

1. MAJOR INCIDENTS AND POLICING DIARY

Murder / attempted murder

1.1 Operation Nashville - Plymouth

On 12 May, an ambulance was called to an address in Plymouth where a two-year-old girl was found in a poorly condition. She was examined at Derriford Hospital, Plymouth, where she was found to have suffered serious injuries.

During the afternoon of 14 May, following brain stem tests, the decision was made to switch off life support equipment. Two people have been arrested and are currently on police bail.

1.2 Suspicious death – St Austell

Police received a call on 12 May regarding the death of Stephen Britton at St Austell. It was established that he had not been seen since 10 May. His body was later found inside his burnt out vehicle. Three people have been charged with murder and one other has been charged with assisting murder.

1.3 Operation Razorbill – Plymouth

Two men, Mark Daw and Nicholas Turner, have been charged with murder following the death of Graham Stainer on 7 April. He died at Derriford Hospital after undergoing brain surgery and failing to regain consciousness. The two men are due to appear at Plymouth Crown Court on 16 July.

1.4 Suspicious death - Crediton

Police were called to a home at Crediton on 21 May after reports of a stabbing. On arrival officers found a woman had sustained serious injuries. She was conveyed to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital where she was confirmed dead a short while later. A man has been charged with murder.

1.5 Operation Louisiana – St Austell

On 27 May a call was received from a woman in St Austell saying that a man was dead. On arrival officers found the body of 42-year-old Kevin Oram. A 39-year-old woman was charged with murder and appeared before Bodmin Magistrates Court on 29 May. A plea and directional hearing is scheduled for 27 August and she is remanded in custody.

Suspicious death/suicide

1.6 Suspicious death – Cornwall

Officers attended an address at Penryn on 21 May following a report of a death in suspicious circumstances and a suspected overdose. On attendance officers discovered a 17-year-old local man dead at the scene and an 18-year-old man who appeared to have attempted suicide. A youth has been remanded in custody.

1.7 Operation Nebraska - Crediton

The body of Ryan Cox was found in the River Yeo at Bullmarsh Weir near Crediton on 31 May. He had disappeared in the early hours of 22 May while heavily intoxicated. A postmortem has been conducted but the cause of death is undetermined pending the results of toxicology tests.

1.8 Sudden death - Honiton

At 7.45pm on 30 April, a 31-year-old woman was found dead on a railway line at Honiton after being hit by a train. The death is not being treated as suspicious and is being handled by British Transport Police.

1.9 Sudden death – Bude

Officers were called to an address at Poughill, Bude, on 9 May and discovered the body of a 42-year-old male farm worker who had sustained a fatal head injury. A shotgun was found with the man.

1.10 Sudden death - hanging

A member of the public found a 40-year-old man hanged from a tree in a park at Wadebridge on 18 May. Police and paramedics attended and the man was pronounced dead at the scene. No one else is being sought in connection with the death.

1.11 Sudden death - Helston

On 2 June, paramedics and police attended an address at Helston where the body of an 18-year-old man had been found hanged in the garage. The death is not being treated as suspicious.

Death in police proximity

1.12 Death in police proximity – Plymouth

Police attended a report of a domestic dispute at an address in Plymouth on the 27 May. On arrival officers found a male in his 30s in the premises. The man had poured petrol around the house, created a gas leak, and threatened officers

with a knife. A three-hour siege ensued, concluding with the male being found hanged in the hallway. He was taken to Derriford Hospital, Plymouth, where he was pronounced dead upon arrival.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) has been called in as the death occurred while police were involved in the incident. There are no criminal investigations ongoing as a result.

Violence

1.13 Serious assault - Torquay

Three youths, one aged 14 and two aged 15, have been arrested in connection with a serious incident which took place on a beach at Torquay on 30 May, where a 13-year-old boy was seriously assaulted.

One has been charged with wounding with intent and attempted murder of the 13-year-old boy while two have been charged with the rape of a young female. All three have been charged with robbery and attempted robbery.

They have been further charged with offences on the evening of 29 May, including robbery.

The two 15-year-olds are currently being held in youth custody and the 13-year-old is bailed to a children's home. A paper committal case will be held in late June.

Robbery

1.14 Armed robbery – Torquay

On the afternoon of 27 May two men attacked a cash delivery at Somerfield supermarket in St Marychurch Road, Torquay. They escaped with a cash box after threatening staff with a knife, leaving the scene in a car which contained three more men. The car, which had been stolen the previous night in Torquay, was later recovered burned out. Investigations continue.

1.15 Armed robbery - Plymouth

On 2 June an armed robbery occurred at Ladbrokes betting shop in Albert Road, Plymouth. A male threatened staff with a 'gun-shaped' object wrapped in a plastic bag. Staff resisted and after a brief struggle the male made off with a small sum of money. No one was injured. Two suspects have been arrested and are currently on bail.

Fire/arson

1.16 Arson - unmarked police car, Plymouth

In the early hours of 10 May an unmarked police car was set alight in Devonport, Plymouth. A 20-year-old Plymouth man was charged with arson and is due to appear in court in July.

1.17 Explosion - Foss Quay, Cornwall

A report of an explosion at the boatyard of Foss Quay was received on 28 May. Fire officers attended to establish the extent of the danger. It was believed that no one was in the yard but the site was too dangerous for investigators for approximately 24 hours due to gas cylinders present. The case is being treated as suspicious and enquires are ongoing to establish the cause.

Assault on police

1.18 Police officers injured - Plymouth

Officers attended New George Street, Plymouth, on the afternoon of 9 May, following reports of an altercation. Officers immediately arrested one male for assault and attempted to arrest another who walked off with a large dog. During the arrest, the dog injured the second male, two police officers and a security guard. One of the officers was admitted to hospital with a deep wound to his right forearm, which required surgery. Two males, aged 13 and 15, were detained at Charles Cross police station.

One officer is now back at work while the other remains off sick and is still receiving physiotherapy for his hand. The dog owner is now serving four months in a youth detention centre having been charged with public disorder offences and having a dangerous dog in a public place. The other male has been arrested for common assault and is on police bail.

Road traffic collisions

1.19 Fatal hit and run RTC - Exeter

The body of a 34-year-old local male was found in the road near the city centre in the early hours of 1 May, having apparently been struck by a vehicle that had left the scene.

The vehicle was located on the outskirts of the city and a 30-year-old local female was arrested. She has been bailed pending further enquiries.

1.20 Fatal RTC - Holsworthy

On 9 June two cars collided on the A3072 near Holsworthy. A 46-year-old man from Bude died and two other people, including the driver of the other car, were seriously injured. Both are now recovering and enquiries are continuing.

1.21 Fatal RTC - near Bude

A road traffic collision occurred on the A39 at Dimma, near Bude, on 8 May, between a car and two motorcycles which were travelling in opposite directions. One motorcyclist suffered fatal injuries and died at the scene. One person was arrested for driving related offences and is on bail while enquiries continue.

1.22 Serious RTC - Buckfastleigh

A man has been convicted of driving offences after his car was in collision with a 16-year-old pedestrian on 15 May. The motorist had driven through a no entry sign and was reversing when the car struck the youth, who sustained serious head and leg injuries.

The driver left the scene but was arrested a short time later on suspicion of attempted murder and being unfit to drive through drink/drugs. He was charged with several driving related offences and is now awaiting sentence following his conviction.

1.23 Fatal RTC – Liskeard

On 26 May a fatal road traffic collision occurred on Plymouth Road, Liskeard, between a motorcycle and a car. The male rider of the motorcycle received fatal injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene. The female pillion passenger was seriously injured and underwent treatment at Derriford Hospital. She has since been released and has been able to assist with enquiries. The driver of the car received minor injuries. Other witnesses are still being sought and contacted.

1.24 Fatal RTC - Tiverton

A fatal road traffic collision occurred on 28 May on the A361 at Bolham near Tiverton involving two cars and a motorcycle. The rider of the motorcycle was pronounced dead at the scene and one car driver was arrested for causing death by dangerous driving. The male is on police bail while enquiries continue.

1.25 Fatal RTC - Penzance

On 3 June, police attended a fatal road traffic collision at St Buryan, Penzance, Cornwall, in which a car collided with a male pedestrian. The man was

pronounced dead at the scene. Traffic and local units attended and enquiries are continuing. The driver of the car was arrested and is on police bail.

1.26 Police RTC – North Devon

A 48-year-old man has been charged with driving related offences after a collision between a car and a marked police unit on 18 May. The incident occurred at Hartland in North Devon and two police officers sustained minor injuries, although they were not detained in hospital. The man has been bailed to appear at crown court on 13 August.

1.27 Fatal RTC – Umberleigh, Devon

A 36-year-old motorcyclist died after his machine was involved in a head-on collision with a 7.7 tonne HGV on 20 May. He was pronounced dead at the scene on the A377 and enquiries continue pending the outcome of the inquest.

Other

1.28 Illegal rave - Cornwall

Information was received via the Wiltshire control room on 2 May that a rave/free party would be taking place in the Helston/Falmouth area. Units identified the site at Carveth near Falmouth. Twenty to 30 people were present at the site, with more arriving. Officers were able to seize the main generator and a minor disorder followed. There were no arrests and the rave was successfully prevented.

1.29 Explosives offences - Teignmouth

A man has been remanded in custody charged with making explosives, threats to kill and possessing a bladed article, at Teignmouth on 11 May. He is due to appear at Exeter Crown Court on 30 August.

1.30 Diving accident - Cornwall

Officers were called to Castle Beach, Tintagel, on 16 May after the Coastguard reported that a diver was missing. Officers from Bude, Launceston and Camelford attended, as did Coastguard cliff rescue and the local RNLI inshore lifeboat. Divers from the cliff rescue team found the 36-year-old victim dead on the seabed.

1.31 Operation Nordic - Torbay

On 19 May, officers from Torbay executed 15 search warrants and conducted six searches in Torbay. As a result 10 people were arrested. There were four charges of burglary, three of vehicle crime, four for the possession of heroin and one charge for possession of amphetamines.

1.32 Drug seizure - Torbay

Officers executed a search warrant at a house in Torquay on 29 May and recovered cocaine and crack cocaine valued at £36,000. A 38-year-old man has been charged with drug related offences and is currently on police bail pending a court appearance on 22 July.

1.33 Man rescued from the sea - Budleigh Salterton

On the evening of 23 May, police received a 999 call from a man stating he had rescued a man from the sea at Budleigh Salterton. On arrival ambulance and police found an unconscious man lying by the water's edge experiencing breathing difficulties. The man was conveyed to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter, and has since made a full recovery.

The rescuer has been put forward for a Chief Constable's award. The man had been collecting stones from the beach shortly before being found face down unconscious in the water.

1.34 Drowning – Tintagel

HM Coastguard requested police attendance at Tintagel, North Cornwall, on 1 June following a report that a father and young daughter were in difficulty in the sea. Coastguard, the inshore lifeboat and search and rescue helicopters from RAF Chivenor and RNAS Culdrose also attended.

A man and a 12-year-old girl were recovered from the water and conveyed to Treliske Hospital where the man was pronounced dead on arrival. The child was treated for hypothermia.

It would appear that the daughter fell into the sea while playing on rocks. Her father jumped in to rescue her but got into difficulty. He was found floating face down in the water while the daughter was saved by the inshore lifeboat.

The man, Jan Boda, 42, was on holiday from Loughborough with his wife and two children.

1.35 Missing sturgeon - Plymouth

The police were contacted by DEFRA in Plymouth on 3 June in connection with a 10ft, 120kg, sturgeon that had been sold at the new fish market, Coxside, Plymouth, for £660 after having been caught by a trawler.

The sturgeon is a protected species rare to UK waters. Under the Countryside Act, any sturgeons caught must be offered to the Crown. If refused, the fish can be disposed of under licence but cannot be sold for profit. Police attended the fish market to recover the sturgeon under the relevant legislation. The fish was photographed at the market, however, when officers entered a nearby

office to explain their actions, an unknown person using a fork-lift truck removed the fish.

Police have since recovered the fish and it is being held at the National History Museum where it will remain while enquiries continue into the offences committed.

1.36 Pursuit of stolen vehicle

Just before midnight on 2 May, Avon and Somerset Police informed officers that a stolen car was being pursued by its units along the M5 towards Exeter.

The vehicle had been stolen earlier that day from Warwickshire and had been involved in numerous bilking offences.

Devon and Cornwall Police continued the pursuit as the vehicle exited the M5 and travelled on the A30 towards Honiton. A stinger device was used at the village of Monkton and the vehicle was brought to a safe halt.

The four occupants were arrested; the driver was a disqualified driver and one of the occupants was also wanted. There were no injuries. Warwickshire Police is conducting enquiries.

Court successes

1.37 Murder trial – France

Francisco Arce Montes, 54, has been jailed for the murder of Cornish schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson. A French court sentenced him for 30 years, with the possibility of parole after 20.

Caroline, 13, died at a youth hostel in Pleine-Fougeres, Brittany, while on a school trip from Launceston Community College in July 1996. Her father John aims to have a memorial erected outside the hostel where she died. Montes is now appealing against his sentence.

1.38 Man choked girlfriend with dog lead

A Truro man who choked his girlfriend over spilt water has been jailed for five months for assault and breaking his bail conditions.

Paul Jackson, 53, had been bailed after admitting two assaults on Diane Short, once after she spilt water on the floor of their flat and later when he choked her with a dog lead on a day out. He broke the condition not to contact Miss Short two days after it was issued.

Magistrates heard that Jackson was a meticulously clean person while his girlfriend was an artist and rather 'bohemian'. After discovering water had

been left accidentally after a bath, he dragged her through to the bedroom and started strangling her.

Just over a week later the pair went for a walk and Jackson wrapped his dog lead round her neck and held on to the end while his dog pulled on the other.

He breached his bail conditions when he arrived at the couple's flat and found Miss Short's possessions in the hallway and a note telling him she was leaving. He sent a series of text messages including a poem telling her how he felt.

Miss Short said that the physical and mental abuse by Jackson had left her unconfident and often in a confused state.

1.39 Dealer jailed

A drug dealer who tried to hide £1,500 worth of heroin in his mouth to avoid being caught by police has been jailed for five years.

Exeter Crown Court heard how Michael Lowman, 36, put the drugs in his mouth when police pulled over his girlfriend's car on the A376 near Clyst St Mary.

He told the court he swallowed one gram but spat out two wraps during a struggle with officers after he was spotted acting suspiciously.

Lowman, of Sidmouth, denied possessing 26 grams of heroin with intent to supply, claiming the drugs were for his own use. He had been placed on a drug treatment and testing order when he was caught with the heroin.

He said he had bought the drugs in bulk from a dealer in Exeter to last him until he was able to get his next Methadone prescription. He was on his way home when confronted by the police. Lowman was found guilty after a trial at crown court.

1.40 Addict jailed

A man who went on a heroin-fuelled robbery spree in Exeter and Exmouth has been jailed for four years.

Robert Dermody, 22, of Exmouth, pleaded guilty to robbery, attempted robbery and assaulting two police officers with intent to resist arrest. He asked the court to take into consideration two further robberies, an attempted robbery, shoplifting and criminal damage.

Exeter Crown Court heard how Dermody had threatened to stab two men if they did not hand over their wallets. Later the same day he approached two students and demanded money, saying he had a screwdriver.

They ran off into Victoria House and into a classroom but were followed by Dermody who pulled out a screwdriver and made stabbing movements to the pair in front of a shocked lecturer and other students. Police arrested him at a nearby bar.

1.41 Bogus builder sentenced

A callous con-artist who duped a 94-year-old woman out of more than £1,000 has been jailed for three-and-a-half years.

Leslie Brien, of Buckfastleigh, targeted two elderly Plymouth women between July 2002 and January 2003. His first victim, Evelyn Jones, then 92, suffers from age-related memory loss. Brien called at her home asking if she wanted her guttering cleaned. He then told her that it was in such a bad state of repair that it needed replacing along with other work.

She paid him £50 but he kept returning to her home for more, eventually conning her out of more than £1,000. She has since been forced into residential care home, too frightened and confused to live alone.

Brien had previous convictions for duping the elderly dating back to 1999 when he had served 18 months.

1.42 Three years for drug supply pair

Two men were each jailed for three years by Truro Crown Court after being caught during a police undercover drug operation.

Clifford White, 52, of Falmouth, pleaded guilty to four charges of being concerned in the supply of heroin and John Paul McGurk, 35, also of Falmouth, to four charges of supplying the drug.

The court heard that McGurk, who had convictions for previous drug offences, was caught after being approached by the undercover officers in Falmouth last summer. He had since referred himself to the Cornwall community drugs team and was making positive progress. White had also distanced himself from dealing on the streets, the court heard.

2 OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

2.1 Chief Constable celebrates second anniversary

This month Chief Constable Maria Wallis celebrates her second successful year in charge of Devon & Cornwall Constabulary.

Since taking up post, Mrs Wallis has overseen the rollout of Neighbourhood Policing, with 350 neighbourhood beat managers now in place across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

The Police Authority has appointed two more senior officers to strengthen the Command Team. Assistant Chief Constable Tony Melville heads up Territorial Policing and Assistant Chief Constable Caroline Winter is in charge of Operations Support.

The Force fared well in a report called the Baseline Assessment, which was undertaken by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary where two areas of the Force were classed as 'excellent' and several as 'good'.

The Force's resources were tested at the end of 2003 through an unprecedented number of major incidents, but we were able to handle several major inquiries and fully maintain our commitment to the delivery of local policing.

2.2 Baseline Assessment

Devon & Cornwall Constabulary came out extremely well in a report released by HMIC. The review showed that the Force was 'excellent' in crime and disorder partnerships and professional standards. Hate crime, critical incidents and public reassurance were some of the areas classed as 'good' and there were no areas of poor performance.

Areas classed as fair included forensic management, road policing and call handling. Forensic management was acknowledged as "actively exploring ways to improve", road policing was "on target to reduce casualties by 2010" and call handling showed "an impressive turnaround in performance."

2.3 Marathon effort from staff

A number of police officers and staff took up the challenge of this year's London Marathon and raised thousands of pounds for a variety of charities.

Constable Ian Strawbridge from Launceston Traffic Unit completed the 26-mile course in three hours and 57 minutes and collected an impressive £3,000 for Children's Hospice South West.

A further £1,056 was raised for the Wooden Spoon Society by Don Pearson (Operations Training Unit). He crossed the finish line in three hours and 13 minutes, and earned the finishing position of 2,251.

Marathon veteran Ian Ceeley collected £150 for Muscular Dystrophy and passed the finishing post in three hours and 26 minutes. Ian, who works in the Word Processing Department of the Criminal Justice Unit at Heavitree Road police station, has run the London Marathon three times before, as well as its equivalent in Paris and Cardiff.

Lisa Fellows, Force Planning Officer, and Sarah Rolinson, Force Marketing Officer, undertook the challenge for the first time and collected £2,900 for the Crimestoppers Trust. The pair, both based at Middlemoor headquarters, finished the marathon together after running for five hours and 43 minutes.

Marcia Burnard, from the Central Ticket Unit at Crownhill police station in Plymouth, also took part and raised £640 for Cancer Research UK.

2.4 Officers in blue turn green

Police in Exeter are testing out a new energy-efficient electric car in a bid to become more environmentally friendly. The car is being given a trial run as part of the fleet at Middlemoor headquarters and will be seen around the city over the coming weeks.

The Honda Civic IMA is a hybrid vehicle enabling it to use both petrol and electricity. It boasts extremely low CO² emissions and can achieve approximately 60 miles to the gallon.

2.5 Plymouth car crime clampdown

Motorists can now have their in-car audio systems security marked in Plymouth as part of an ongoing clampdown on car crime in the city.

Crime reduction officers have teamed up with city retailer Westcom to provide the free service. Motorists in the city can have a wide range of items marked with their postcode, making equipment easier to trace and return if it is stolen.

2.6 Sun to set on seaside crime

Officers and local partners have set up Torbay Beach Watch, an initiative to combat the problem of beach hut crime and antisocial behaviour in the area.

There are more than 800 beach huts in Torbay, some of which have suffered criminal damage, burglary and arson.

Torquay Crime Reduction Department decided on a co-ordinated approach to tackle the problem, working in close partnership with Torbay Council and local beat managers.

Officers have stepped up patrols and covert operations, including the use of CCTV cameras. A letter offering crime prevention advice has been sent to all beach hut owners and users to help reduce the likelihood of crime.

2.7 Isles of Scilly vehicle checks

Traffic officers from Camborne worked in partnership with the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency to conduct vehicle checks on the Isles of Scilly.

During the operation, 63 vehicles were examined for a variety of faults, from lights to structural damage. Of those checked, 30 motorists were issued with prohibition notices and 24 vehicles were immediately withdrawn from the road.

Police officers and VOSA officials were shocked at the dangerous state of some of the vehicles. Following the checks it was apparent that even basic maintenance was not being carried out. As a result, the issues surrounding vehicle licensing and MOTs will be reviewed.

2.8 New chapter in community policing

Police in Exmouth are using a novel way to interact with the public - by joining forces with the Devon County Library Service to offer information surgeries in rural areas of East Devon.

Police community support officers and traffic wardens from Exmouth are accompanying the weekly mobile library service on its route from East Budleigh to Woodbury in a police car.

The scheme enables people from rural communities to speak directly to police about the issues that affect them, everything from traffic and community matters to reporting incidents and discussing crime prevention.

2.9 Clamping down on card cloning

Officers from Plymouth CID have been working with the media to raise public awareness of the dangers of card cloning at cashpoints.

Thefts involve placing a card reader over the usual card slot at ATMs, while a tiny pinhole camera records the PIN number as the unsuspecting customer makes a withdrawal. It is then relatively easy for thieves to produce a fake card and make their own withdrawals.

Since the beginning of the year, officers across the Force have noticed an increasing number of card-cloning offences, in line with similar trends around the UK.

The publicity campaign in Plymouth is aimed at highlighting this method of theft, showing the public the signs to watch out for and what they should do if they suspect an ATM machine has been tampered with.

2.10 Keeping crime at bay

The Force is distributing more than 100,000 crime prevention leaflets encouraging visitors to the area to stay safe.

The leaflets, offering simple crime prevention advice, are being circulated to hotels, bed and breakfasts, self-catering accommodation, campsites and caravan sites across Devon and Cornwall. Officers are encouraging holidaymakers to take the time to read the leaflet to ensure they stay safe and don't let thieves spoil their holiday.

2.11 Think Safe, Drink Safe, Be Safe

Neighbourhood beat managers in Torbay are running an awareness raising campaign about the dangers of drink spiking.

Posters featuring a picture of an explosive mine floating in an alcoholic drink are being given prominence in pubs and clubs across Paignton, Torquay and Brixham.

The 'Think Safe, Drink Safe, Be Safe' campaign aims to educate people about leaving their drinks unattended, particularly the danger of date rape.

2.12 Racers face losing their vehicles

Penzance officers are putting their foot down on racers in the town centre by threatening to seize their cars.

It follows complaints from residents about such motorists speeding, playing loud music, mounting kerbs in their vehicles, over-revving their engines and making reckless manoeuvres such as handbrake turns.

Under the Police Reform Act 2002, officers can now confiscate vehicles on the spot and the owners have to apply to the courts to retrieve their cars.

Penwith Council is helping police by providing the use of its car pound.

2.13 New auction site for property

The Force has launched a new Ebay-style Internet auction site to sell unclaimed property.

Bumblebee Auctions has seen lots of interest since its launch on the Force website, raising £19,000 from the sale of items including jewellery, power tools and bikes.

The online auction was developed with other police forces to increase public accessibility and efficiently dispose of unclaimed property, while generating funds to help cut crime.

Any money raised through Bumblebee is returned to the area from where the item originated and reallocated to that area's budget and invested in new initiatives.

2.14 Police make their mark

Officers have successfully targeted rural homes and businesses in the Honiton area in a property marking initiative.

Police Community Support Officers and beat managers held marking sessions at 10 villages and visited farms and rural properties on request.

They marked postcodes on more than 400 items of property including chainsaws, quad bikes and power tools with a combined value of more than £175,000.

Storage buildings were also tagged with a red and yellow band, warning potential thieves that the property inside is identifiable.

2.15 Football success story

Five youngsters from Honiton experienced the magic of Brazilian football thanks to police community support officers in Honiton.

The PCSOs have been running weekly football sessions in the town and around 70 children now attend.

Four girls and one boy were invited to show off their skills before the crowd gathered at St James' Park to watch a team of Brazilian footballers playing Exeter City as part of its centenary celebrations.

2.16 Mobile phone check

Police in Plymouth joined forces with the city council to check for drivers flouting the new mobile phone law.

Staff from the city council used CCTV cameras to count the number of drivers using mobile phones while driving. Plymouth traffic officers enforced the legislation by stopping drivers and imposing £30 fines.

A total of 153 fixed penalty tickets have been issued Force-wide since the mobile phone legislation was introduced six months ago. Of these, 29 were in Plymouth.

2.17 Classes for younger children

Neighbourhood beat managers in Hayle, Cornwall have extended their work to include all primary school children in the area.

Younger children have the opportunity to learn about the role of a police officer, while seven to eight-year-olds can take part in anti-bullying workshops. Older children will find out about crime prevention and other ways of staying safe.

2.18 Helping to cut biker deaths

A display trailer has been funded by the Safety Camera Partnership to raise awareness of the vulnerability of motorcyclists on the region's roads.

The trailer is available for use by all of the partnership members and has been equipped with advice on motorcycle safety for riders and drivers of all vehicles.

It includes a video of a motorcyclist who recorded himself riding dangerously as well as a motorcycle involved in a fatal road traffic collision.

The initiative is designed to raise awareness of the vulnerability of motorcyclists; last year 20 motorcyclists were killed on the roads of Devon and Cornwall.

By working together with our partners, motorcyclists and other representative groups we hope to see a significant reduction in the number of motorcyclists killed and seriously injured on our roads.

2.19 Special delivery at Ground Zero

Exmouth Special Constable John Johnston visited New York to pay tribute to police officers that died in the September 11th tragedy.

A plaque, given to Mr Johnston by Chief Constable Maria Wallis, was handed over to representatives from the New York Police Department and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey on the nation's Memorial Day.

NYPD officers escorted SC Johnston into Ground Zero – an area not open to the public. Here he visited a temporary memorial wall to place the plaque alongside hundreds of others from around the world.

2.20 Clampdown on Torbay troublemakers

Police have launched a major operation to curb unruly behaviour around Torquay Harbour during summer weekend evenings.

Operation Flambé runs until the end of August and sees an extra sergeant and three PCs to complement existing units in the area. The aim is to send a message to troublemakers that antisocial behaviour will not be tolerated.

The extra officers remain within the vicinity to immediately deal with any situations before they become violent.

2.21 No escape for football hooligans

The Force made preparations to deal with any football hooligans who tried to reach the Euro 2004 tournament in Portugal through local ports and airports.

The Force engaged with some of its partner agencies to gather intelligence on those who may have tried to disrupt the tournament. At least 20 banning orders have been ordered in the region in the past few months.

The first operation to prevent banned people travelling to the matches took place at Plymouth Ferry Port on 6 June when the tournament began. One of the Force's main priorities is to deal effectively with any violent offence, including football-related criminality, be it through violence or racism.

2.22 Summer jams to be tackled

A new traffic warden is patrolling the streets of mid Cornwall in a bid to tackle congestion over the summer.

Police introduced the traffic warden in response to concerns voiced by local people about confusing seasonal parking restrictions.

Perranporth councillors have welcomed the appointment because the roads usually become gridlocked during the summer months.

3 AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

3.1 Sergeant Ian Marshall, stationed at Newquay, has been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Bravery. On 16 July he rescued a woman from a fire in Newquay, risking his own life in the process. He received the award in recognition of his actions above and beyond the call of duty.

3.2 The Trafford Trophy was awarded to Constable Sean Beer stationed at Charles Cross in Plymouth. The award is voted for by probationer constables during the later part of their training course and is given to the constable who has made the best overall effort in exams, appearance in uniform and course dynamics.

3.3 A Torpoint man who was stabbed while restraining an armed burglar has been awarded the Provincial Police award of a Silver Medal for Bravery.

The Force nominated Christopher Ferrier, a Royal Navy Petty Officer, for the national award. The offender received a two-year community rehabilitation order.

3.4 The North and East Devon Basic Command Unit award ceremony was held at the Barnstaple Hotel in Barnstaple.

Chief Constable Maria Wallis presented commendations to Motor Patrol Constable Andrew Woodward, Exeter, and Special Constable Shane Gloyn, Exeter.

The following officers were presented with commendations and certificates: Motor Patrol Constable Robert Charleston, Camborne; Motor Patrol Constable Ian Hutchings, Exeter; Sergeant Michael Rose, Exeter; Detective Constable David Kennedy, Exeter; Sergeant Peter Sarney, Barnstaple; Constable Alison Pearce, Barnstaple; Constable Philip Gray, Barnstaple; Inspector Nevin Hunter, Tiverton; Constable Joanne Cawse, Exmouth; Constable Guy Somerfield, Exmouth; Constable Timothy Cramp, Bideford; Constable Charles Morris, Bideford; Mr John Rhodes, Exeter; Gemma Auger, Tiverton; Catherine Adcock, Exeter.

Royal Humane Society Awards were given to Constable Andrew Moakes, Barnstaple; Mr Michael Berridge, Barnstaple; Constable Terry Hodgson, Barnstaple.

3.5 At the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly BCU award ceremony, Chief Superintendent Dave Ellis presented Commander's Commendations to Special Constable Michael Puckey, Bodmin; Special Constable Alan Gill, Bodmin; Constable Richard Haycock, Penzance.

Commander's Certificates were awarded to Constable Nigel Guard, Penzance; Constable Steven Rowe, Penzance; Detective Sergeant Ian Pengelly, Truro; Detective Constable Magnus Scott, Camborne; Constable Graeme Hembrough, Penzance; Detective Constable David Apps, Newquay; Constable

Roger Brierly, Camborne; Constable Lisa Kevern, Falmouth; Constable Martin Hearn, Camborne; Constable Nadine Wilson, Camborne; Constable Ian Tolchard, Camborne; Detective Sergeant Andrew Burdon, Saltash; Heathcliffe Jenkinson, Penzance; Matthew Wingrave, St Austell; Gemma Wood, St Austell; Sarah Pedley, St Austell; Amber Moone, St Austell; Conrad Lobb, St Austell; Stephen Lusty, Newquay.

A Royal Humane Society Award was presented to Stephen Pascoe, Helston, while Special Constabulary Awards went to Special Constable Helen Goodgroves, Bude, and Special Constable Lynn Crockford, Camelford.

3.6 Chief Constable Maria Wallis presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to police officers and police staff with more than 22 years of service.

Awards were presented during a ceremony at Middlemoor headquarters to Inspector Steve Bickley, Plymouth; Inspector Aiden Hyland, Middlemoor; Special Constable Reg Roberts-Knowles, Camborne; Chief Inspector Peter Pascoe, Middlemoor; Constable Chris Pate, Exeter; Constable Deborah Richards, Middlemoor; Special Constable Michael Warren, Saltash; Constable David Woodland, Okehampton.

4 SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES - UPDATE

CRIME

- 4.1** During the year to date the Force has recorded a 4.6% increase in crime. However, the figure includes a 20.2% reduction in burglary and a 20.3% reduction in vehicle crime.
- 4.2** The Force will be concentrating on alcohol related violence during the summer months. Violent crime levels have increased by 32.4% in the last year. A proportion of this is as a result of the Force's strategy of increasing the reporting of domestic violence incidents.
- 4.3** The Force has detected 25.6% of recorded crime. This puts Devon and Cornwall in the top quartile of Forces nationally. Detection rates for the three key areas of burglary, vehicle crime and violent crime are 12.1%, 8.8% and 44.5% respectively. Devon and Cornwall remain among the safest places to live in England and Wales, with one of the lowest rates of crime per 1,000 population nationally.

ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

- 4.4** The Force is committed to reducing the number of casualties and fatalities on our roads and this is demonstrated by the latest figures. At Force level there were 117 casualties in the period April 2004 to May 2004. This is down 24.0% on April to May 2003. Current performance exceeds the 3% reduction target, and continues the reducing trend in casualties from last year (a 23.9% reduction in 2003/4).
- 4.5** Casualty levels are at the lowest level for at least four years. The Force is on target for the 10-year ACPO target reduction of 40%.

RISE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD BEAT MANAGERS

- 4.6** The focus on implementation of Neighbourhood Policing has prevailed despite the intense operational pressures of recent months. In some parts of the Force, beat managers are becoming household names. As of 28 June 2004 there were 340 neighbourhood beat managers in post. These are located as follows: North and East Devon, 117; Cornwall, 95; Plymouth, 39; South & West Devon, 89.
- 4.7** BCU Business Plans for 2004/5 clearly demonstrate a desire to continue increasing the number of officers allocated to neighbourhood beats. Activity continues to improve the accessibility and visibility of beat managers. Local communities are being made aware of who their beat manager is and how to contact them.

PERSONNEL

- 4.8** Police officer strength (as of May 2004) stands at 3,319 officers. This is an increase of nine officers on March 2004 and is on target for the year-end level of 3,379 by March 2005.

CALL HANDLING PERFORMANCE

- 4.9** Improving call handling continues to be a priority for the Force. A total of 91.5% of 999 calls was answered within 10 seconds, which is above the required year-end target. In total 42,912 emergency 999 calls were received between April 2004 and May 2004, a decrease of 6.1% on the 40,427 calls received in the period April to May 2003. An expected increase in the demand over the coming months will see a rise in both the number of emergency and non-emergency calls.

- 4.10** A total of 90.4% of non-emergency calls were answered within 30 seconds. This figure betters the required year-end target. In total, 168,154 non-emergency calls have been received in April to May 2004, compared to 169,380 non-emergency calls in the period April to May 2003.

RECOVERY OF ASSETS

- 4.11** The full amount of realisable assets recorded as taken from defendants between 1 April and 8 June 2004 totalled £839,850.03. The breakdown is: £797,175.03 confiscated under Section 2 of the Drug Trafficking Act 1994; £42,500 confiscated under Section 71 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, as amended; £175.00 forfeiture order under Section 27 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.