the four afternoons a week that the Contact Point is open. Residents can use the Contact Point to report matters to the Police or Council, and they can also obtain crime prevention information.

Quite a few of the men and women who give their time there have been Police volunteers for many years and feel they are giving something back to their community. As the local PCSOs sign on at the Contact Point they are a visible and reassuring presence in the villages and they have a good rapport with the Volunteers and locals alike.

The band of Volunteers are always happy to pitch in with the many events that Haworth, as a tourist centre, puts on. Recently, along with most of Yorkshire, the volunteers were excited to see the Tour de France come through the village. The build up to this marvellous weekend saw volunteers handing out maps of the route and information

of road closures along with crime prevention details. When the weekend arrived they were happy to provide tea and cakes to the many Police workers who were drafted in to what was to them an unfamiliar area making a great success of the weekend as well as raising money for Charity at the same time.

The Volunteers are always up for a challenge and a few years ago staged a Charity exercise bike ride for the Afghanistan Trust, the Parachute Regiment's charity. This is a cause very dear to the hearts as one of the PCSOs who left to join the army was killed in Afghanistan. A plaque in his honour was unveiled at the Contact Point by the then Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison; this would not have happened had the Volunteers not helped in various ways to ensure the day was a great success.

More recently some of the volunteers have been trained in giving talks on crime prevention and now go to local groups to advise residents of what they can do to keep themselves and their property safe and also to sell, at cost, crime prevention items such as safe cans, personal alarms and purse chains which also adds to the income for the Contact Point.

Margaret Smith, Co-ordinator of Worth Valley Police & Community Contact Point, says "Police volunteering does not mean that you have to sit in an office filing paperwork, although that is an important way of freeing up Officers' time so they can be out there doing the job they do, but it can also be great fun, a way to meet people and to get involved with your community. Worth Valley Police & Community Contact Point was a gem of an idea to keep a presence in the villages of the Worth Valley but has evolved to become a flagship of what Volunteers and Communities can do. More Contact Points have opened across West Yorkshire since 2001, often run by Volunteers along with a PCSO, they are a valuable resource but more than that, they make Volunteering matter to a lot of people."





A SPOOKY SPECIAL EXPERIENCE

Halloween week at Greater Manchester Police Museum, which is run mainly by volunteers, involved the Special Constabulary this year. Katie Brown, Museum Officer, said "The Museum has recently been showcasing their World War I exhibition too, and to have the presence of Special Constables in modern uniform has been a great contrast for the visitors to see. The Specials took the time to talk to the public, and lots of people asked for photos and also for information regarding joining the Police. Some visitors were slightly nervous to approach the officers at first but many soon stopped feeling shy when they started to chat to them, which is one of our big aims at the museum, to make the police accessible to everyone and break down any barriers. All the officers were incredibly friendly and professional and we can't thank them enough for their help over the holidays."



METROPOLITAN POLICE VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers in the photo with the Home Secretary are (L-R as you view the image) are Jolanta Grela, Nicola Lamb, Wendy Young and Clive Lloyd

Pictured is the award winning team of Metropolitan Police volunteers – the Volunteer VIIDO or Visual Images Identification & Detections Office. The team were awarded the prestigious Lord Ferrers Award at the House of Lords as the Volunteer of Team of the Year in the summer, and this was added to earlier success, as in January, Clive Lloyd had been named as the Commissioner's Volunteer of the Year for his work in the unit. The unit was established in the wake of the 2011 riots, to assist the Metropolitan Police with the massive amount of footage recovered – in addition to all the CCTV for other crime, which was still occurring. Since that time, the team (now up to fifteen) have completed over one thousand CCTV cases and are estimated to have saved £3 million in police time. This has ensured that operational officers spend their time investigating crime and arresting suspects, rather than viewing CCTV. The team have produced evidential footage for some high profile cases, including an attempted rape in Bromley, where the accused was sentenced to seven years imprisonment and a child abduction & sexual assault at a central London landmark, with the Old Bailey judge (& the parents of the child) praising Volunteer Gitta Hutt for her work. The accused was sentenced to eight years. The unit sits within the Central Forensic Image Team (CFIT), who receives requests for assistance

with CCTV from around the world. Volunteer Rob Stevenson has conducted analysis on footage of a murder in Hastings – NOT the Sussex seaside town, but a town in Victoria, Australia. Rob's detailed report, matching colours, gait and movement played a key part in the suspect pleading guilty. The threat of further footage being sent to Scotland Yard resulted in the suspect admitting two more armed robberies.

Detective Chief Inspector Mick Neville, head of CFIT, noted "This is the most proactive, investigative role that a volunteer can have. I now see detectives from elite units, such as the Flying Squad, coming to see the volunteers and treating them as experts and equals. They have saved over 3000 hours of operational time and are a model for other forces to copy"

The team is aided by PC Matt Butcher, who checks the evidential products and accompanies the volunteers on the (very rare) occasions that they are required to attend court. He also acts as the liaison point for detectives, who wish to use the unit and assesses potential volunteers – training is given, but some basic computer skills are essential. Volunteer Clive Lloyd is a retired IT specialist. He observed "I thoroughly enjoy working in the unit and I really feel that we are making a difference. Volunteering with CCTV is an excellent role for volunteers."



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**The College of Policing
are proud to support forces with
the Citizens in Policing programme**