

1. MAJOR INCIDENTS AND POLICING DIARY

MURDER / ATTEMPTED MURDER

1.1 Operation Lorimar - Penzance

ON Sunday 13 June, police attended the home of 87-year-old George Jenkin in Laregan Hill, Penzance, after reports of a fire. Following a search of the property the body of Mr Jenkin was discovered inside. The cause of the fire was confirmed as suspicious and further damage was discovered to Mr Jenkin's car which was parked on the driveway.

As a result of the investigation, two men were arrested and have now been charged with murder.

They are due to appear at Truro Crown Court on 26 October for a plea and direction hearing.

1.2 Operation Tungsden – Falmouth

An investigation was launched after the body of 56-year-old Peter Solheim was recovered from the sea close to Black Head, near Falmouth, on 18 June. His body was taken to Treliske Hospital where he was found to have sustained a number of injuries. One person has been arrested and is currently on bail.

The Portsmouth based minesweeper, HMS Walney, is assisting the investigation by conducting searches of the sea bed.

1.3 Operation Iras - Torquay

On 30 July, police responded to reports of a fight in Avenue Road, Torquay, in which a man sustained fatal knife wounds. Benjamin Crews, 21, died from his injuries in Torbay Hospital.

A 17-year-old male has been charged with murder and is currently in custody awaiting trial at Exeter Crown Court.

1.4 Operation Nestor – Torquay

A 21-year-old man who attacked two police officers with a knife has been charged with attempted murder. The attack occurred on 9 August when the officers attended a residential address in Torquay following reports of a domestic incident. One of the officers, who received wounds to his neck, was taken to Torbay Hospital. The offender was arrested and also conveyed to Torbay Hospital before being taken into custody at Torquay. He was charged with attempted murder and detained in custody.

A plea and directional hearing will take place in Exeter Crown Court in October.

1.5 Death of 13-year-old male - Exeter

Two people have been arrested following the suspicious death of a 13-year-old boy in Exeter.

Matthew Girvin was taken to a doctor's surgery on 10 September. His condition was found to be so serious that an ambulance was called to take him to Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival. The man and woman who had taken Matthew to the surgery were questioned by police and subsequently arrested. They have both been bailed to appear at Heavitree Police Station, Exeter, on 10 November.

A forensic post-mortem has been carried out and the results of the toxicology test are awaited to discover the cause of death.

1.6 Operation Milan - Plymouth

Police were called to an address in the Stonehouse area of Plymouth in the early hours of 20 September, where an ambulance crew was treating a man for serious knife wounds to his neck. The victim, 26-year-old Fernando Lopez, died later the same day at Derriford Hospital.

A murder enquiry involving 50 police officers and staff has led to the arrest of two men in Manchester and Plymouth.

Both men have been released on bail while enquires continue.

SUICIDE

1.7 Attempt suicide - Totnes

Police in Totnes attended Steamer Quay on 22 June after reports of an attempted suicide by an elderly local female who had jumped in the water. She was held afloat by a member of the public prior to the arrival of police officers, one of who entered the water and removed her to safety. The officers and a coastguard crew began resuscitation of the woman prior to arrival the of ambulance crews. She died a few days later in hospital. A suicide note was found at her home address.

1.8 Deaths from viaduct bridge- Redruth

Two people died when they jumped from a railway viaduct bridge in Redruth on 26 August.

The incidents occurred at different times of the day but in close proximity. Enquiries indicated that the deceased – a 48-year-old local man and a young female – were or had been patients of a local hospital.

VIOLENCE

1.9 Armed incident - Cullompton

On 19 July police were called to an address in Cullompton where a domestic incident was taking place. On arrival at the address, a female jumped from a ground floor window to escape from the premises. Police officers were then

confronted by a male brandishing two knives who made threats of violence before re-entering into the house. The scene was contained and authorised ARVS assisted with baton gun support. Negotiators persuaded the male to leave the premise and he was arrested. He was taken to hospital under police escort due to a suspected overdose of prescribed medication. The man has been arrested on suspicion of making threats to kill and remains on remand in HMP Exeter.

1.10 Serious assault - Exeter

On the 2 July, a male was found unconscious in Fore Street, Exeter. He had received a serious head injury following a disturbance in the street and was taken to Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital. He had a fractured skull and a bleed to the brain.

Two men, Jeremy Gliddon and Andrew Powlesland, were arrested and charged with grievous bodily harm. They await trial at Exeter Crown Court.

1.11 Rape suspects arrested - Torquay

Officers investigating reports that a 15-year-old girl had been raped in Torquay during June arrested two local men on suspicion of two separate sexual offences against the victim. An advice file has been submitted and a decision is awaited.

1.12 ARV deployment - Honiton

On 25 July police were called to an address in Honiton where a woman had been stabbed in the shoulder suffering life-threatening injuries. The alleged offender was traced to a nearby house where, following an assessment, an authorised Armed Response Vehicle containment was put in place.

At approximately 10.45pm, a 35-year-old woman emerged from the house and was arrested peacefully. She was charged with Section 18 grievous bodily harm and is on bail pending a court case. The aggrieved suffered serious damage to her arm.

1.13 Wounding - Plymouth

On Friday 30 July, police were called to an incident at North Road East, Mutley, Plymouth, where a 26-year-old man was found to have sustained serious wounds to his face, neck and chest from a bladed weapon.

Five males were originally arrested, including the victim as it was believed he may have been involved in an attack on one of the offenders who also received injuries during the incident. He was subsequently released without charge. The remaining four males have been charged with Section 18 Wounding. They were remanded in custody and are now in HMP Exeter awaiting trial.

The victim has made a full recovery, although he has substantial scarring. His injuries included 16-inch knife slash down the left side of his body, a 9 inch slash to his back and a 6 inch slash to the side of his neck, just missing his jugular.

A plea and direction hearing will take place at Plymouth Crown Court on 29 October.

1.14 Armed incident - Ilfracombe

On Thursday 5 August police were called to an incident at a house in the Ilfracombe. The first officer at the scene found that a 35-year-old male had made a barricade in one of the rooms and was threatening his partner with an air rifle. Due to the risk to the woman the officer breached the barricade and disarmed the male. The offender then began making threats with a carving knife. The officer used CS on the man and was able to restrain him until colleagues arrived to assist in his arrest.

The male has been charged with a total of six offences including two under the Firearms Act. He is currently being held on remand with a plea and direction hearing scheduled for 22 October.

1.15 Knife incident - Plymouth

Police in Plymouth continue to investigate a fight that occurred on the evening of 13 August between two groups of males. The fight, in the Harwell Street area of the city, involved a group of Iraqi Kurds and a group of Iraqis, with knives and weights used as weapons.

Two men were stabbed causing serious injuries. A total of six people were arrested and detained at Charles Cross police station. Three were taken to Derriford hospital for treatment to wounds.

Those arrested are currently on police bail and are due to return to the station in October.

1.16 Assault - Plymouth

An assault occurred in Plymouth City centre just before 11.30pm on Wednesday 18 August. The aggrieved, who has hearing and speech impairments, sustained a three-inch open knife wound to his throat.

Following a second report of a male acting suspiciously in possession of a knife, officers located and arrested the suspect who was found in possession of two knives. He was remanded in custody charged with wounding and grievous bodily harm with intent. The results of psychiatric reports and forensic submissions are awaited.

1.17 Stabbing incident - Truro

On Monday 23 August police received a 999 call from an address in Truro reporting a disturbance. At the address police found a man with serious head wounds. He had been stabbed a number of times and sustained wounds to his head and body. The man was detained at hospital and subsequently discharged himself the next day. His partner, a 35-year-old woman, was charged with Section 20 wounding and was released on police bail due to return in November.

1.18 Grievous Bodily Harm on two-year-old girl

A 17-year-old male has been charged with Section 18 grievous bodily harm and cruelty to the two-year-old daughter of his girlfriend after she was admitted to Derriford Hospital on 24 August, with a number of injuries including broken ribs. He was remanded in custody and, following subsequent appearances at Plymouth Youth Court, was granted conditional bail.

1.19 Sexual assault – Exeter

A 17-year-old girl was sexually assaulted by two men on Heavitree Road, Exeter, when she was walking home from a shopping trip in the city on the morning of 17 September. One man allegedly assaulted her whilst the other ordered her into his car. She managed to leave the scene on foot and ran to her grandmother's house. Enquiries continue to trace the two men.

1.20 Sexual assault - Paignton

On Monday 20 September, police attended an address in Paignton following a report that a woman had found herself in a public place with no recollection of how she got there. Enquires identified a location where an alleged sexual assault had taken place. A man was arrested and enquires continue.

ASSAULT ON POLICE

1.21 Injury on duty - Penzance

Three officers were injured whilst arresting a man on suspicion of theft from a motor vehicle.

The incident occurred on a garage forecourt in Penzance on 24 August. During the arrest, one officer received cuts, scratches and was struck on the head, a second received ligament damage to the knee and a third was bruised on both arms. All three officers are now back at work.

1.22 Assault on police - St Austell

On Wednesday 1 September police attended a report of a disorderly customer at St Austell football club social club. Two males, both under the influence of alcohol, followed police advice and left the premise. It is alleged that while in the car park both men became aggressive, damaging a police car and assaulting two officers, including biting one on the hand. He was arrested for criminal damage. At the custody centre, the same male allegedly spat blood in the face of a third officer.

Two of the officers were treated at local hospitals but not detained. Tests are to be conducted to check if the blood spat at the third officer contained communicable diseases. The male was subsequently arrested for grievous bodily harm with intent and assault on police and is currently on bail pending a hearing in court. The second man is also bailed to appear in court having been arrested for drunk and disorderly behaviour.

FIREARMS

1.23 Seizure of prohibited weapons

At midday on 6 July, DC Dixon and DC Sargeant carried out a stop check on a male who was acting suspiciously near a car parked in Plymouth City centre. A search revealed he was in possession of five canisters of CS spray, an extendible baton and £680 in cash. Following the male's arrest, a search of his home address was carried out by the Plymouth tactical policing team who discovered two tazer stun guns, a further 17 canisters of CS spray and a small amount of cannabis. The items appear to have been imported from Amsterdam.

At Plymouth Crown Court on 8 July, the man, Andrew McFarlane, was sentenced for two years for the possession of 22 canisters of French Police CS gas, two electronic tazer stun guns and a police style baton. He had previously served 10 years for armed robbery in Kent.

1.24 Firearms warrant - Okehampton

During the afternoon of 17 August a firearms search warrant was executed at a residential address in Okehampton. Two people were arrested and a large number of firearms with associated ammunition were seized. One man was charged with Section 1 firearms offences to appear in court in October.

1.25 Firearms incident - Tiverton

On Tuesday, 31 August, a man contacted police in Tiverton police claiming to have taken an overdose and to be in possession of a shotgun. ARVS were authorised and undertook an armed containment of the property. A firearms unit was also deployed. Police negotiators persuaded the man to leave the address and he was conveyed to hospital for treatment. He was discharged into police custody after medical staff were satisfied there were no mental health issues. The male was detained for making threats to kill.

During a subsequent search of his property, an air weapon was found. No other firearms were located. Following advice from the CPS that there was no evidence to prosecute, his bail was cancelled and no further action was taken.

1.26 Firearm warrant - Plymouth

A firearms warrant was executed at an address in the Whiteleigh area of Plymouth on 2 September. This followed a report from social services that a disabled male under local authority care had shown his carer a firearm, stating he intended to commit suicide. There were no threats made against other persons. The warrant was executed with ARVS providing close-armed support. An air pistol, a starting pistol, blank ammunition and air weapon pellets were recovered. The male was not arrested and remains in the care of social services.

ROBBERY

1.27 Attempted robbery - Kennford Services A38

At 10.48pm on Sunday 11 July, an attempted robbery occurred at Kennford services on the A38. A male wearing a balaclava and carrying a crow bar tried to attack a member of staff as they left the service station having closed and locked up for the night. The member of staff managed to get into their vehicle and lock the doors preventing the attack. The offender made off in a black Vauxhall Astra towards Exeter. A man has been arrested on suspicion of attended robbery and is currently on bail.

1.28 Knife robberies - Teignmouth.

Late afternoon on Saturday 10 July 2004, the armed robbery of a handbag and the attempted robbery of a shop occurred within a 10-minute period in Teignmouth town centre.

During both offences, a male threatened the victims with a knife.. A local man was arrested and interviewed but denied any involvement or knowledge of the incident. Upon answering bail in August he further denied charges. The property involved in the robbery has been recovered has been sent for forensic examination with results expected in November.

ARSON

1.29 Fire - Redruth.

On 18 July a fire was reported in the garage of a residential premises in Redruth. The fire was brought under control but due to the presence of gas cylinders several properties nearby were evacuated. Damage valued at £2000 was caused to the garage and its contents. No evidence has been found to trace those responsible for the cause of the fire.

DRUGS

1.30 Drug seizure -Plymouth

As a result of the execution of a misuse of drugs warrant on Friday 13 August, heroin, amphetamine and cannabis with a total value of just under £17,000 was seized from a house in Devonport, Plymouth. A male was arrested and charged with offences of possession with intent to supply and has been held on remand. Following appearances by video link at Plymouth magistrates' court he has again been remanded in custody until a hearing at the Crown Court in October.

1.31 Drugs warrant - Exeter

During the early hours of Wednesday 25 August a drugs warrant was executed at an address in Exeter with the assistance of ARV officers. A local man has been arrested on suspicion of possession of Class A drugs. During the search

of the premises two imitation firearms were also seized. The man was charged with the possession of amphetamine and was released on bail. He is currently awaiting trial at magistrates' court.

No charges were brought for the imitation firearms.

1.32 Operation Nightingale - Drug Seizure

As part of Operation Nightingale, a warrant was executed under the misuse of drugs act on the 26 August at a guesthouse in Torquay. The search of a room rented out to two men from Liverpool located heroin and crack cocaine with an estimated street value in of £12,000. Both men were arrested at the scene and are currently on remand awaiting trial.

ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

1.33 Fatal RTCs

There were been 22 fatal RTCS in Devon and Cornwall between June and October, resulting in the deaths of 22 people.

Twelve of those killed were riders or passengers on motorcycles and three were pedestrians. These included a six-year old boy who died after being hit by a car which was forced off the road and into the car park of an activity centre in Cullumpton.

Serious RTCs

Police attended seven serious RTCs in Devon and Cornwall between June and October, with 13 people requiring hospital treatment for their injuries.

These included two men who had to be cut from a car after stealing the vehicle from Newton Abbot and a 16-year-old male who drove a car into a lamp post after refusing to stop for officers in Honiton.

1.34 Car off cliff - Sidmouth

On Sunday 19 September, a fisherman witnessed a white Honda saloon plunge from the cliff at Jacobs Ladder, Sidmouth and land on the pebble beach. The sole occupant, James Richmond, 23, from Honiton, was pronounced dead at the scene. The incident is not being treated as suspicious.

OTHER

1.35 Operation Portia – Boscastle

A major rescue operation was launched when severe flooding hit the Cornish village of Boscastle on 16 August.

Properties were flooded and destroyed when a 10ft wall of water swept through the village in the middle of the afternoon, washing cars into Boscastle Harbour.

Emergency services attended the scene in a co-ordinated response, involving Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, HM Coastguard, Cornwall County Fire Brigade, Devon Fire and Rescue Service, Cornwall County Council, North Cornwall District Council, the Westcountry Ambulance service Trust, the Military, South West Water and the Environment Agency. The Highways Agency, the Cornwall Rescue Group and the WRVS also provided assistance. Reports of motorists being trapped in their vehicles prompted a search and rescue operation by the coastguard helicopter and lifeboat, while three search and rescue helicopters from the Royal Navy and two from the RAF, assisted in the evacuation of 80 residents and visitors trapped by the rising water. There was not a single fatality or report of serious injury despite the enormity of the disaster.

Chief Constable Maria Wallis visited the area and saw first hand the outstanding job that was done both on site and at the Command Centres.

Less than 48-hours after the floods, Prince Charles, visited the village and was shown round by the village postman and the police, who had organised a first-class search and rescue operation in the aftermath of the disaster. Police Sergeant Mike Rose, head of the search team, and the Chief Constable retraced the events of 16 August with the Prince, who expressed disbelief at the scene.

The Prince said that a huge debt of gratitude was owed to the police, the fire brigade, the RAF search-and-rescue crews and all the other emergency services and civilians who responded to the calamity with such speed and bravery. One of these brave civilians, local chef Scott Roberts, single-handedly pulled nine people to safety from the water.

The Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, visited Boscastle the day after the flooding.

Chief Superintendent Dave Ellis, commander of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly BCU commented that it was an incredible team effort by all agencies.

Hazel Blears, the Minister of State for Crime Reduction, Policing and Community Safety, praised the operation after received a briefing from Chief Constable Maria Wallis when she visited the Force in September.

1.36 Fatal incident - Mylor Harbour

On Sunday 13 June a boat was being removed from the sea by trailer on a slipway at Mylor harbour, near Falmouth. It appears that the dolly wheel of the trailer struck the ground at the top of the slipway causing the boat and the trailer to travel down the slipway and collide with members of the public who were sat on the walled side of the slipway. As a result, a five-year-old boy was carried over the wall by the boat and crushed to death on the rocks below. The boy's brother received minor facial injuries. The parents of the boys were present at the time of this incident. The harbour master and Health and Safety Executive investigated the collision but there was no offences identified.

1.37 Siege situation - Plymouth

On Sunday 20 June police received a call from a 40-year-old man in the Stonehouse area of Plymouth, who said he was intending to take his own life. Police negotiators and officers in protective clothing were used to assist in

containing the incident and the man eventually came out of the premises of his own will and was taken to Derriford hospital for a check up. No injuries were sustained to the man or any police officers.

1.38 Samurai sword incident - Falmouth

On 19 June police were called to Arwenack Street, Falmouth, to a report of a man in the street threatening members of the public with a samurai sword. A local man was subsequently arrested on suspicion of making threats to kill. During a search of his premises four martial art swords and a locking knife were recovered. There were no injuries and no damage to any property or persons.

1.39 Body found at sea - Plymouth

On Monday 21 June a registered fishing vessel from Looe located the body of a diver in water off Plymouth. The Plymouth lifeboat and police attended the scene and the body was recovered to Plymouth. Enquiries are continuing to identify the deceased.

1.40 Drowning – four-year-old boy - Pendeen

On the morning of 27 June, four-year-old Ryan Pitney from Plymouth was swept off rocks into the sea at Portheras Cove, near Pendeen, Cornwall. He was in the area with his family and a group of friends. He was airlifted to Treiske hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival.

1.41 Aircraft crash - Honiton

On Sunday 27 June police received reports of an aircraft crash at Beacon, near Honiton, Devon. A Cessna 206 single engine light aircraft had crashed landed in a field after taking off from Dunkerswell airport with five parachutists aboard.

Three people were found to be dead at the scene. Three casualties were conveyed by air to the Royal Devon and Exeter hospital where one later died. The engine has been sent to the United States for investigation and the Air Accident Investigation Bureau are awaiting the results before they complete their report.

1.42 Vulnerable missing person search

On the afternoon of Wednesday 30 June, a 72-year-old female was reported missing in a rural location near to Holsworthy. Police attended and following an initial assessment, a combined search team, encompassing the Exmoor and Dartmoor rescue groups, attended along with the police helicopter and search dogs. As a result of an extensive search the missing person was located in the evening, trapped in boggy ground, dazed and confused. The woman received treatment by the ambulance service for minor scratches and shock.

1.43 Fatal fall - A30 viaduct - Redruth

On the evening of Monday 5 July the police received a report of a man leaning over the edge of the viaduct on the A30, Eastbound carriageway, to the west of the Avers interchanges. Units attending initially took steps to close the A30 carriageway and road below to traffic. Soon after, the man was seen to fall from the bridge a distance of about 150ft onto the road below, where he struck a car. The man was confirmed dead at the scene. The occupants of the car were uninjured.

1.44 Aircraft crash - Lundy

On the afternoon of Sunday 4 July a Cessna 172 fixed-wing light aircraft was taking off from Lundy Island air strip when the pilot lost control. The plane made a rapid descent from about 50ft. The male pilot who was the only person on board, was taken to North Devon District Hospital by SAR helicopter suffering from minor facial injuries. Coastguards attended the scene and dealt with the incident. The air accident investigation branch was informed but there was no need for a formal investigation.

1.45 Weather reports

As a result of the storm which hit Devon and Cornwall on the 7/8 July 2004, police received approximately 500 calls from the public which led to the recording of some 200 weather related incidents. The majority of reports were of fallen trees blocking roads and surface flooding. There are no reports of serious injury or damage to property. A female motorist in the Sidmouth area had a lucky escape when a large branch hit her car. She received some minor cuts but did not require hospital treatment.

1.46 Man dead after fall from cliff

In the afternoon of Tuesday 13 July, the body of a 46-year-old man was found at the bottom of the cliffs at Hells Mouth, Gwithian, Cornwall. The body was airlifted to Treliske hospital by helicopter and identified as former Devon & Cornwall Constabulary police constable Martin John Sampson who retired from the force in March 2002.

1.47 Missing family - located Hayle

As the result of information received from a member of the public, the Fundell family, who had been reported as missing from Cardiff a week earlier, were located at Hayle on 13 July.

The whereabouts of the parents and four children, aged between seven and 17-years-old, had been the subject of widespread appeals in the national media. The parents were detained but later released without charge.

1.48 Drowning - Penzance.

On the morning of Saturday 17 July the body of 45-year-old local woman Lisa Jones was removed from the water at Penzance. A friend of the deceased has stated that they saw her enter the water of her own accord to rescue her dog. The post mortem revealed her death was caused by drowning.

1.49 Fatal diving accident - Beer

A middle-aged male from Beer got into difficulties during a sea-dive offshore from the village on 26 July. He was recovered into a boat where he stopped breathing. He was removed to Dorchester hospital by helicopter where he was pronounced dead. There are no suspicious circumstances.

1.50 Siege - Plymouth Crown Court

On Monday 26 July a 39-year-old male remand prisoner refused to leave his cell at Plymouth Crown Court. He was armed with several razor blades smuggled in from prison and threatened to harm himself and others. Negotiators attended and after nearly seven hours the male surrendered.

1.51 Operation Tern

On the morning of Thursday 29 July the paedophile unit executed a warrant under the provisions of the Protection of Children Act 1978 at an address in Plymouth. A 46-year-old male was subsequently arrested on suspicion of making indecent images of children and was later interviewed and bailed. A computer and two floppy discs were seized for forensic examination. This is a joint operation between USA authorities, NCS (polit) and Devon & Cornwall Constabulary paedophile unit.

1.52 Argyle -v- Millwall.

Around 16,000 supporters attended the first football match of the new season at Plymouth Argyle's Home Park ground on Saturday 7 August. The event was policed by 220 officers and five arrests were made for public order offences. There was no reported disorder prior to the match, although some disorder was experienced after the game. However, a positive response and early crowd dispersal tactics controlled this.

1.53 Missing male in the sea - Padstow

On Monday 9 August a 19-year-old male and 17-year-old female, both on holiday in Cornwall, were swept into the sea at Fox Cove near Padstow. The female managed to get out of the surf, but the male was last seen face down in the water. An extensive search managed by the Maritime Coastguard Agency was undertaken and his body was recovered nine days later in Constantine Bay.

1.54 Flooding - West Cornwall

Heavy rain during the evening of Tuesday 17 August caused localised flooding across West Cornwall. Several cars and occupants were reported as stuck in flood waters with a number of main roads impassable. While the high volume of calls and related incidents placed the force under pressure there were no reported injuries and no significant evacuations were required.

1.55 Micro-light plane crash

A micro-light aircraft crashed in a field at Belle Vue farm in the Torrington area on 2 September. The micro-light contained one person who was initially trapped at the scene. Two fire appliances, an ambulance and air ambulance attended the location. After being released from the wreckage, the pilot was airlifted to a hospital in Exeter where his injuries were described as serious but not life-threatening. The Air Accident Investigation continues with enquiries.

1.56 Submerged body recovered

On 2 September, the body of 30-year-old Kevin Langley, missing since the 31 August from the Brixham area, was located by the force underwater search unit in a vehicle submerged in the sea at the bottom of cliffs at Berry Head, Brixham. The discovery followed a joint search operation involving HM coastguard cliff teams and the RNLI inshore lifeboat. Specialist rescue equipment was used to release the body from the vehicle.

1.57 Operation Sandpiper warrant

A search warrant issued under the Protection of Children Act 1978 was executed on 2 September at an address in Torquay by the force paedophile unit. A man was arrested on suspicion of making indecent images of children and is currently on police bail while enquiries continue.

1.58 Major gas leak

On 11 September a road traffic collision involving two heavy goods vehicles occurred on the Pennigillam industrial estate in Launceston. One of the vehicles involved left the carriageway and ruptured a medium pressure gas main. A cordon was placed around the area and Cornwall Fire and Rescue Services attended with three appliances while Transco isolated the leak allowing the vehicles to be moved safely. No persons were injured during the incident and the area remained cordoned off for approximately two hours.

1.59 Drowning incident - Padstow

A search and rescue operation was launched at Porthcothan Bay near Padstow on 11 September after people were reported to have fallen into the sea. The body of 68-year-old John Harris was recovered that day and the body of his 39-year-old son Michael was found when the search resumed on Sunday morning. The two men were fishing from rocks with their family when the

father fell into the water. The son attempted a rescue before getting into difficulties himself and his wife also entered the water to attempt a rescue. She was recovered having managed to hold on to an overhang at the base of the cliffs and was flown to the Royal Cornwall Hospital suffering from hypothermia along with her mother-in-law who was suffering from shock.

1.60 Death of 13-year-old boy - Totnes

A 13-year-old boy died after being shot during a ‘lamping’ expedition on farmland near Totnes on 11 September. Byron Evans received a fatal gunshot wound to his chest, when he was mistaken for a fox and shot by his stepfather with a .22 rifle. He was airlifted to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital where he later died. Byron had been amongst a group carrying out a late-night ‘lamping’ expedition to hunt foxes.

1.61 Large rave party - Helston

In the early hours of Sunday morning 12 September a report of a possible rave in the Ashton area of Helston was received. On attendance police located about 300 people and associated vehicles with a large tent containing a sound system. Some of those present claimed that it was a private wedding anniversary party but this could not be confirmed. The situation was closely monitored to ensure the people dispersed peacefully. No further calls were received.

1.62 Death of surfer – Cornwall

On the evening of Thursday 16 September police were called to Droskyn Point at Perranporth by the coastguard who reported a surfer deceased in the sea. A cliff rescue team subsequently recovered the body of 30-year-old Stephen Quinn from the sea. There were no suspicious circumstances.

1.63 Operation Sulphur

Seven people were arrested in the Truro and Redruth area on 16 September for drugs supply offences following a police operation in partnership with Carrick Housing Department. More than 30 officers from local and force resources were involved in warrants at five properties. Enquiries are ongoing.

1.64 Unexpected death of 14-year-old

A 14-year-old boy collapsed and died while playing rugby at Colyton Grammar School on 20 September. The boy was air lifted by air ambulance to the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital Exeter where he was pronounced dead on arrival. There were no suspicious circumstances.

1.65 Open water rescue - Plymouth

On the evening of Tuesday 21 September, police attended the diving pool area of the Hoe in Plymouth following a 999 call from a 14-year-old girl. When

officers arrived, the girl entered the sea and refused to return. The area was unlit and the water extremely cold and the girl soon got into difficulty. Fearing for her safety, PC Riches entered the water and pulled her to safety from about 30 ft offshore. Colleagues assisted them from the water. The girl was taken to hospital cold but otherwise unhurt.

1.66 Operation Palamon

On 22 September Alun Michael, Minister for Rural Affairs, made a pre-planned visit to Exeter. During his visit a crowd of about 400 peaceful protesters, mainly from the Countryside Alliance, rallied outside the Thistle Hotel. For five-and-a-half hours police negotiated an audience for members of the Alliance with the minister, following which Alliance representative Alison Hawes, addressed the crowd and thanked the officers for the way the event was policed. As the minister left a few protesters obstructed his vehicle and five people were arrested for minor offences.

COURT SUCCESSES

1.67 Man jailed for rape

A man found guilty of sex offences against children has been sentenced to 14 years in jail.

John Allison, 54, who was convicted at Plymouth Crown Court, was also placed on the sex offenders' register for life.

The jury found him guilty on 10 counts, including gross indecency with a child under 16, raping a girl under 16, two counts of committing sexual acts on a young boy and six counts of indecently assaulting a male under 16.

1.68 Operation Oak and Operatic – court success

A member of a Plymouth Argyle hooligan gang has been found guilty of masterminding an international drug smuggling operation.

Richard Webber, 36, appeared at Exeter Crown Court facing two counts of conspiring to supply controlled drugs.

Webber conspired with Dutch and Belgian traffickers to smuggle cannabis, ecstasy and amphetamines and was part of a Plymouth based gang which ran a drug factory manufacturing amphetamines. He had been supplying drugs in Devon, Cornwall and across the UK.

Webber also managed a string of businesses including pubs, shops and car showrooms.

In October 2001, Operation Oak was launched to investigate Richard Webber while Operation Operatic was launched to Leon and Ryan Butt in Exeter. In November these operations were merged when it was discovered drugs were coming from similar sources. Detective Superintendent Stuart Newberry led the 18-month investigation, the biggest drugs investigation the Force has seen. Around £1.75 million of drugs were seized as part of the operation.

The court heard how Webber worked with the Ryan brothers in Exeter selling them drugs and providing transport for them across the UK. He also helped Seamus Murphy, 33, manufacture drugs at a Plymouth flat. Webber's

movements and calls were covertly monitored by undercover police officers throughout the operation.

Leon and his brother were arrested in August 2002 when police raided a house in Plymouth containing 140 kilos of amphetamine sulphate worth more than £700,000. Days earlier Leon had been recorded arranging to buy 100 kilos of the drug. Further investigations led to the arrest of Richard Webber in March 2003. He is now awaiting sentence.

Leon Butt, 31, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply ecstasy, amphetamine and cannabis, he was jailed for eight and a half years. He was one of a chain involved in shipping drugs from Europe to Devon. His twin brother Ryan was given a two-year conditional discharge having pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply cannabis resin.

The trial also led to the conviction of Paul Evans, for conspiracy to supply ecstasy, cannabis resin and amphetamine. He was sentenced to five-and-a-half years.

Leunis Rentier, a driver for Nopa Transport, was jailed for 14 years after being found guilty of smuggling 105 kilos of cannabis resin and 51,500 ecstasy tablets, destined for Tavistock.

1.69 Ten years for heart stabbing

A man who stabbed a man in the heart outside a Torquay pub has been jailed for 10 years. Anthony Brown, 36, who was on parole from an eight-year sentence for his part in a drugs conspiracy at the time of the incident, was convicted of causing grievous bodily harm with intent and affray after stabbing Brian Johnson in the chest twice.

Mr Johnson had to undergo emergency surgery to remove blood clots from his heart and chest.

The attack occurred outside the Railway Inn pub in Torre after an altercation between the two men inside the premises.

Brown was ordered to serve the outstanding 415 days of his parole before his 10-year sentence began.

1.70 Man convicted for PC injury

A man has been found guilty of grievous bodily harm after a policewoman's ankle was broken during a struggle outside a Devon nightclub.

The incident occurred on 7 November 2003 after police were called to deal with reports that 42-year-old David Mason had assaulted an 18-year-old girl by pulling up her skirt and ripping her clothing. PC Joanna Miles broke her ankle when she fell during a violent struggle with Mason.

Mason, from Teignmouth, appeared at Exeter Crown Court on 6 September.

His brothers, Ian, 43, and James, 30, both from Newton Abbot, pleaded guilty to other charges related to the incident. All three will be sentenced at a later date.

1.71 Sex abuse man jailed

A man who sexually abused a young girl over a period of four years has been jailed for five years.

David Looseley, 35, was sentenced at Exeter Crown Court after admitting five charges of indecent assault on the girl between 1996 and 2000 while living in Brixham.

The jail term will run concurrent to a four-year sentence for offences that took place in Kent between 1989 and 1992.

Judge Graham Cottle ordered an extended licence period of four years, meaning if Looseley commits any offence in that period he will serve that four years. He was also ordered to sign on to the Sex Offenders Register for life.

1.72 Safe raiders caught

Safe raiders escaped with nearly £8,500 in cash and valuables after forcing their way into a Torquay hotel.

Burglars Christian Cook and Luke Dymond broke open a cellar door and searched rooms in the Gresham Court Hotel. They stole a safe containing £7,693 in cash as well as a watch, a CD player, two bottles of spirits and cash from a pool table.

The pair were caught after Dymond's fingerprints were discovered on a pack of cigarettes he had left behind. Dymond told the police he had not realised he was taking part in a burglary until he reached the hotel.

Dymond, 19, of Torquay, pleaded guilty to burglary and was ordered to carry out 180 hours community punishment work and Cook had been dealt with under another matter where the burglary was also taken into consideration.

1.73 Driver jailed for attack on lollipop man

A driver who punched a lollipop man in the face, while he escorted children across the road, has been jailed for four months.

Matthew Ducker, 20, flew into a rage when David Curnow dropped his lollipop stick onto his car. Ducker stopped and got out and began complaining to Mr Curnow before punching him in the face, causing cuts and bruises.

Young children watched the attack on the afternoon of 26 March 2004. One parent, Matthew McLeod, tried to step in but was met with a torrent of abuse from Ducker.

Ducker, from Pool near Camborne, pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to a charge of harassment against Mr McLeod, but not guilty to the charge of battery against Mr Curnow claiming that it was self-defence.

Ducker was sentenced, at West Cornwall Magistrates Court, to four months in a young offender's institute for the assault, and two months to run concurrently for the charge of harassment.

1.74 Reign of sex attacker ended

A 'Horrendous paedophile' was sentenced to life after being found guilty of a sickening series of sexual assaults over a 30-year period.

William Goad, 60, from Plymouth, pleaded guilty at Plymouth Crown Court to 14 serious sexual assaults and two indecent assaults on boys below the age of 16. Two other counts of serious sexual assault were also ordered to lie on file.

Goad committed the offences between 1964 and 1994, sparking off a six-year investigation in Plymouth. He 'groomed' young boys between the ages of eight and seventeen, before sexually assaulting and raping them.

Chief Inspector Michele Slevin, the officer in charge of the case, said after the hearing: "Bringing this offender to justice is a great success for Devon & Cornwall Constabulary.

"The investigation has been a difficult and protracted one but achieved a positive result for the victims of a horrendous paedophile."

Goad fled the country in 1998, travelling to Thailand on a false passport amid fears of the police tailing him. He was arrested on 4 June 2003, upon his return to Britain.

Goad was also ordered to pay £50,000 towards the costs of bringing the case to court.

1.75

Haul man jailed

Cornwall's largest ever haul of Ecstasy was discovered along with other Class A drugs in an abandoned tin mine near Truro.

The total haul, worth £136,000, was discovered hidden in ammunition boxes at the disused mine. It included Ecstasy valued at £46,000 and £90,000 worth of amphetamines.

Police were alerted to suspicious activity at the Wheal Busy Mine in April 2003 where they found 9,455 Ecstasy tablets. Dylan Smith, 26, from Redruth was jailed for six years at Truro Crown Court for the supply of Class A drugs.

2

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

2.1 Force continues to improve performance

Devon & Cornwall Constabulary is one of only two police forces across the country managing to meet standards in every area of work.

The findings were given in the annual Police Performance Monitoring Report, produced by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to compare the performance of all 43 Forces in England and Wales.

Performance is scored in the six areas of citizen focus, reducing crime, investigating crime, promoting public safety, providing assistance and resource usage.

Although performance was strong across the country, the constabulary was one of only two police forces that performed at or above the average score in all of the areas measured. Last year the Force was one of four that achieved this consistently high level of performance.

Deputy Chief Constable Nigel Arnold said it was particularly encouraging to see partnership work to tackle crime graded as 'excellent'.

2.2 Blunkett on the beat

Home Secretary David Blunkett joined police on the streets of Plymouth and commended officers on the work being done to reduce incidents of drink-related violence. Mr Blunkett's visit to the Force coincided with a six-week crackdown on alcohol fuelled antisocial behaviour, especially in the Union Street area.

Police also carried out random stop checks on licensed premises and introduced revised bylaws banning alcohol in open spaces.

Commenting on the initiative, Mr Blunkett said: "It has demonstrated that where we can target the resources and focus our attention we can gain a substantial hit. This extra effort over the summer has made a real difference in tackling under-age and binge drinking."

Mr Blunkett, who was taken on a tour of Plymouth's pub and club district, also praised the way in which Chief Constable Maria Wallis has organised the Force.

2.3 Praise for Plymouth from Home Office

Hazel Blears, the Minister of State for Crime Reduction, Policing and Community Safety, has praised police in Plymouth for cracking down on violence and antisocial behaviour.

During a visit to the city in September Ms Blears told the press she was "delighted" with the way in which local police were utilising new laws under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act to tackle alcohol-related violence, most significantly with the closure of 'crack houses'.

One of these properties, a house in North Prospect, which was visited by up to 120 people a day, was shut down in a joint operation by the city council and police.

The minister, who was joined later by Home Secretary David Blunkett, also used the visit to examine how Plymouth police have introduced and developed the use of neighbourhood beat managers.

2.4 Crime figures lower than national levels

A Home Office survey of crime figures across the 43 police forces in England and Wales shows that Devon & Cornwall Constabulary compares favourably against national trends.

The Force achieved a 16.4% drop in dwelling burglary compared to last year, making it the 5th lowest nationally, and a 14.3% decrease in vehicle crime. The Force is the second lowest nationally for thefts of vehicles.

A total of 131,453 crimes were recorded between April 2003 and March 2004 – an overall increase of 213 offences or 0.2%. However, this equates to 83 crimes per 1,000 people in the Force area – below the national average of 113, placing Devon and Cornwall the 7th lowest nationally.

Violent crime increased by 8.9% when compared to last year but the trend was mirrored nationally with 36 Forces showing an increase in offences.

With the exception of violent crime, people's fear of crime is also low in Devon and Cornwall when compared nationally. Victimization rates and perceived levels of disorder are also low.

Devon and Cornwall detected 29% of total crime compared to 23.5% nationally, making the Force 10th highest. Individual detection rates for certain crime types were 54% for violence against people, 34% for sexual offences, 27% for robbery, 14% for burglary, 19% for theft, 40% for fraud and 16% for criminal damage.

2.5 Officers help to Activ8 kids

A successful partnership scheme was run in Mid-Devon to keep youngsters occupied during the summer holidays and to reduce anti-social behaviour.

The Mid-Devon Community Safety Team launched Activ8 after discovering that young people needed more activities but were often unaware of what was available.

A website, CD-ROM, leaflets, posters and flyers were put together for youth organisations giving information on a whole range of activities which exist for 13-19-year-olds, such as swimming, football, quad biking and rock climbing.

2.6 Pointing out the risks

Officers in Plymouth and Cornwall have been raising awareness about the danger of drink spiking through high-profile campaigns.

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly BCU began its initiative in response to a rise in reported incidents and earned extensive media coverage.

Officers, special constables and neighbourhood beat managers targeted shops, bars and clubs across South East Cornwall. Falmouth College of Art and Design students helped to design posters, bookmarks, T-shirts and postcards featuring the campaign mascot, Spike the hedgehog. Some club staff wore Spike T-shirts and placed bookmarks in unattended drinks to get the message across.

The success prompted Plymouth BCU to follow suit by handing out awareness raising material giving simple tips on how to keep safe and how to report incidents. Female college students prepared a report on the perils of drinking, canvassed revellers and gave simple advice while wearing Spike T-shirts.

The campaign in Plymouth received positive coverage in the local press, TV and radio, raising awareness of the issue.

Officers in South and West Devon also targeted drink related crime during a six-week operation which significantly reduced the numbers of assaults and vehicle crimes.

2.7 Look on the bright side

Neighbourhood beat managers in North and East Devon BCU have been encouraging people to be bright at night as winter draws in.

The 'Be Safe-Be Seen' runs throughout October and urges drivers to keep an eye out for pedestrians and cyclists as the winter mornings and evenings get darker.

Figures show a rise in the number of people being injured on the roads of North and East Devon compared to the same period last year.

Shopkeepers are being visited by beat managers to help ensure the safety of their paperboys and girls – by making sure that the paper bags are high-visibility and that staff wears light coloured clothing.

Parents are being asked to check whether their children are wearing suitable clothing so that they can be seen in the dark, that they are wearing crash helmets and that their bicycles have working lights.

2.8 Banding together to combat shoplifting

Sixteen people have been arrested for criminal offences thanks to a new radio system being used by shopkeepers in Honiton.

Police Community Support Officer Dion Howells initiated the Honiton Shoplink Radio network in June 2003 to give retailers a direct way of reporting suspicious incidents to police as they happen. Members rent a UHF radio which gives a link to an on-duty PCSO, who can respond to incidents and call for back up from police officers and fellow PCSOs if need be.

During the year 137 incidents have been reported via the radio link and these calls have led directly to the arrest of 16 people for criminal offences.

Members are invited to attend meetings at Honiton police station every six weeks when they are brought up to date with current matters and are able to voice any concerns they may have about policing issues. The scheme began with 10 shops and now has 30 members including Honiton Community College, the town railway station and hospital.

2.9 On-line press office is a hit

The media can access Force news and appeals at the touch of a button thanks to the launch of an on-line press office.

The site contains all press releases issued by the Force and features a news ticker, which notifies journalists of breaking news stories and appeals.

Information is instantly available on various aspects of Force, such as the recruitment of the Special Constabulary and Police Community Support Officers and progress on the launch of the Airwave radio system, the latest crime figures and profiles of all Command Team members and BCU commanders.

The site, which can be accessed via www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/media, has been well received by journalists and proved particularly useful during the Boscastle flooding disaster when there was considerable media interest.

2.10 Antiques and the old bill

Police from Totnes had a valuable opportunity to showcase crime reduction ideas when the Antiques Roadshow came to town.

Crime Reduction Officers Gail Bond and Jane Flatman were invited by BBC bosses to represent the Force on the show by running a stand giving out crime prevention advice to owners of antiques and valuables. They gave specialist advice on property marking for antiques, including special products that are used, as well as general home security advice.

The show was filmed at Dartington Hall and will be screened early in the New Year.

2.11 Keeping communities safe in Devon and Cornwall

Devon & Cornwall Constabulary and Devon and Cornwall Probation Area are working well alongside other public agencies to register and monitor violent and sexual offenders in the area.

The third annual report of the Devon and Cornwall Multi-Agency Public Protection was published at the end of July and highlighted the safeguards used to protect the public from dangerous offenders.

In Devon and Cornwall, the total number of registered sex offenders has increased from 637 (March 2003) to 725 (31 March 2004).

As new offenders join the sex offenders' register, 90% of those already registered remain under supervision for statutory periods of five years to life, dependant on the severity of their crimes. So, although the increase in registered numbers is inevitable, it means that MAPPAs can properly manage those who pose a risk, however small.

The number of 'very high-risk of harm' registered sex offenders on the local Sex Offenders Register forms less than 4.3% of the total figure. The majority of registered offenders are successfully managed, which illustrates that our arrangements are working well.

The managing processes of the 43 'very high risk of harm' offenders proved efficient. Nine out of these 43 did breach their license conditions, but the monitoring process identified this and they were sent back to custody.

2.12 Police, camera, action!

Seven roadblocks were set up along the M5 on Regional ANPR Day to target criminals on the move. Devon & Cornwall Constabulary joined forces with five other constabularies and representatives from Trading Standards, the Department of Work and Pensions, Customs and Excise and the Vehicle Operator Services Agency for the operation.

The roadblocks were equipped with Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) devices which use a small video camera and computer to scan numberplates of vehicles. The system cross-references all registrations against a national and regional database and instantly recognises registrations of cars that are wanted by the police.

More than £100.00 worth of counterfeit and stolen goods were recovered and six arrests were made, mostly for driving whilst disqualified.

Such intelligence-led operations tackle travelling criminals by maximising the potential for arrests.

Plymouth police have also deployed the ANPR system to success with a weeklong operation to crackdown on offenders in the city. Officers and members of the Targeted Policing Team stopped 64 cars. Of these, 35 drivers were required to produce their documents and four people were warned for possession of cannabis. Six other arrests were made, two for drink driving, one for possession of amphetamine, one for driving while disqualified and two people were found to be wanted on warrant

2.13 Skate event in Exeter

Police invited skateboarders and in-line skaters to show off their skills and to challenge poor perceptions of the sport in the community.

Devon & Cornwall Constabulary and the city council organised a unique day in Exeter to promote better understanding of the sport and to provide young people with a platform for their talents. More than 200 competitors took part in the skateboard and blade awareness day, called Oblivion SK8, at Exeter Arena Skate Park, battling it out for top prizes, while enjoying pro team demonstrations, and music in the form of DJs and MC battles.

PC Ben Hollins, neighbourhood beat manager for Pinhoe, organised the event to build bridges between skateboarders and people who view them as a nuisance and to reduce the number of complaints. He is now planning a repeat event next year.

2.14 Reducing the heat on the beat

The Force has opened its doors to the fire service to help reduce the risk of arson in Cornish communities.

Cornwall Fire Brigade has introduced Fire Community Support Officers at Hayle who will work closely with members of the Neighbourhood Beat Team to tackle local issues of concern before arson occurs.

The Force has made accommodation available at Hayle police station for the officers to enable effective partnership working.

Further work is planned across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to develop a joint community support strategy between fire and police in the county.

2.15 Sponsorship aids bike safety

Devon & Cornwall Constabulary has been loaned a brand new Yamaha motorcycle to educate people on road safety and help reduce the number of biker fatalities.

The bike, which has been supplied by Bridge Motorcycles of Exeter, is unmarked but is taken by a uniformed officer to shows and motorcycle events. Motorcyclists make up only 2% of all traffic yet they account for a quarter of all fatal accidents in Devon. Last year 20 motorcyclists were killed on the roads of Devon and Cornwall.

The Force has also launched the 'Ride for Life' campaign with Devon County Council, and the Westcountry Ambulance Trust, focusing on the after effects of motorcycle accidents.

The campaign aims to remind riders of the potentially horrific consequences of motorcycle collisions.

2.16 Auction site is the bees' knees

Devon & Cornwall Constabulary's Ebay-style Internet auction to sell unclaimed property has raised more than £36,000 in its first year.

Bumblebee was developed in conjunction with other police forces to increase public accessibility and efficiently dispose of unclaimed property, while generating funds to help prevent crime.

So far more than 2,268 items have been sold on the site and hits have increased from 24,000 in March this year to 219,000 in August. As well as the £36,000, a further £1,700 was raised through the sale of alcohol and tobacco.

Torbay property officer Brian Moore is the driving force behind the introduction of the on-line system. Before Bumblebee the Force used various local auction houses and some items couldn't be sold. The new process keeps overheads down and is more transparent.

Any money raised through Bumblebee is returned to the BCU from where the item originated and invested in new initiatives.

The auction can be accessed through the Force website: www.devon-cornwall.police.uk and clicking on 'police property auction.'

2.17 Force continues to tackle hate crime

Devon & Cornwall Constabulary is now part of the national hate crime reporting process, True Vision, which carries the slogan 'help us to see what's happening.'

The Force held two official events to launch the scheme, which encourages victims and witnesses to report homophobic and race/religious-related hate crime to the police.

Traditionally, victims do not directly report crime as they can worry about confidentiality or not having the crime taken seriously. Therefore, a self-reporting pack and online reporting have been developed and these are available from police stations, local authority premises and other outlets.

The comprehensive pack and the website www.report-it.org.uk contain information on bullying, personal safety, local contact groups, domestic violence and a self-reporting form which provides a clear way to report hate crime by those who experience it.

Assistant Chief Constable Tony Melville and Superintendent Andrew McGahan along with DC Peter Rigby, who pioneered the scheme in Staffordshire, launched the scheme at Rocky's Nightclub in Torquay. Representatives of local LGBT groups and local authorities also attended.

Chief Constable Maria Wallis launched the scheme at Plymouth Guildhall, joined by representatives of The Probation Service, CPS, youth organisations, refugee action groups and racial equality councils.

2.18 Improved service for victims of crime

Victims of crime in Devon and Cornwall are receiving greater support from police with the introduction of new measures.

Devon & Cornwall Constabulary and Victim Support have drawn up new guidelines to offer counselling to more people affected by crime and to ensure that their views are made clear during investigations and subsequent court cases.

All victims and their families will now be automatically referred to Victim Support unless they have suffered domestic violence, sexual crime or are the bereaved relatives of murder victims. In those cases, express consent for referral will be sought and, if obtained, Victim Support will allocate specially trained volunteers. Victim Support has also begun an out-of-hours service for police dealing with vulnerable victims in urgent need who have no friends or relatives to call on.

More impetus is being given to the Force's Victim Personal Statement Scheme, which gives victims the chance to explain how a crime has affected them physically, emotionally, psychologically or financially.

The victim can indicate the support they need and how they would wish to receive further information during the course of the investigation. The scheme will be offered on an optional basis to any victim of a crime or serious traffic accident.

It also provides the criminal justice agencies and courts with a ready source of information on how the crime has affected the victim.

2.19 Bus is just the ticket

Plymouth police have devised a unique way of getting the community on board with neighbourhood policing. They are spreading the message with the help of a double-decker bus wrapped in police colours and information on neighbourhood policing.

The bus advertises the ethos of the new style of policing and details of how people can get to know their local beat manager by visiting the Force website. Police have teamed up with local company Citybus for the initiative and the bus will travel on normal routes throughout Plymouth for the next year while occasionally being used for public events and police surgeries.

The bus was launched to the public with a tour of Plymouth's six policing sectors where residents were invited to jump aboard to meet their neighbourhood beat managers, who dished out stickers and neighbourhood policing literature.

2.20 Net closes on smugglers

A major anti-smuggling and terrorism operation around the Isles of Scilly has been hailed a success.

Nearly 250 vessels were boarded during Operation Fortunate, run by the Force and HM Customs and Excise.

For three weeks using the Customs' cutter MHCC Sentinel, Special Branch officers, local officers and Customs officials stopped yachts and vessels sailing around the islands and those moored in bays and coves to carry out extensive checks. Owners and crews were interviewed, identification details checked and searches carried out where necessary.

The searches made during the last week of the operation, which included the busy Bank Holiday weekend, brought the total number of vessels searched to 246 and the number of people checked by officers to 1,681. The officers involved say owners and crews responded positively to the initiative, recognising that counter-terrorism and smuggling are top priorities for both agencies involved.

The Isles of Scilly no longer has its own full-time HM Customs facility, but those involved in Operation Fortunate say its success proves security in the area is still being effectively co-ordinated.

The Isles of Scilly and surrounding waters were targeted for the checks due to the high number of vessels which visit every summer, many from the Continent and the Irish Republic.

Historically the islands have been seen by some as an easy route into UK waters. The operation was designed to reassure the public that the security and policing of the islands is an integral part of Force's efforts towards the National Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

2.21 National police memorial day

Deputy Chief Constable Nigel Arnold was among those who gathered for the inaugural National Police Memorial Day Service at St Paul's Cathedral in London. The police service paid tribute to the courage and heroism of all police officers who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.

Relatives and friends stood side by side with members of the Royal Family, politicians and representatives from the police service to acknowledge the bravery and commitment of those who have died protecting the public.

Some 4,000 police officers have died or been killed on duty during the last 175 years.

Mr Arnold was joined by his wife Julie, who was a close school friend of Yvonne Fletcher, the Metropolitan police officer killed outside of the Libyan Embassy in 1984.

2.22 New way of working with young people

Devon & Cornwall Constabulary and Cornwall County Council launched their blueprint to reduce crime and prevent offending by young people.

The Force Youth Strategy sets out how police will provide a top quality service to all young people; provide specialist support and intervention for those with additional needs including witnesses, victims and offenders and will ensure targeted, intelligence-led emphasis on persistent offenders.

The community-based service will be delivered to young people through neighbourhood beat managers and youth intervention officers. It uses a problem-solving, intelligence-led approach, working partners and local communities to seek long-term solutions.

The strategy has been designed with partners in youth and education services and is based on national guidelines.

2.23 Bright idea on crime prevention

Handing out low-energy light bulbs and marking property free-of-charge were just two of the schemes run as part of Cornwall's Community Safety Week. The light bulbs were issued to elderly and vulnerable people through a variety of targeted community safety schemes and crime reduction events. Officers also staged a series of property marking days at police stations in Saltash, Liskeard and Torpoint, to enable people to visit with everyday items. The Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Community Safety Partnership organised the safety week to highlight its work in reducing crime and the fear of crime.

2.24 Flood exercise in the South Hams

The effects of a major flood in Dartmouth were tested in an exercise involving the Environment Agency, local authorities and the emergency services. The test of the Devon Flood Warning and Response Plan for Dartmouth ran through the procedures and communication between all major players in the event of a severe flood. These included Devon County Council, South Hams District Council, the emergency services, utility companies and voluntary groups. In the event of major flooding in Dartmouth, one of the ways the public will be informed is by a message broadcast from loudhailer affixed to the top of a vehicle. The Environment Agency tested the loudhailers and routes in Dartmouth as part of the exercise. Leaflets giving details of what to do during a severe flood have been sent to 500 households and businesses in the town.

2.25 Kids deliver message to adults

A School Speed Watch campaign is the latest initiative to improve road safety near Devon's schools. The campaign is a joint operation by Devon & Cornwall Constabulary, Devon County Council and the Devon & Cornwall Safety Camera Partnership. Throughout the month-long campaign, police officers have been working with schools in Exeter, East and Mid Devon, North Devon and Torridge to monitor speeds, educate motorists and provide enforcement to deal with excessive speeds observed near school premises. The campaign was launched at Awliscombe Primary School when pupils had the chance to use mobile speed detection equipment to detect speeding traffic. The pupils spoke to speeding drivers to ask why they were going too fast and give them advice on safe practices when driving past schools.

2.26 Pioneering approach sees success

A groundbreaking policing pilot has helped to reduce calls to police and to resolve numerous long-standing community problems in South and West Devon.

In May, Devon & Cornwall Constabulary became the first police force in the UK to initiate Restorative Policing training for all of its neighbourhood beat managers.

Beat managers in South and West Devon were the first to be trained and have demonstrated success in resolving issues of antisocial behaviour, alcohol-related violence and bullying, among others. Independent evaluation has now been commissioned by the Force in the first survey of its kind to assess an entire policing service. Training will now be rolled out across the Force to give all 340 beat managers in Devon and Cornwall advanced people management skills and the technique to mediate between offenders and those affected by minor crime and antisocial behaviour in the community.

This can take the form of community conferences, independent interventions or group meetings to resolve the issues created by the crime through reasoned discussion.

Devon & Cornwall Constabulary has used the techniques in the youth justice field for many years to successfully reduce re-offending but the Force is the first in the UK to take the principles of RJ and embed them within all police activities.

Restorative Justice is a powerful tool. The process makes offending more real for the perpetrator who has to face up to how the victim or community has been affected by their poor behaviour. It also provides guidance and support in helping people to develop into more responsible citizens. Restorative Justice places the victim at the centre of the process, allowing them to express how the crime or behaviour has affected their life.

2.27 Winning the war against loutish behaviour

A new police initiative is winning the battle against offensive behaviour on Torbay's streets.

The Neighbourhood Support Team – a sergeant and four police officers - combats public drunkenness, drug dealing, violence and underage offenders. The team was initiated after complaints were received from businesses and members of the public about antisocial behaviour.

In the first three months alone, the team made 120 arrests and complaints about public disorder have fallen.

The initiative sends out a clear message that offences affecting the quality of peoples' lives would be quickly dealt with and repeat offenders not tolerated.

Particular areas are targeted for different offences. In the town centre drug-users and alcoholics are being targeted, while in parks and on the seafront focus is being placed upon cracking down on under age drunkenness and vandalism by young offenders.

The Neighbourhood Support Team reacts quickly to reports of unruly behaviour and those who offend after receiving a warning are immediately arrested. People are able to see the officers in the streets and talk to them.

2.28 High-level recognition for Boscastle operation

The Force has been praised nationally for its work in the Boscastle flood disaster. The following message was sent to Chief Constable Maria Wallis from Prime Minister Tony Blair.

“I know the Deputy Prime Minister was very grateful for all of the work your officers and the other emergency services put in to dealing with the flooding at Boscastle. Can you pass on my appreciation to all that helped out?

“I am very pleased to hear that the new anti-social behaviour legislation is being so well used in Devon and Cornwall. Any ideas you may have for how the legislation might be improved or extended would be very welcome.”

The following letter was sent to Chief Constable Maria Wallis by Hazel Blears MP, who visited Middlemoor Headquarters to meet officers and staff who worked to help the people of Boscastle.

"I would like to take the opportunity to thank you, your officers and staff for the way in which Devon & Cornwall Constabulary has coped with the disaster that overtook Boscastle and for the way in which you have worked to co-ordinate the multi-agency response.

“The police are always among the first on the scene when a major emergency strikes. We all rely heavily on the police service in these difficult situations. When sudden devastation overtook Boscastle on Monday 16 August, the role of the police was crucial. It has been every bit as important in the aftermath.

“As Police Minister I would like to offer my thanks and those of the Home Secretary to all in Devon & Cornwall Constabulary involved directly or indirectly in helping everyone affected by events in Boscastle.”

2.29

Vehicle checks on the Isles of Scilly

Camborne Traffic Unit and the Vehicle Operator Services Agency (VOSA) have returned to St Mary’s to continue their campaign against unfit vehicles.

In May, 63 vehicles were examined and 30 were given Immediate Prohibitions and removed from the road, many permanently. A further visit in August, at the peak of the holiday season, coincided with the Chief Constable’s visit to the island. A further 13 Immediate Prohibitions were issued; again a number of vehicles were removed from the road permanently. The Chief Constable was very pleased at the team’s dedication and gave her full support to the operation.

This visit highlighted that more work needs to be done in educating drivers to carry out even the most basic and preventative maintenance.

3 AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS.

- 3.1** The Chief Constable Maria Wallis presented a number of prestigious prizes at the Ada Murrin luncheon in July in recognition of the enthusiasm and dedication of those selected from a long list of nominees.

The Ada Murrin Cup for 2004 was awarded to Constable Andrew Squires of North and East Devon BCU, for his work within the community of Exmouth. PC Squires will be the Force nomination for the Police Review National Community Officer of the Year award and will attend the Police Review Gala Award Ceremony in London later this year.

The runner-up for the Ada Murrin Cup was Constable David Lea, of Honiton.

The Vera Murrin Trophy in recognition of the partnership approach to policing has been awarded to the Falmouth Neighbourhood Beat team for their positive impact and their participation at national conferences. The team has been involved in presenting at workshops at the Home Office on community-led crime reduction.

Members of the team are Sergeant Ian Pollock and Constables David Clarke, Andrew Filkins, Stephen Hawkins, Andrew Hocking, Robert Jones and Robert Mears.

The David Farley Challenge Shield for the most significant contribution to a charitable or humanitarian cause has been awarded to Constable John Fisher, South and West Devon BCU, Newton Abbot. He formed the Teignbridge link for the children of Chernobyl who are suffering from the after effects of the nuclear disaster. Together with Teignbridge District Councillor Tom Archer he arranged for four groups of children to visit the Teignbridge area on holiday.

Constable Gregory Hodgkiss received the Waddell Prize in recognition of an exemplary and consistent level of good police work during his probationary period. Constable Hodgkiss will be the Force nomination for the Police Review Probationer of the Year Award and will attend the Police Review Gala Award Ceremony in London later this year.

- 3.2** Constable Jim Prickett stationed at Plymouth and Constable Nigel Sobey of Devonport were awarded the Trafford Trophy. The award is voted for by probationer constables during the latter part of their training course and given to those constables who have made the best overall effort in exams, appearance in uniform and course dynamics.

- 3.3** Long service awards were presented to police officers and support staff with more than 22 years of service.

Medals were given to Superintendent Dave Brander, Paignton; Constable Paul Budd, Middlemoor; Sergeant Natalie Bulley, Truro; Inspector Peter Coppin-Harris, Middlemoor; Sergeant William Dines, Exeter; Chief Inspector Steven Harrison, St Austell; Constable Keith Hawksworth, Truro; Constable Laurence Hellier, Plymouth; Constable Robert Hill, Middlemoor; Constable Jeremy

Millman, Ashburton; Constable Barry Mills, Looe; Sergeant Mark Phillips, Plymouth; Inspector Nick Reed, Exeter; Constable Anne Rose, Plymouth; Constable Sarah Ross, Chudleigh; Inspector Simon Selley, St Austell; Constable Elaine Shurben, Torquay; Sergeant Jon Sugden, Middlemoor; Constable Keith Ward, Torquay; Constable Sally Watkins, Paignton; Mr Brian Moore, Torquay.

- 3.4** PC Andrea Kew was awarded the title of Probationer of the year at Exmouth Police Station. She was presented with the Barry Swindon Cup by Chief Constable Maria Wallis.

4. SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES - UPDATE

CRIME

- 4.1** During the year to date the Force has recorded a 3.9% increase in crime. However, the figure includes a 9.5% reduction in burglary and a 12.4% reduction in vehicle crime.

Violent crime levels have increased by 20.8% in the last year. This is largely in the areas of ABH and common assault. There have been 12 homicides recorded since April, (compared to 16 in the whole year 2003/4). The increase in violent crime is partly a result of the Force's aim to increase the reporting of domestic violence incidents, although the impact of alcohol-related violent crime on total levels of violence is also a contributing factor to the increase.

The Force has detected 27.2% of recorded total crime. Detection rates for the three key areas of burglary, vehicle crime and violent crime are 12.8%, 9.0% and 48.8% 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 members of the population nationwide.

ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

- 4.2** 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 374 casualties in the period April to September. This is down 13.2% compared to the period April to September 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).

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

- 4.3** Wednesday 11 August saw the launch of the Neighbourhood Beat Book by ACC(TP) Tony Melville at a seminar for Sector Inspectors at the Eden Project in Cornwall.

The guide, produced after wide consultation across the Force, provides corporate minimum standards for all our NBMs. The aim is to ensure all residents and visitors to Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly receive the same levels of service. However, individual BCU and Sectors still have the opportunity to tailor services to the needs of their individual communities.

The book is also a source of information for all those engaged in neighbourhood policing at beat level. The Neighbourhood Beat Book has now been distributed to all beat Sector Inspectors who will be holding briefings on

its use to their staff. Sector Inspectors have been asked to invite local Police Authority members to those meetings.

As of the 24 September 2004 there were 330.875 (full-time equivalent) Neighbourhood Beat Managers across the Force, the breakdown per BCU is as follows: North and East Devon, 111.325; Cornwall, 92.45; Plymouth, 42.3; South & West Devon, 84.8.

Finally, during the recent governmental visit to Plymouth, ministers were impressed by the number of residents who were aware of the name of their Neighbourhood Beat Manager.

PERSONNEL

- 4.4** Police officer strength on 31 August 2004 stood at 3,337.7 officers. This is an increase of 27.1 officers since 31 March 2004 and is on target for the year-end level of 3,379 by March 2005. Female police officer strength is now 20%, up by 1%.

The data collection for job evaluation (JE) is nearing completion with the vast majority of roles assessed and quality assured by the end of September. A JE consultation exercise was completed with 55% of all police staff responding within 48 hours. This feedback is being used to inform the development of a new reward package.

4.5 CALL HANDLING PERFORMANCE

For the year to date (April to September) a total of 136,963 emergency 999 calls have been received, 89.2% of which have been answered within 10 seconds. The same period last year saw a total of 133,047 calls. Overall, there is a rise of 3% in 999 demand.

A total of 90.3% of non-emergency calls were answered within 30 seconds. This figure betters the required year-end target. In total, 535,252 non-emergency calls have been received in the year to date (April to September), compared to 547,653 non-emergency calls in the period April to September 2003. This equates to a 2.2% decrease in demand.

Secondary call handling is improving and figures for the year to date show a total of 307,144 calls offered to the Force Enquiry Centre (66.0% answered in target, against a target of 70%). The same period last year saw a total of 290,975 calls within the Force Enquiry Centre, of which 52.7% were answered in target, against a target of 60%. The figures show a rise in demand of 5.5% and an increase of 13.3 percentage points in performance.

RECOVERY OF ASSETS

4.6 Total assets ordered by the Courts in the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary area from defendants between 01/04/04 and 06/09/04 was £973,668.71 The breakdown is: £963,955.51 confiscation orders under the Criminal Justice Act 1988, as amended, Drug Trafficking Act 1994 and Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. £9,713.20 forfeiture orders under Section 27 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.