

VOLUNTEERING MATTERS

ISSUE 33 | SPRING EDITION 2021



WELCOME

Throughout the Coronavirus Pandemic, the contribution of our Citizens in Policing has been crucial. Policing has endeavoured to adapt



volunteering practices to fill the gap created by social distancing restrictions through a variety of innovative digital approaches, including online recruitment & inductions, training and educational sessions, quiz evenings, newsletters and coffee mornings. Forces are regularly reviewing risk assessments in this ever changing environment and identifying new, often innovative, roles for volunteers, roles that perhaps would not have been thought of pre-Covid.

Our Volunteers in Policing have as always gone the extra mile. As well as managing the challenges of day-to-day life, including home schooling, remote working, or increased work load dependant on their paid role, our Volunteers have continued to give, and in many cases, increased their volunteer contribution. I know that this is something Forces are thankful for.

Positively, we are not where we were in March 2020. Our understanding of the virus has developed, a vaccination programme is being rolled out and we have embraced new ways of working. Whilst we shouldn't ignore past hardships or ignore the difficult times ahead, we should reflect on what we have learned from the past year and what that means for policing moving forward. At last, it looks like we have some light at the end of the tunnel and we are able to take some small steps forward with regards to getting back to a more 'normal', if not quite the same way of life in the relatively near future.

Personally, I have made some new work friends this year as I have got to know a wider

group of volunteers through the quizzes, coffee mornings and CPD Sessions, and I truly believe this has been beneficial to my own wellbeing. I am hopeful that one of the positives from this Pandemic is that Volunteers will become more engaged and there is more innovation for their roles.

I am sure that for Forces, one of their main priorities will be to continue to protect the health and wellbeing of Police Support Volunteers during these unprecedented and challenging times, however, with news of the ease of lockdown restrictions over the next few months, hopefully it means many of our Police Support Volunteers can get back to doing some of the activities that have not been possible for the past year or so.

As the saying goes "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." (Helen Keller)

Tina Shelton
Editor

Volunteering Matters has been produced with support from Graham Holmes, Volunteers, Force Practitioners and Force Communications Teams. Please send you articles to the Editor: Tina.shelton@gmp.police.uk

Front Page: PSVs Janet & Janet from GMP
If you would like to be placed on the e-subscription list please email: tina.shelton@gmp.police.uk

BEDFORDSHIRE CADET BECOMES POLICE OFFICER IN SOUTH WALES



Mikey Johns started with Bedfordshire Police as a Cadet in September 2016 having previously been an Army Cadet. Mikey was a popular Cadet who was always prepared to help at events. He became Drill Sergeant in 2017 and was awarded Cadet of the Year when he passed out in July 2018.

Mikey finished his Cadet training in September 2018 and then went on to become a PCSO with Bedfordshire Police. As a part off Mikey's

ongoing development he became a Cadet Instructor for the Cadets and continued to deliver valuable inputs. Mikey continued to help with the drill aspect of Cadet sessions, particularly in Dunstable and at HQ preparing for Remembrance Sunday Parade.



On the 15th January 2021 Mikey resigned as a Cadet Instructor and PCSO to follow one of his dreams. He has left Bedfordshire Police to become a Police Officer in South Wales Police.

GMP PSVS VOLUNTEER AT VACCINATION CENTRES



Linda is a Police Support Volunteer on the Scambuster Team, but has also offered her services to support the vaccination roll out at the Life Centre in Sale, Greater Manchester. She tells us of her first day: "What an amazing day, wit-

nessing the appreciation and sheer delight of patients and such a privilege to be a part of. The dedication of NHS staff and all those involved was inspiring. It's a genuine team effort all round and I believe the spirit shown mirrors those generations that have gone before us."



Garry, who is a PSV Cadet leader, has also been volunteering for the NHS. Garry says: "My first role was Check In and Chat. I was contacted to speak to those that were isolated from contact with others and give

support and information on resources that may assist them, and generally checking on their well-being and to ensure all was well. It was really a listening ear for those who want to open up and chat to share their experiences and feelings. In my first week I had over 10 contacts. I am now volunteering as a Steward Volunteer at vaccination centres. I guide people on site to ensure the vaccination process runs smoothly and efficiently. I meet and greet first then move onto social distancing and identity people who need additional help cleaning areas regularly."



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

During the first Covid-19 lockdown Devon & Cornwall Police were unable to utilise their volunteers as much as they would have liked to. This got them thinking - how could they make best use of their volunteers' skills and expertise and support communities during this difficult time?



areas and provide additional resilience.

Volunteers from D&C Police have been requested to support 3 main Vaccination Hubs, as well as Livewell Southwest who provide integrated health and social care services for people and ongoing talks are being held with local transport organisations supporting vulnerable patients to their vaccination appointments.

Aran Richardson, a Volunteer Chaplain for D&C Police responded to the call to action to help at one of the Vaccination Hubs: "I responded to the call to become a Vaccination Centre Marshall and was one of the first responders in the setting up of the centre and supporting those receiving the vaccine.

It was a great opportunity to develop partnerships within the various multi-partner agencies. Whilst it was a new initiative set up at speed, it was well organised and everyone pulled together in serving and learning together as we developed new routines, skill-sets and set about the task.

I really appreciated meeting new people and having the opportunity to assist in this vital service of assisting the public and the NHS at this time. I really value being welcomed and appreciated as a volunteer and received great training and support in the role.

The logistics at the Vaccination Centre is well organised and has been thought through and depends heavily on the support and input of volunteers, there really is a great buzz around the team. There is a briefing before every shift, and we are well looked after and given regular breaks. I have thoroughly enjoyed volunteering in this way, meeting the public and have been requested to become a shift supervisor in the role. Thank you for the opportunity."

Another Volunteer, Jenine Lloyd has been supporting the Plymouth Vaccination Centre



Devon & Cornwall Police

situated at Plymouth Argyles Football Stadium Home Park.

"On my first shift I was shown around and told about the different positions and posts that required volunteers. I was impressed with how well organised everything was, considering that the whole experience and situation is new and exceptional.

After my shifts I walked home with this overwhelming feeling, which I still cannot find the right word for, but I was proud that I had taken part. Some of the members of the public who were waiting for their appointments had been isolating for a long time or were feeling quite nervous. It was lovely to have a chat with them and help put them at ease. I have always been quite shy, so this actually benefited me as well, by helping me increase my confidence.

I received a lot of feedback from the public on how well organised the process was and how grateful they were for volunteers giving their time to help."

PSV Angus Davidson also supported at Plymouth Home Park, "I have been volunteering as a Police Community Volunteer at Home Park in Plymouth to help the NHS deliver AstraZeneca vaccinations. As I live on my own it's nice to be able to get out of the house and meet people. During my last volunteer shift, my responsibility was to greet people at the front of the queue and give everyone information leaflets on the AstraZeneca vaccination."

Devon and Cornwall Police are grateful to their volunteers who answered the 'call to action' and supported the communities in this way during these exceptional circumstances.

VOLUNTEERS THAT GO THE EXTRA MILE

David (middle back row) served as a Police Officer for 31 years, and now volunteers as a VPC Leader for Greater Manchester Police. He also volunteers for The Princes Trust, which supports young people to get into work,

further education, start a business and/or engage in volunteering.

David says: "The latest initiative that started in October is for volunteer mentors (like me) to video link with young mentees who are struggling to come to a decision about their futures in these uncertain times." David has had a particular success with a mentee John (Pseudonym) who had recently been

released from prison after serving a long sentence for serious offences. During his imprisonment, rather than waste the years inside – and with support from The Trust – he gained qualifications in painting and decorating, industrial cleaning and physical training instruction.



THE ANSWER WAS 'COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS'

There may be occasions when there is an immediate need for volunteers to support the community. This could be as a result of a Pandemic, or environmental issues such as flooding. Most of Devon & Cornwall (D&C) volunteers are security vetted, which provides reassurance to agencies and communities and are therefore in a good position to support local

DERBYSHIRE RECOGNISE INCREDIBLE CONTRIBUTION



Derbyshire Police wish to recognise the incredible work of Vince Parker, one of their Police Support Volunteers (PSV), who has volunteered over 1200 hours for the NHS while he is unable to do so for policing.

When the Pandemic began, the hard decision was made to temporarily stop volunteers coming into stations and the Police Headquarters in order to keep them, their families, officers and staff safe.

This wasn't a decision that was taken lightly, and the Force knew this would be a huge disappointment for those that give their time to support policing.

In that time, Vince has thrown himself into volunteering for the NHS.

Vince said: "I started volunteering with Derbyshire Constabulary because I've always had an interest in the Police, so I thought what a good way to see the other side of policing to see what goes on what the everyday public don't get to see.

"I've been a PSV now for a little over six years, where I started off doing the CCTV around Amber Valley. Since then I've done lots of other things from

making sure the response cars are stocked up and road worthy, to doing role plays with new recruits, and for just over a year now I've been a Cadet Leader with the Chesterfield Cadets."

Vince's dedication to his role meant that he really felt the impact of the restrictions of volunteering with the Force.

He said: "I hated when volunteering was stopped due to Covid-19. I understood why but hated it. To go from doing what I've done every week for six years to that being suddenly stopped, I needed something else to do. That's why I signed up to be an NHS Volunteer Responder, so that somehow I could keep on helping out the best I could."

Every so often, Vince will get a notification through an app that tells him someone needs his help. Once he accepts the task, he will then be sent that person's number to contact and arrange support.

Vince explained: "It's usually someone that needs some shopping fetching or some advice, or even just a chat. So you help out just a little bit, but it makes a big difference to someone who has to isolate or has to stay shielded."

More recently, Vince has also been marshalling at Vaccination Centres.



**DERBYSHIRE
CONSTABULARY**

The Force is incredibly proud of Vince and thank him for volunteering his time to NHS colleagues. Assistant Chief Constable Michelle Shooter, who is the lead for the Citizens in Policing portfolio, said: "Vince is a really valued member of our PSV family. He is a very active, hands on volunteer who will

happily get involved with anything asked of him. During the past year as a result of the Pandemic, he has been unable to volunteer with us as much as normal, and I was humbled to hear of how he has put himself forward as an NHS Volunteer in the meantime. He has been doing this alongside his role with us as a PSV Cadet Leader, as well as working and spending time with his family.

"I look forward to thanking him in person as soon as we are able to, but in the meantime I'm sure you'll agree that this is a commendable contribution from him, and I hope you will join me in saying a heartfelt thanks to him for his service to the NHS."



DYFED- POWYS VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

A Grandmother from Pembrokeshire has been recognised for her important contribution to local policing. Anita Wheeler has been announced as this year's Volunteer of the Year winner at Dyfed-Powys Police's 2020 Annual Awards. Chief Constable Mark Collins presented Anita with her award in true '2020 style' on a personal Skype call.

Anita began her volunteering career with Dyfed-Powys Police eighteen years ago, covering the front desk at Neyland Police Station, before moving to Milford Haven Police Station in 2012.

Chief Constable Collins said: "Anita has been part of the extended Dyfed-Powys Police

family for eighteen years, and we are so grateful for her service. Dyfed-Powys is very much a local Force, and so the local knowledge of Anita and our other front counter volunteers is incredibly valuable. Our volunteers play such an important role in ensuring we provide the best service we can to our communities."

Anita volunteers three times a week - logging lost property, taking reports from the public, putting together information packs and supporting local engagement activities. She also keeps in touch with the town's Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators, passing on any issues of concern to the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) for them to investigate. All of this helps to free up officers to spend more time on the beat. She also lifts spirits with her famous lemon drizzle cake, which she bakes to welcome new officers to the station. Since the Pandemic,

Anita has adjourned her duties as a front counter volunteer to stick to the 'stay home' message and take good care of her own health, though she has remained in contact with her policing family in Milford Haven who are thrilled she has received the award.

Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) Sergeant Terri Harrison said: "Anita is exceptionally dedicated and a real asset to the Milford Haven policing family. Having lived here all her life she is well-known by so many people in the town, providing a wealth of local knowledge and acting as an important link between the NPT and the community."

Speaking about Anita's contribution to policing, Inspector Jonny Griffiths added: "Anita is a valued member of our team who consistently gives her own time to support us here. This Award is thoroughly deserved."

Anita is one of the Force's 125 Citizens in Policing, made up of 72 Special Constables and 52 Police Support Volunteers.

Also nominated for the Award was Cardigan Police Support Volunteer, Dewi Smith for his contribution to supporting staff, officers and the communities of South Ceredigion, and the Independent Custody Observers Pilot (ICOP) Group.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE POLICE SUPPORT VOLUNTEER BECOMES POLICE STAFF



become a Volunteer was to get some office based police related experience.

Her initial role was a Volunteer Disclosure Assistant in the Information Disclosure Team. Her tasks included uploading Freedom of Information

requests to the internet, data transfer from spreadsheets and scanning. She enjoyed the role and the fact she was the staff's "go to" person to help them with their work being able to support them where possible."

The appreciation and friendliness shown by the staff where she volunteered reinforced her ambition to work full-time for the Constabulary. When a job opportunity arose in the Information Disclosure Team she applied and was successful. She has since moved offices and is now a Property and Exhibits Assistant.

Nikkita believes that: 'working for the Constabulary is a job for life'. She hopes to continue to be involved in making a difference and to keep developing her skills and perhaps become a manager in the future. Nikkita's time as a Police Support Volunteer provided her with skills to assist her in moving forward with her ambitions.



Nikkita became a Police Support Volunteer in 2018 when she discovered the role through her step-dad, who is a Police Officer for the Constabulary. One of her motivations to

GMP DEVELOP "BREW MONDAY" FOR THEIR POLICE SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS

Looking for other ways to connect with the Police Support Volunteers that are unable to undertake their role at the moment, mostly due to shielding, and initially linking into "Blue Monday" which is the campaign that takes place on the third Monday in January, which is often considered to be the most depressing day of the year, the first Blue Monday Coffee Morning in GMP has now moved into a monthly "Brew Monday", hosted by the PSV Coordinator. Volunteers chat with

each other, and then of late, there has been a CPD Session too. Speakers from Barclays Bank Digital Eagles (delivering training on MS Teams) and staff from the Prevent, CTU team are just a couple of the recent speakers.

PSV Les said: "Really enjoyable. It's so important to keep connected with friends and colleagues when spending so much time at home."



SPOTLIGHT ON GMP POLICE MUSEUM



The GMP Museum is situated on Newton Street, in the City Centre, within an atmospheric Police Station that was built in 1879. In 1981 the Station was closed operationally and began opening to the public as a Heritage Site and Volunteers have been integral to its success ever since.

The Museum Volunteer Team is currently twenty-five strong and they are proud to have an intergenerational and multi-disciplined team, with experience from inside and outside the Police. Pre Covid-19, Volunteers would be involved with all aspects of running a popular heritage attraction, from visitor focused roles such as meeting/greeting, leading tours, running the shop and activity stalls to helping with stock takes and special events.

The other major aspect of the Teams work is Research & Collections Management; this is the development and storage of the precious artefacts and archives. Normally this would be done on site and involves inputting data, packing objects and research.

Unfortunately, the Police Museum has not been able to open since March 2020, but this hasn't stopped the Team getting involved.

Katie Henderson, Curator, says: "We are fortunate to have many of our collections digitised for longevity and ease of use, which has led to several transcribing projects over lockdown. The results of these mean we can more easily and quickly search for names to assist with family history enquiries; and have been able to implement a new search function on our website, enabling the public to search for the names of their ancestors while we are closed.

Transcribing is the copying of historic documents and requires patience and diligence. It can be very time consuming so we are incredibly grateful to members of our team who have undertaken this work on the behalf of the Museum. It has meant we can continue to grow our digital resources while also focusing on online engagement. Speaking of digital, we are also very grateful to have an input from some of our more tech savvy Volunteers on how to maximise our social media!

If I could describe the team in three words it would be; Creative, Passionate and Fun. It has been a very different year for us all, and we are all looking forward to getting back to normal. In the meantime we are enjoying seeing our Team on our regular Zoom get-togethers, and until we can meet again in person we'd like to thank them all for their support."



LEICESTERSHIRE'S INSPIRATIONAL POLICE VOLUNTEERS RECOGNISED AT CHIEF'S AWARDS



and support to her. Matt hooked his laptop up to his television and watched the ceremony with his parents. "I am so proud to wear my uniform and represent Leicestershire Police by serving my local community and helping out at events" he said. "I'd like to thank my Leaders for nominating me for the award and for supporting me through my years as a Police Cadet. 2020 was a tough year for everyone and I am thankful to all of the key workers who made our lives that little bit safer and easier – you too deserve an award!"

Another worthy winner was Police Support Volunteer Lynn Ashton, who volunteers her time to support the Force's Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), Juniper Lodge. Lynn delivers practical and emotional support to victims of sexual assault and has supported them through every step of their journey to recovery. "I was absolutely thrilled to receive the award for Volunteer of the Year," Lynn said. "I choose to give my time to the SARC as I've previously worked with domestic violence victims and felt I had the skills to give support where needed. I'm fortunate to have the time to volunteer and have gained great satisfaction knowing I've made a difference."

A Volunteer who uses her experience to help victims of sexual assault, a Cadet who provided care to an elderly lady and a Special Inspector who stepped up during the Pandemic were among those recognised at Chief Constable Simon Cole's Annual Awards.

Leicestershire Police's annual award ceremony was held virtually for the first time, to allow the Force to celebrate and honour the hard work, dedication and bravery of its officers, staff and volunteers in a safe way. Award nominees, their friends, families and the wider Force were invited to tune in to the virtual show hosted by Chief Constable Simon Cole and Deputy Chief Constable Rob Nixon.

Volunteer Police Cadet Matthew Hares, from the Melton Mowbray Cadet Unit, was thrilled to be awarded Police Cadet of the Year. Matt is a caring, kind and dedicated Cadet and is committed to volunteering at every opportunity. He came across an elderly lady who had become unwell at a bus stop and stayed with her for three hours until an ambulance arrived, offering reassurance



The Biometrics team, made up of Volunteers and Special Constables who assist the Force with processing new applicants, picked up Volunteer Team of the Year.

Special Inspector James Blackburn was awarded Volunteer Leader of the Year for his role in leading the Special Constabulary during the Pandemic, contributing over 9,000 hours of front line policing in eight weeks. James also liaised with Policing Commanders to ensure the Special Constables were deployed to the areas where they could have the most impact.

Former Special Sergeant Jamie Trusler was named Special Constable of the Year in recognition of the long hours he devoted to the Force and his proactive, friendly manner. Jamie is extremely knowledgeable in police procedures and systems, and assisted regular officers by gathering intelligence to support their work on the beat. He has now joined the Force full time as a PC and looks forward to a career in policing.

The five annual awards presented to the Force's volunteers were all kindly sponsored by David and Jonathan Saville.



SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE VOLUNTEERS MAKE CAREFUL BUT TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO LIFEWISE

Under normal circumstances, several South Yorkshire Police Volunteers are deployed at the Lifewise Centre, home to the Joint Police & Fire Community Safety Department, and help facilitate Crucial Crew – a scenario based educational programme for Year 6 pupils across South Yorkshire. Due to the Pandemic, things have been very different and staff at the centre have taken the opportunity to give the place a well-needed lick of paint, whilst schools remained closed.

Despite ever-evolving circumstances, the go-ahead was given to invite schools to visit from 1st October and staff at the centre worked

tirelessly to ensure a Covid-safe environment for visitors, volunteers and staff. It was decided that a limited number of volunteers would return, as everyone's wellbeing was number one priority, keeping numbers in the building to a necessary minimum - plus not everyone felt ready to return at this time due to their personal circumstances.

Chris and Janet, who undertake role play as part of the hate/ knife crime scenario, and a handful of willing Magistrate volunteers agreed to come back to Lifewise under the "new normal" situation that we find ourselves in.

As is always good practice, a Plan B was put in place, and professional videos of the live action role plays were developed over the summer for both the hate/knife crime and the courtroom scenarios. This was deemed essential in the current climate, to ensure continuity of the Crucial Crew provision should anyone be taken ill or find themselves having to isolate. Community Safety staff at Lifewise

have also been involved in the delivery of police-led scenarios to free up PCSOs to deal with issues in their local districts.

Schools have proven keen to attend the ever-popular Crucial Crew and the feedback has been extremely positive. Teachers have welcomed a return to Crucial Crew and for the children to have some degree of normality in these uncertain times. Volunteers have been thankful for the excellent safety measures put in place that have enabled them to contribute to valuable life lessons for the children, and Lifewise staff have been delighted to hear laughter and chatter around the building once more.

As we started the New Year, we were once again faced with school closures, however we have now welcomed back pupils from Special Educational Needs schools and Pupil Referral Units in the past month.



Lancashire Constabulary
2020 SPECIAL CONSTABULARY AWARDS

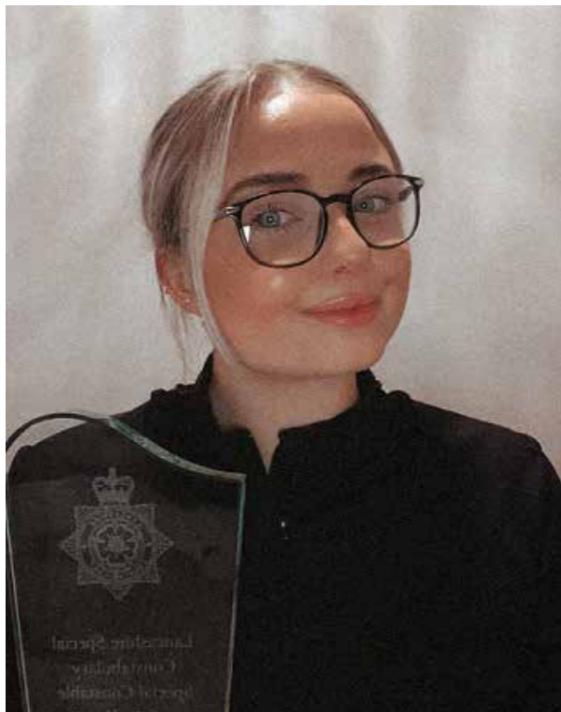
LANCASHIRE'S SPECIAL CONSTABULARY AWARDS FOR 2020 HAD TO BE POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19 AND WERE CELEBRATED RECENTLY AT AN ONLINE EVENT. PCC CLIVE GRUNSHAW AND ACC PETER LAWSON OPENED THE CEREMONY.

ACC Lawson said: "Each year we shine a light of gratitude on our Special Constables who dedicate their time and efforts to providing vital support to policing in Lancashire. Our Annual Awards recognise some of our most inspirational individuals for their exceptional contributions to our team, and provides an opportunity to recognise all of our Special Constables for their dedication, that helps keep the people of Lancashire safe."

"During this challenging year our Specials have also been helping us through the Pandemic; working extra hours or even full-time due to furlough; providing humanitarian support for Lancashire Resilience Forum and bolstering local policing teams. In total, our Specials have contributed over 64,000 volunteering hours over the past 12 months."

"Sadly, Covid-19 has prevented us from holding our Special Constabulary Awards for 2020. However, we can still celebrate the achievements of our award-winning volunteers. I would like to congratulate our winners and extend sincere thanks to all of our Specials for their dedication to Lancashire Constabulary and to our communities."

SPECIAL CONSTABLE OF THE YEAR
 SC SIAN SEDDON



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT
 SC JAMES DESPARD



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT
 SC HEATH NICHOLAS



SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR
 SPECIAL SERGEANT CRAIG NAYLOR



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT
 SC PHIL CURWEN



STUDENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR

SPECIAL CONSTABLE
 UMAR ARSHAD

RUNNERS UP

SPECIAL CONSTABLE CHRIS LLOYD

SPECIAL CONSTABLE CHRIS MORRIS

LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE ALL THESE OFFICERS FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AND SAY A MASSIVE THANK YOU TO ALL LANCASHIRE SPECIAL CONSTABLES FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT

THE VOLUNTEERS UNEARTHING WEAPONS OF CRIME WITH METAL DETECTORS



of metal detectorists but they now have a small team of volunteers who can be called upon to assist with weapon recovery.

Jay Smith was among those to get involved. He says: "I've always liked history. My friend bought a metal detector and it got me interested. I bought myself one and every three weeks we'd go away in our VW campervan to different places to see what we could unearth.

"I'm on my fifth metal detector now – each one has got better and more advanced. We have permissions from landowners and farmers in various places to carry out searches."

"It's great finding items that may have been buried for lots of years. I never tire of it. Very rarely we find actual treasure, which has to be handed over. But mainly, we keep anything we find with the permission of landowners. The history behind some of the items is fascinating. I once uncovered a Victorian skirt lifter, which looks like a pair of forceps, in the middle of nowhere."

He said he'd been excited to see the advert for Volunteer Metal Detectorists because it's a way of putting his hobby to good use. "It's the thought of helping people that attracted me. If I can reunite a burglary victim with a cherished piece of jewellery then that's a success. If we can find a weapon that helps put the final pieces of a jigsaw together, that's exciting."

Jay says searching a location thoroughly can be a slow process, ensuring every single foot is scanned. For example, a piece of land the size of a football pitch could take years to search properly. However, they would be asked to search much smaller, specific pieces of land.

Jess Redmond, who oversees the recruitment of the Volunteer Metal Detectorists, says: "They're skilled at searching for tiny objects, so their expertise is really going to help us. We can ask them to concentrate on very specific areas. We're excited to see what they're able to find."

The Force has been using the skills of metal detectorists to help them track down weapons used in crime.

Last year, West Midlands Police put a call out to keen metal detectorists to help them out during Operation Sceptre, a week-long knife crime awareness campaign.

Working closely with partner agencies to raise awareness, Operation Sceptre also saw Officers, PCSOs and other Volunteers carry out high visibility swoops of open spaces to recover knives.

It's the first time the Force has used the skills



FORCE AWARDS 2020 'CADET OF THE YEAR'

The Force Awards 2020 winner of 'Cadet of the Year' was awarded to Ella Fryer. Ella attended College Road Police Station to collect her award from Superintendent Neil Thomas who added; "I am incredibly proud of Ella both as the Force Lead for Citizens in Policing but also in my position as Doncaster's Superintendent given that Ella is one of the District's Cadets".

Ella was overjoyed on hearing of her success and responded; "I was very privileged to become a South Yorkshire Police Cadet and I felt even more privileged to hear that I had been nominated for, and won the Cadet Of The Year Award. Volunteering as a Cadet was a very rewarding experience, it allowed me to form bonds that I am sure will last a lifetime. "

The nomination was made by her district Cadet

Leaders who commented; "Ella's a fantastic Cadet who has demonstrated an ability to adapt quickly and efficiently to any situation she is faced with. Her behavior is exemplary, not only on Cadet nights but when interacting with members of the public."

Ella has shown great determination from the outset when she first applied to join the Cadet Programme in 2018. She was not successful on that occasion but was invited to attend a workshop the following year to brush up her skills in completing an application form and preparing for an interview. Ella jumped at the chance and later utilised her new skills when applying to join the Cadets in 2019. This time she was successful and the rest is history, as they say.

SUSSEX POLICE VOLUNTEERS SUPPORTING VULNERABLE VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

With the impact of Covid-19 and a national lockdown, courts closed for trials which not only caused a significant backlog in cases, but also meant that victims and witnesses had to wait to give evidence. Initially many were relieved that they didn't need to attend court, due to concerns about the risks associated with the virus, but as time went on many become concerned that their case was not being heard. As lockdown restrictions lifted some struggled to understand why they could then return to some degree of normality but not go to court.

Sussex Police have responded by creating the Remote Evidence Facilitator Volunteer role. These volunteers facilitate the practical support at one of the three live link suites in Sussex. They work in collaboration with other volunteer organisations, Citizens Advice Witness Service, Victim Support and Young Witness Service. Both Citizens Advice Witness Service and Victim Support Young Witness Service support the witness emotionally and through the procedures of giving evidence. The Police Support Volunteers provide masses of practical support which assists the volunteer agencies.

Inductions to the role were carried out virtually and then social distanced visits to the sites took place to familiarise the volunteers with the equipment and processes. Each site is Covid compliant, ensuring excellent social distancing measures can be adhered to. They provide a safe environment for the witness/victim away from the court setting.

Ten volunteers were successfully recruited for the role and many have already started.

Barry Southon said, "It's abundantly clear to see the vast impact Covid-19 is having on everyday life, Sussex Police do not escape the pressures and if my volunteering role helps in a small way 'So be it' 'from the effort so far I have seen first-hand how it mattered to a few individuals. It's a sound concept and will prove to be worth the effort, in my humble opinion".

Helen Austin said, "This is one of the volunteering roles I undertake and I find it very rewarding. The training was excellent and I soon found myself easily able to meet the victims/witnesses and try to put them at ease. It is

very satisfying to see them become less concerned after I have explained the process and what they can expect. Sometimes there is a long wait and we can pass the time in general conversation which means they are not sitting waiting and worrying."

Keith Mates said, "I am a new Remote Volunteer Facilitator which means that as a volunteer I can assist witnesses giving evidence to a court less intimidating and therefore assisting in improving the quality of that evidence. This can only be good for justice and exciting in being at the beginning of a new innovation."

Kim Clinch added, "My first live case was for a GBH at Crown Court, my role involved me opening up the suite and welcoming the witness. It was a long wait for the victim to be called but they were able to give an account. I am happy to support this role as I can see what a huge difference it is making to both the victims and witnesses and to Sussex Polic."

Jenn Marshall, Head of Service Delivery for Criminal Justice said, "This initiative has enabled retired officers and existing volunteers to use the wealth of knowledge and experience they have to provide a very high level of service and care to some of our most vulnerable victims and witnesses. They understand the challenges that the court face and take a very practical and flexible approach in each trial. I have been so impressed by their can do attitude and commitment to stepping forward and helping others during this very difficult time. There are times when I ring to request their support with a short turnaround time and am always met with a positive response. This is an excellent example of people putting aside their own

worries and concerns and doing something to help others".

Jo Last, Area Manager for Citizens Advice Witness Service said, "On behalf of Citizens Advice Witness Service I am delighted that we have the professional care from the Police Remote Evidence Facilities working collaboratively with our staff and volunteers in support of the most vulnerable of witnesses at the remote link sites in Sussex. This excellent partnership work delivered by volunteers generously giving their time provides a crucial choice for witnesses to be able to give evidence where they feel safe and comfortable."

The role and the volunteers are playing an essential part in ensuring that trials are still able to go ahead despite the Pandemic and justice is achieved for the victims.

Sussex Police are very grateful to the Volunteers for all their support.



GLOUCESTERSHIRE CADET COORDINATOR IS AWARDED THE BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL



Gloucestershire Constabulary's Volunteer Cadet Force Coordinator Tracy Wren was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in HM The Queen's New Year's Honours List.

The Award recognises Tracy's contribution to policing in Gloucestershire, first as a PCSO, and now as the Police Cadet Force Coordinator. Tracy was instrumental in re-establishing Cadet Units across the County, recruiting young persons and Cadet Leaders who all make a positive and valued contribution to local policing service.

Congratulating Tracy on her award the Chief Constable said: "I am delighted Tracy has been recognised in this way. I have spoken many times about our magnificent people going over and above what might be expected of them,

and Tracy is a fine example of that. Not only has she supported our communities for many years, she is an inspirational Cadet Leader and her work with Treasure Seekers is typical of her dedication and her caring and compassionate approach."



Tracy joined the Constabulary in 2004 and was for many years based as a PCSO in Wotton-under-Edge and then Stonehouse, serving the local communities in those areas before taking up her present role as the Cadet Coordinator in 2015.

Tracy has created a safe, welcoming, happy place for so many young people, including some who – by virtue of disability or social circumstance - have never been part of a youth organisation in the way that so many of us take for granted. The positive impact on these young people's lives, and the type of adults they grow up to be cannot be underestimated.

Tracy was delighted to receive this honour: "I am very grateful to be part of an amazing team who work so hard to make the Cadet Programme the success it is. I am particularly grateful for the truly outstanding contribution of our volunteer leaders as well as our wonderful Cadets, who give so much time and energy to the programme. Gloucestershire Police Cadets would not be possible without their dedication. I am so proud to receive this honour on behalf of us all.

I never get tired of seeing Cadets grow into confident young adults who make a big difference to our communities in so many ways. I am particularly proud of our Treasure Seeker Cadets who were brought into the police family in 2016, this initiative has seen them achieve and grow so much.

Our work in partnership with the Kingfisher Treasure Seekers has really impacted on how adults with learning difficulties or someone with mental health issues views the police, we are now not the scary uniformed police service, we are now their friends."

SPOTLIGHT ON GMP CADET LEADER



where the Cadets have to navigate expedition walks using their Ordnance Survey maps and then camp overnight.

Many of the Cadets have an ambition to become Police Officers and many of them do so, and the VPC Leaders provide the Cadets with lots of training and presentations on policing. The National VPC Team have recently developed a new “Cadet Programme Resources” package for all Cadets nationwide and also provided online training on the package for VPC Leaders. The topics include: Introduction to Policing, Understanding Communities, Crime-Policing, Specialist Topics, Peer Education, Pathways, Personal Development, Wellbeing, Role Models and Social Action. The Programme should help to unify the training for all Cadets nationally and provide a good framework for everyone delivering the courses.

As with other Cadet Units, community involvement is part of their training and part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Some of our Cadets visit retired people in old peoples’



We speak to Clive Atty about his volunteer role, not only in GMP but in the wider community.

Clive says: “It seems like a long time ago now since I was a Volunteer at Bolton Magistrates Court looking after the witnesses. Initially, it was very interesting, but the number of witnesses started to decline for some reason and we were not as busy as we had been before. So, in February 2017, I became a Volunteer Cadet Leader with Bolton Volunteer Police Cadets and in June 2019 transferred to Bury Volunteer Police Cadets.

I joined GMP as a Volunteer Cadet Leader as I knew it would be a new and refreshing experience and I wasn’t disappointed. The Cadets are all very friendly, young and enthusiastic. I particularly enjoyed doing map navigation training with the Cadets and assisting with the Duke of Edinburgh Awards,

homes, assist with a large triathlon which takes place every year, plant trees on the Smithills Woodland Trust estate near Bolton, assisting at public events to name a few.

Regrettably, due to the Coronavirus, Police Cadet face-to-face meetings have been put on hold since March 2020. However, the Force are conscious they needed to do something to reassure the Cadets they haven’t been forgotten and have maintained regular contact with them by newsletter, quiz and coffee morning opportunities etc. I have maintained contact by attending a number of online training courses: Safeguarding training, Cadet Programme Resources and Digital Police Foundation.

I do, however, keep myself busy in my spare time in a number of other ways:

- A volunteer warden on the Woodland Trust Smithills estate just north of Bolton. The estate isn’t the largest Woodland Trust estate in the UK but it is the biggest in England. Recently, we have been planting a lot of new trees.
- A member of a local walking club. I am on the committee and organise and lead a lot of the walks, or at least I will be once we are no longer in lockdown.



- Chairperson of Bolton U3A i.e. the University of the Third Age. The Third Age is primarily for people of retirement age. Most of the courses are delivered by the U3A members themselves e.g. History, Classical Civilisation, Crown Green Bowling, Singing for Pleasure, Psychology etc to name a few.
- For the last 10 years I have been doing voluntary work for Bolton Lads and Girls Club mentoring vulnerable young people.
- You may have heard of HF Holidays? They operate from a number of ‘mansion houses’ in the UK and provide mainly guided walking holidays which, usually, are a week long. I am one of their walk leaders – in the last ten years I’ve led walks at 12 different ‘houses’ from the Isle of Wight in the south to Northumberland in the north and led 148 walks in total.”

Clive is hoping that he will be able to start back as a VPC Leader in GMP very soon now restrictions are lifting.



LANCASHIRE VOLUNTEER PARTNERSHIP

Lancashire Volunteer Partnership (LVP) is made up of public services across Lancashire and supports over 5,000 public service volunteers

At the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic all face-to-face volunteering was suspended. A telephone Community Support (befriending) offer launched Monday 23 March 2020 and this continues to be available for all Lancashire's residents to help combat social isolation and loneliness.

All calls are triaged and sign posted to the most appropriate service:

- LVP Telephone Community Support Befrienders
- Our Lancashire Community Engagement Officers
- District Community Hubs for practical support

Social media campaigns and networking generated daily referrals with an average of 6 referrals per day – this has slowed down, with the majority matched the same day. Volunteer recruitment for community support (befriending) continues to be managed against supply and demand. To date 1,340 vulnerable people have been supported by a volunteer befriender.

In summer 2020, we launched our enhanced offer which included shopping/collection of medication.

SUPPORTING THE NHS COVID VACCINATION PROGRAMME

Late November 2020, LVP was tasked with coordinating volunteers for the Covid Vaccination Programme for Lancashire and South Cumbria.

Social media campaigns, public relations, website engagement, networking and support from voluntary sector partners helped to cascade the call to action.

Volunteer recruitment started late December 2020 and nearly 1,500 volunteers were

recruited including our existing volunteers and Special Constables. Volunteers were processed in line with our registration process and they undertook extensive e-learning via the Volunteer Learning Passport. Our on-line ICT system enables us to schedule time slots for volunteers who subsequently apply for available timeslots around their personal circumstances.

The first week in February 2021, out of a possible 3,309 time slots, LVP covered 3,200 time slots with volunteers. LVP volunteers have provided a staggering 45,000 hours of support. To date, over 374,000 people have been vaccinated across Lancashire and South Cumbria.

CASE STUDY

Our Volunteer Officer for Wyre knew exactly which volunteer to match with a complex case referred to Lancashire Volunteer Partnership (LVP) by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS). This has resulted in a very vulnerable person, being fantastically supported by a caring and dedicated Telephone Befriender; making a difference to their lives in less than a month with regular telephone conversations.

When fitting a smoke alarm as part of a free fire safety check in Wyre by LFRS, the lady whose house they were at opened up to the Fire Service about the huge amount of personal stress she was under, dealing with grief and impending legal issues. The close bereavement was sudden and in tremendously difficult circumstances, and with existing stresses and strains from an ongoing court case, she felt completely overwhelmed.

The Volunteer Officer matched her with an early retiree from public services and sure enough, this caring and committed Telephone Befriender has already made a huge impact on her life by encouraging her to take up physical exercise again, to get moving and get active, and looking after her health and wellbeing. His IT know-how and organisation skills has also helped massively, suggesting electronic calendars to help with important dates and deadlines, to help give structure to a very stressful period of her life.

The volunteer is delighted that the suggestions he's put forward to the lady have been helpful and already had an impact. The lady is incredibly grateful to have someone so reliable and calm in her life. We are very happy that so many positive things have been achieved in such a short time, and all by telephone, thanks to a speedy referral by our partners in LFRS.



the National Geographic Magazine journalists and photographers in the remote areas of Africa and across the region; From huge international Sporting events with ESPN (another TWDC owned brand) in Senegal, to protecting Mickey and Minnie in a shopping mall; From high profile guest events such as Red Carpet European Film Premieres & Film Festivals, to daily shows on stage at the Theatre.....and so so many more, not to mention the everyday support to TWDC employees, guests, assets, Disney Stores and corporate facilities across the region.

The event was interspersed with videos which showed behind the scenes at Disney and how the team approach incident, emergency and crisis management to 'Protect the Disney Magic!'

Questions for the security team were fast and furious with Cadets eager to learn how the team operated, how they got into security and more about the roles involved.

The event was in the planning from November last year when the National VPC team were approached by the EMEA Security team who wanted to work with VPC.

COVID restrictions prevented initial plans from taking place but, very quickly, those plans were adapted to create the virtual event.

Tim Mann, National VPC partnership lead said, 'This is just the start of a really exciting partnership between the National VPC and the EMEA Security team, we have been planning

On Wednesday 17th February 2021 over 800 Cadets from 32 Police Forces across England & Wales took part in a virtual engagement event with The Walt Disney Company (TWDC), Europe, and Middle East & Africa (EMEA) Security team.

Hosted via the TWDC corporate Zoom platform and co-presented by the National VPC team. Senior EMEA Security Managers and team members gave Cadets a whistle stop overview of how they 'Protect the Magic', discussing the activities undertaken and the multitude of roles within the team.

From securing film sets for productions (Disney, Pixar, Marvel, Star Wars, 20th Century Studio's, Searchlight Pictures), to location security with National Geographic Productions and Disney +; From ensuring the safety of journalists in conflict zones and high risk & remote locations for the TWDC owned news channel ABC, to fine tuning tailored support to



this event since November 2020 and it was great to see the how the Cadets engaged with the Security team at Disney. We had a small number of cadets make up a Q&A panel and they were a credit to their forces'

Scott Paterson, EMEA Senior Security Manager said, 'We have been completely captivated, inspired, and totally blown away by what is a fantastic, diverse, inclusive and very impressive organisation the VPC is. It is an absolute pleasure for us to be supporting the VPC and we are so excited about all the ideas we have for the future to provide a wider insight into how we 'Protect the Magic 24/7'. Thanks so much for allowing us into your world!

Sabrina Bains, EMEA Security Manager said, 'Working with the VPC is a truly motivating and inspiring experience. We were particularly impressed with the cadets' proactive involvement and the great questions they put forward to the team. There are so many opportunities available to the cadets and we are committed to continuing to work closely with the VPC to highlight these opportunities. We are very excited to continue working on this exciting partnership together!

Planning is now underway post-Covid for face

to face engagement and opportunities for Cadets to gain a real insight into the work the team do on the ground. Observing and being hands on to assist the team at events such as film premieres.

National VPC have been working with the Security Industry for some time to develop new and exciting opportunities for Cadets. With previous access to Security Expo's in London and Birmingham this is an extension of that work and we can't wait to see what is next for our Cadets and the opportunities that could arise from it. We are grateful to EMEA Senior Security Manager, Scott Paterson and EMEA Security Manager Sabrina Bains for reaching out and the work they have done far.



'ALL OUR DREAMS CAN COME TRUE, IF WE HAVE THE COURAGE TO PURSUE THEM' - WALT DISNEY

Police Mutual

We look after our own

We proudly serve those who serve our community

We offer a range of products and services that are only available to Police Officers, Staff, their families, and the wider Police family. So whether you're interested in saving for a rainy day, or want quality insurance cover – we're here for you.

To find out more, visit
policemutual.co.uk

