



Operational Updates

Open Session

Police Authority Meeting

Friday 26th September 2008

A Division

Alway

Operation Carousel

This operation is the Neighbourhood Policing Team's response to community concerns around substance misuse in the Alway area.

Since the operation began, 15 search warrants have been executed, 13 people arrested, and more than £363,000 of drugs seized in the Alway section alone. This activity has attracted some very positive press coverage.

Caerleon Neighbourhood Officers use Police Bicycles to make robbery arrests

Two officers from Caerleon Neighbourhood Policing Team used police cycles to respond to a report of a suspected robbery. They arrived at the scene quickly and made two arrests which later led to charges being brought. The incident attracted positive press coverage on the front page of the local newspaper. A PCSO was involved in the resolution of the incident.

Bettws

Operation Resolve

An off-road bike Operation was held during July as the number of reported off road bike incidents had recently risen. This was organised by the Malpas Ward Officer and the hotspot areas were targeted by PC's & PCSO's. This proved to be a success resulting in 7 Section 59 warnings issued to persons caught riding off road bikes on public footpaths etc.

Tesco Express, Malpas Road

There had been a increase in reports from Staff and members of the public in relation to youths causing problems outside the store. Neighbourhood officers were deployed on a dedicated operation to address this anti-social behaviour. This has led to an improvement in the situation with several youths being referred to the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit.

Neighbourhood Watch

Due to the good work of the Malpas PCSO's, a new Neighbourhood Watch scheme has been set up leading to improved community relations in the area.

Maindee

Drugs Warrants

A number of drugs warrants have been executed in this period identifying cannabis factories. Over 300 plants have been recovered and one person is currently awaiting trial in relation to these seizures.

In a further drugs operation half a kilogram of amphetamine was recovered resulting in two arrests, both later charged with related offences.

Operation Adonis.

This Operation was a joint approach by Maindee Neighbourhood Policing Team and the Licensing Department of Newport City Council, targeting licensing issues. During the Operation five licensed premises were found to have breached their licences, six door staff were found to be working without the correct SIA authority, 13 persons were arrested and 145 stop searches were conducted.

Newport Central

Drugs Arrest

On the 28th July 2008 a warrant was executed at an address in the Shaftesbury area of Newport by the Neighbourhood Policing Team and Tasking team. This was a policing response resulting from local intelligence. A proactive covert operation was conducted which resulted in an arrest of a drug dealer who had been causing concern in the community.

Drug dealing

On the 1st July 2008 the NPT, Newport tasking team and Support Group executed a warrant at an address in the Allt-yr-yn area of Newport. This followed local intelligence which identified two individuals believed to be involved in drug dealing across the Newport area. Both persons were at the address at the time of the warrant being executed and were arrested for drugs offences.

Prostitution

Officers from the NPT attended an address in the Stow Hill area of Newport acting upon information received that a brothel was being run from the address. Upon attending the address a female was arrested for Prostitution, Living off immoral earnings and attempting to bribe a Police Officer.

Cannabis Factory

Following the receipt of intelligence, officers from the NPT and Tasking team attended a rented address in the Maesglas area of Newport. At the property a cannabis factory was found to be in full operation. A large quantity of cannabis plants were recovered in varying stages of cultivation. No persons were found at the address, enquiries are ongoing to identify those responsible.

Theft from Employer

In July a manager from a large retail store in Newport City Centre was concerned that employees of the company were stealing on a large scale. Surveillance was conducted by the Newport tasking team on the store which resulted in two employees being arrested and pleading guilty to theft amounting to thousands of pounds over a period of months.

Operation Ambience

This was a joint operation in Newport City Centre between Newport Police and the Licence holders of the clubs, pubs, fast food outlets and taxi companies. Its aims were to bring together those businesses involved in the night time economy of Newport to encourage the safe use of the City Centre's facilities and to create a feeling of safety for the visiting public.

The operation included high visibility policing, restricting vehicular access to the City Centre, early intervention with drunk and disorderly persons and regular visits to all licensed premises.

Pill

Drugs Activity

Pill Neighbourhood Policing Team operating as a result of community intelligence have executed a number of drugs search warrants during this period, with cannabis being recovered and a number of current prosecutions underway.

Operation Calibra

This operation focused on travelling criminals from the Cardiff area who were committing autocrime in the Marshfield community. A range of tactics were employed, leading to 15 arrests and a marked reduction in this type of crime in the local area.

Newport Crime & Disorder Unit

Crime Prevention

Radio Advertising – Insecurity Burglary.

As part of the Newport Community Safety partnership's work to reduce Burglary offences, Crime Prevention Officers, together with the Divisional Communications Officer organised a 1 month Radio advertising campaign with Red Dragon radio to raise awareness of insecurity burglary and offering advice.

The campaign was Newport specific and since the campaign which was held at the end of June / beginning of July, the percentage of insecurity burglaries have reduced.

Celtic Manor Resort – Ryder Cup 2010

The Architectural liaison Officer attended the Celtic Manor to discuss proposed plans for new residential development on the Celtic manor golf course and other buildings, in connection with the 2010 Ryder Cup.

Advice concerning security, lighting and general layout of development and road routes were discussed. Outline planning is to be sought concerning these proposed developments.

Newport City Centre – Closure of the City Centre to Traffic

Partnership work within the Newport Community Safety Partnership is being progressed to pedestrianise the city centre and consider new initiatives around taxi ranks and the way the environment is policed with the objective of improving public safety.

School Liaison

The Annual "Wings to Fly" drama presentation took place at the Dolman Theatre and Caerleon Comprehensive School. Drama pupils put on excellent show which was seen by 2000 year 6 pupils from across Newport.

Diversity

During June and July, new contacts were made with a Zimbabwean female group. Staff have also been involved with Anti-Semitic training, have been involved in Refugee week as well as participating at the Maindee Festival.

Licensing

The department held the first meeting with Late Night Refreshment Houses and partner agencies in order to discuss policing and licensing issues as well as identifying concerns of these businesses.

Police have been successful in objecting to an application to extend the licensing hours of a public house in the Maindee area where disorder was prevalent.

B Division

Abergavenny

Abergavenny - Festival of Cycling

The event took place between 16 and 22 June and culminated in the 'John Roberts Grand Prix of Wales', a major cycling competition. The NHP Team consulted with all relevant parties before producing a detailed and professional operational order to ensure that this annual event was policed appropriately.

Abergavenny - Top Trump Cards (NHP Team)

Over a number of months PC 618 Tracy Bowen-Quirk has been seeking to increase effective communication with young people from a Community 1st area in Abergavenny. Here, relationships with the police have been notoriously difficult culminating in young people not being prepared to speak to or engage with the local police. The innovative approach taken by the officer involved each member of the NHP Team appearing on a 'Top Trumps' style card with each card also providing a short youth related safety messages. The young people were then challenged to collect all of the cards by approaching officers on foot patrol. This initiative has proven very successful and community (and in particular youth) relations have dramatically improved. The winners of the competition will be treated to a VIP police day.

Abergavenny - Fundraising Event

On 26 July Inspector Richley co-hosted 'An Audience with Nicky Grist', at the Abergavenny Theatre. The purpose of the event was to raise funds for a Bryn y Cwm Community Safety Action Team youth diversion initiative scheduled for August entitled, 'Cruise Control'. During the evening former World Rally Champion, Nicky Grist, spoke about his career in professional motor sport. The event was extremely well attended and over £3000 was raised towards the main 'Cruise Control' initiative.

Caldicot

Explosive Device

On 2 July, information was received that a 2' long shell with tail fins had been seen on the foreshore of the River Severn, 150m west of the Second Severn Crossing. Officers cordoned off the scene and assisted an EOD Naval Unit with its recovery in very poor conditions. The shell was identified as a live anti-tank missile, part of a consignment that had fallen from a dockside near Bristol. The shell was later detonated in a controlled explosion.

Fatal Road Traffic Collision

At approximately 5.30am on 26 July 2008 a single vehicle collision occurred on Black Rock Road, Portskewett. A motorised trike left the road and went down an embankment. The female driver of the trike sustained fatal injuries. The male passenger suffered leg and facial injuries and was taken to the Royal Gwent Hospital. Officers from the section's NHP Team later assisted with the victim's funeral procession which involved a large number of motorcyclists from around the country.

Serious Road Traffic Collision

A serious road traffic collision involving a car and a pedestrian occurred at approximately 10.00pm on 31 July on the B4245 in Caldicot. The pedestrian, a 20 year old man from the Caldicot area, was taken to the Royal Gwent Hospital with serious head injuries. His condition was initially described as serious but he is now in a stable condition. The female driver of the vehicle involved was not injured.

D 'n' A Day

This multi agency input to 260 Year 10 pupils, took place at Caldicot Comprehensive School to deliver the Drug and Substance Misuse strand of the All Wales Police School Liaison Programme. The emphasis was on signposting pupils to the support agencies that exist in the local community. Pupils gave positive feedback on the quality of the presentation, its relevance and content, and the fact it has caused many to re-evaluate their opinions on such issues.

Police School Sports

On 3 July, the annual Caldicot Police School Sports Day took place at Green Lane School. Once again, the event was organised by PC 361 Mark Lewis, School Liaison Officer. Pupils from seven local Junior Schools (years 3 to 6) were invited to take part. The day comprised 52 track & field events and teams competed for the 'In Bev UK Ltd' trophy, who annually sponsor the event. Assistance was provided by the sections NHP Team, B-TEC students from Caldicot Comprehensive School's Sixth Form and MCC's Dragon Sports Co-ordinator. The event was a resounding success and was won by Magor V.A.P. School.

Cwmbran

Digital Speed Display Boards

Cwmbran NHP Team has had training to use the Digital Speed Display boards. The equipment was located throughout the Cwmbran area to monitor the speed of vehicles. This is to support priorities raised by residents through the PACT process. The equipment has been placed in Wards with two team members noting the speed of vehicles which is displayed electronically on a display board. This information is then provided to residents in NHP update letters and also passed to the Safety Camera Enforcement Unit. This exercise also provides a high level of police visibility.

Crime Prevention Initiative

There has been a Crime Prevention Initiative in Pontnewydd for shed and house burglaries. The Ward Officer for Pontnewydd attended the area offering advice and free shed alarms to local residents.

Division Wide Activity

Domestic Abuse Housing Focus Group

The Monmouthshire Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator has set up a focus group to bring together a variety of service users/service providers - Womens Aid, Victim Support and ASBO Co-ordinator, MCC Housing, HOT Team, Melin Homes and Monmouthshire Housing Association to look at the problems that victims are facing from a housing perspective and how services can be improved so they are as effective and stress free as possible. They are

also reviewing good practice and how this can be made standard throughout all associations.

Domestic Abuse Training Sub Group

The Monmouthshire Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator is part of this group which is reviewing the content of external and internal domestic abuse training and who is delivering it. They are trying to establish a 'kite mark' standard for training and a pathway to identify levels of training required for posts held in all agencies. They are also working with the Care Council for Wales examining the training Social Workers currently undertake considering improvements.

Torfaen - Safer Neighbourhood Group Award

The Torfaen Community Safety Partnership recently won the 'Innovative Practice Award' of the Home Office Crime Team for Wales to recognise the achievements made via the Safer Neighbourhood Groups in the area. The core members of the SNGs are; Gwent Police, Torfaen County Borough Council, Bron Afon Housing, Youth Offending Team, Prevention and Intervention Project, voluntary sector organisations, elected Ward Councillors, Community Councillors and members or residents associations. This resulted in the Rt. Hon. Paul Murphy MP, Secretary of State for Wales, visiting the Pontnewynydd SNG in July after presenting the award at the Celtic Manor Hotel. He was incredibly impressed with how the group was run which is a credit to the NHP Team and the other community partners linked to it. As a direct result of Mr Murphy's positive comments, Peter Edmunson, Head of the Police Powers and Leadership Unit at the Home Office requested to attend Pontypool and spend time on patrol with the NHP Team for research purposes. He also attended a Problem Solving Group and a Licensing meeting. He has indicated that he would like to return at some point in the future.

C Division

Bargoed

Crime Prevention Talks

During this period the Bargoed CADRO carried out a crime prevention talk to a ladies group at Fleur de Lys regarding personal / home security / rogue traders / cold callers. 15 comprehensive crime prevention packs issued.

Burglary Initiatives

During July 2008, Bargoed sector carried out an 'Insecure Dwelling Burglary' initiative. 23 properties were identified and the occupiers received crime prevention advice regarding home security. This initiative is ongoing.

Anti Social Behaviour Operation

Also during this period, a multi agency operation was led by Bargoed officers to address disorder in the Pengam Ward. After four weekends of patrols, 40 cans and bottles of alcohol were seized from underage drinkers, 28 ASBO referrals were submitted, 3 persons were arrested, and 1 person was reported for summons for a motoring offence. In company with trading standard and licensing enforcement officers, local officers also carried out proactive licence enforcement checks which resulted in 2 positive test purchases.

Bedwas

Tackling Anti Social Behaviour Via PACT

As a result of a PACT meeting Anti Social Behaviour in the area of the Spar in Trethomas was identified as a problem and a local priority. Increased patrols identified certain individuals who have subsequently been made subject of the ASBO system. The area has been taken on as a pilot scheme for a gating project and money has been made available and is awaiting consultation with the Local Authority. On the 29th July a full ASBO was granted at Abertillery Magistrates Court on one individual involved in ASB at the location. The individual will be subject to 9 conditions contained in the ASBO.

Rape & False Imprisonment

At the beginning of August a 21 yr old female from the Cardiff area reported that she had been raped in the Bedwas area and held against her will for several days. A male adult has been arrested for the offences, remanded and awaits court.

Speeding Vehicles Tackled

It has been established during the PACT meetings in the Bedwas wards that speeding vehicles were one of the main community concerns. The problem areas were identified and as a result officers in Bedwas were trained in the use of a DSD (Digital Speed Display) machine and deployed in these areas at relevant times to assess the problem. Consequently 173 vehicles driving above the speed limit were identified and warning letters sent to the registered keepers. The plan is to continue the operation for a further month and assess its impact on the problem.

Adjoining Forces Unite to Tackle Crime

Due to an increase in the number of offences being committed in the rural areas of Rudry and Draethen, Bedwas officers have set up an operation with their counterparts in South Wales Police to target offenders travelling the lanes from Cardiff to commit offences in the Gwent Police area.

Blackwood

Non Dwelling Burglaries

During this period a spate of shed breaks occurred in the Springfield area of Pontllanfraith. Following intelligence reports a warrant was executed at in the Blackwood area and property from three burglaries was identified. Four persons were arrested and are currently on police bail pending further enquires. A crime prevention initiative was subsequently advertised in the local press and shed alarms were made available to those not in a position to purchase such equipment.

Anti Social Behaviour by 'Boy Racers'

During July 2008 numerous reports were received of 'boy racers' intimidating customers at the Asda store in Blackwood during the evening times. Officers responded in a positive manner by issuing fixed penalties, where appropriate, and reported persons by summons for other offences.

This type of anti social behaviour has also been occurring at the Co-Op Service Station, Pontllanfraith and the Blackwood Business Park with large congregation of vehicles. Appropriate action has also been taken with offenders.

Drugs Arrest

On the evening of 22nd July 2008 a disturbance was reported at an address in Pontllanfraith. There were no apparent problems on arrival of officers but as a result of information at the scene, a cannabis cultivation site was located underneath the stairs. Three persons were arrested and currently await court proceedings.

Insecure Dwelling Initiative

During July, intelligence lead patrols were carried out at the most relevant times and days. Local officers identified 52 insecure premises and crime prevention advice was sent to these local house holders.

Brynmawr

Knives Found in Vehicle

On 24th July 2008, a Vauxhall Astra motor vehicle was stopped on the Gurnos Estate in Brynmawr containing two known offenders suspected of vehicle crime. The vehicle was searched and two large lock knives were found in the driver's door. The occupants admitted ownership and were arrested and have been bailed to court

Licensee Attacked

On 25th July 2008 damage was caused to a vehicle owned by the landlord of a public house in Blaina. The landlord was also assaulted whilst sat in his vehicle by a male person known to him. A search commenced and the offender was located and arrested some time later drinking in Brynmawr town centre. Court appearance is pending.

Caerphilly

Drugs Warrant

On 4th July 2008 a drugs warrant was conducted in the Penyrheol area of Caerphilly. Two persons were arrested on suspicion of being in possession of a controlled drug with the intention to supply. Approximately 5.5 ounces of amphetamine were seized along with 20 tablets believed to be ecstasy. Persons were bailed pending further enquiries.

Police Find Cannabis Plants in Attic

On 6th July 2008 a call was received from a female living in the Abertridwr area of Caerphilly who stated that her husband had assaulted her and he was returning to the address. On police arrival the male was arrested for the assault. Whilst at the address officers found cannabis being cultivated in the attic of the property which was subsequently seized.

Street Robbery

On 13th July 2008 a delivery driver for a local kebab shop in the Abertridwr area of Caerphilly was punched to the face and £300 taken from him whilst outside the Kebab shop. Further enquiries are ongoing.

Drugs Warrant leads to Child Care Issues

On 18th July 2008 a drugs warrant was conducted in the Caerphilly area. On entering the premises it was found not to be fit for the children at the property to be living there due to appalling house keeping and hygiene issues. On speaking with Social Services it was decided not to invoke Police Protection on the children, although it was agreed that the children for the immediate future would stay with the grandparents. A small amount of cannabis was found at the premises for which the householder was dealt with.

Police Protection Order Invoked at Local Event

On 26th July 2008 at the Big Cheese event a Police Protection Order was invoked on two children aged 3yrs and 15 weeks as their parents were extremely intoxicated. The father of the children was subsequently arrested for being drunk and disorderly.

Chief Constable Unveils Graffiti Wall

On 21st July the first Legal Graffiti Wall in Caerphilly Borough was unveiled by the Chief Constable at the Skate Board Park in Caerphilly. The ceremony was opened by local children dancing; Graffiti artists along with local youths sprayed a mural on the wall helped along by the Chief Constable. The wall was the result of hard work carried out by local officers working in partnership with other agencies including the Youth Offending Service and CCBC.

Illegal Rave Party Interrupted by Local Police

On the evening of 26th July 2008 a call was received stating that there was a 'Rave' party taking place on common land in the Caerphilly area. Officers attended at the scene and found in excess of 100 vehicles in situ with further vehicles still attending. Officers remained and turned away other vehicles throughout the night. Due to the actions of the Police the event was controlled and by midday the following day all persons had left the area with no disturbances to local residents.

The Big Cheese Event

Between 25th July & 27th July the Big Cheese festival took place around Caerphilly Castle, one of Europe's largest Castles. The event was a huge success with over 80,000 attendees.

Farms Sign Up to 'Ring Master' System

All Farms in the Caerphilly area have signed up to Ring Master, a total of 20 Farms have been visited and enrolled onto the system. This system of communication allows Police and Farmers alike to share information in an efficient and prompt way.

Ebbw Vale

Creeper Burglaries Detected

During June and July Several "creeper" burglaries had occurred in the Ebbw Vale and Tredegar sections. On 24th July, an Ebbw Vale man was arrested for one of these offences and during interview he admitted a total of ten "creeper" burglaries. He was released on conditional bail which included a night-time curfew.

Clamp Down on Underage Drinking

During this period an action plan was put in place for the school holidays requiring officers to target alcohol related anti-social behaviour. Confiscated alcohol was stored at Rassau Police Station where 500-600 litres was seized by the end of July. The front page of the Gwent Gazette on 29th July had a photograph of the confiscated alcohol and a story relating to the actions being taken to combat drink related anti-social behaviour.

Crime Prevention at Local Scout Fete

On 5th July the Crime Prevention trailer was taken to the Scout fete at Ebbw Vale town centre. Several members of the panel attended together with personnel from the Police Authority. In excess of 500 crime prevention packs were handed out.

Rhymney

'Creeper Burglaries'

Overnight on 29th July, 6 'creeper' burglaries occurred in the Rhymney section. Following local intelligence and enquiries, two people were arrested and are currently on Police bail.

Drugs Warrants

In July 2008, four warrants were executed in the Rhymney section, under the misuse of drugs act, as a result 4 people were arrested. Heroin, Amphetamine and cannabis were seized and the offenders are currently on bail.

Risca

Drugs Warrants (Operation Lantern)

On 16th July, an address in Risca was entered under a warrant following intelligence. Cocaine, amphetamine and skunk cannabis was found in sufficient quantities to evidence that dealing was taking place. Persons have been arrested and are further enquiries are pending.

On 23rd July, a Panside address was entered under warrant and a male person was arrested for cultivation of cannabis plants. The male is awaiting a court appearance.

Local Initiatives to Raise Crime Awareness

Burglary - Officers in Risca have been asked to list details of homes where insecurities are seen during patrol time so crime prevention advice can be given to the householders.

School Premises Holiday Initiative - Leaflets have been distributed to the homes which overlook schools (Cwmcarn School being the victim of many damage reports during the holiday period)

Shed Breaks in Risca – Local officers delivered a number of leaflets about shed breaks asking residents to be vigilant and report suspicious activity to the Police. NHW and Crime Prevention messages were also on the leaflet

The local CADRO made 13 visits to burglary victims in July to give advice and promote the 'Bobby Scheme'.

Tredegar

Digital Speed Display

Neighbourhood ward officers together with PSCO'S have been conducting high visibility patrols and utilising the Digital Speed Display equipment. This has proved to be very successful in educating and addressing motorists and members of the public. This is a continuing exercise now entering its third month.

Elderly Persons Awareness Seminar

On Wednesday 23rd July 2008, the Cronin Court Sheltered Housing Complex was visited by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Officer and a Presentation was given to the residents on bogus callers and personal safety. (This initiative is in partnership with 'Age Concern').

'Lucky Luke'

On Sunday 20th July 2008, Police Officers from 'C' Division assisted with a film project called 'Lucky Luke', which is a road safety film production being developed by Gwent Police. The filming involved the closure of the A4048 where a scene of a fatal road collision was created.

Local officers acted as extras and all emergency services attended to participate in the production which, it is anticipated, will become part of the All Wales School Liaison Programme.

Protecting Vulnerable People

On Thursday 14th August 2008, the Cadro at Tredegar and other members of the Tredegar Crime Prevention panel attended Tredegar Comprehensive School in order to distribute crime prevention packs to the students who were collecting their 'A' level results. This initiative has been running for the last four years and the intention is to raise awareness with regards to personal safety, especially for students who move to other areas to take up college or university places. The packs contain useful information leaflets on the misuse of alcohol, mental health, home and vehicle safety, along with personal attack alarms and UV property marking pens. Positive feed back from teachers, parents and the former pupils themselves has been received from running the initiative over the past few years.

U Division

Strategic Roads Policing

Fatal Road Traffic Collision – B4293 Itton

On 5th July a VW Golf suffered a loss of control and crashed, no other car was involved, the front seat passenger sustained fatal injuries. Criminal proceedings have been instigated.

Fatal Road Traffic Collision – A468, Trecenydd, Caerphilly

On 15th July a Renault Clio crashed head on with a Chrysler Voyager, it is apparent that the Clio was overtaking at the time, both elderly occupants of the Clio sustained fatal injury. Three occupants in the Chrysler sustained serious injury, one is still critical. Investigation into the incident is still ongoing.

ANPR

The ANPR unit were involved in the following operations:

Vehicle crime operation C Division North - Led by Rhymney

Force wide operation targeting theft of metal

Operation Utah – South Wales Police

Operation Womad – Wiltshire

Operation Flagship – Pontypool

During times where no divisional operations had been planned ANPR officers deployed to the motorway fixed site cameras and through this, together with force-wide patrol, achieved the following results:

38 arrests

37 vehicles recovered Section 165

2 cannabis seizures

37 persons reported for document offences

In addition to the above, Operation Utah at Cardiff resulted in 27 arrests and 60 vehicle seizures. Operation Womad resulted in 10 arrests and 25 vehicle seizures.

Armed Response Unit

Stop searches – 140

Arrests – 29

Vehicle seizures – 72

Fixed Penalty Tickets – 225

Stop searches – 140

Firearms Incidents -16

Taser Incidents- 52

The Armed Response Unit (ARU) continues to give excellent support to Divisions.

During July Inspector Lintern gave a powerpoint presentation to the A Division Management Meeting highlighting the operational benefits of the ARU which was well received.

On 8th July ARU officers carried out an operation to deal with 'boy racer' problem in the 'C' Division area, primarily at Blackwood Town Centre.

A 'Mini Operation Utah' was carried out in July along the M4 corridor between J24 / 23Am, together with ANPR colleagues. There were 3 arrests made for motoring offences together with several Sec 165 seizure of vehicles and minor road traffic offences.

Operational Support

Air Support

During the month of June 2008 the Air Support Unit flew a total of **22** hours and **55** minutes in support of operations in the Gwent Police Force area.

Suicidal Missing Person - Newport

In June the aircraft carried out a search of wooded area around Tredegar House, Newport in conjunction with a Dog Handler. A heat source was detected under tree canopy and the dog handler was talked in and located the missing person.

Arrest of Offenders - Markham

The aircraft attended the area of the old Markham Colliery as result of report that male persons were digging copper piping out of ground at an isolated location. Upon arrival males were sighted and made off. Due to the location, ground units were having difficulties locating them and so the aircraft landed out of sight and one crew member disembarked. The aircraft then lifted off and the officer was talked into the offenders' location. They were subsequently both stopped and arrested.

Suicidal Missing Person - Llanarth Court

The aircraft crew located a suicidal missing person from Llanarth Court, Abergavenny near to the garden centre at Raglan.

Suicidal Missing Person - Maindiff Court

In June the crew self tasked to the area of Maindiff Court following a report of a female having left premises that had a history of self-harm. At the scene the aircraft liaised with local officers and a dog handler before carrying out a search. The female was quickly located sat alongside a railway line. After the trains were placed on stop, officers were directed in by the aircraft where she was subsequently safely detained.

In June numerous photographic tasks were carried as well as thermal image searches regarding likely Cannabis cultivation in the Rhymney and Blackwood areas.

The unit also took part in a training exercise in conjunction with the ANPR Unit.

During the month of July, the Air Support Unit flew a total of **26** hours and **45** minutes in support of operations in the Gwent Police force area.

Robbery - Magor.

At 00:55hrs on Sunday 13th July, the crew were requested to assist in searching for 3 youths who had made off into Whitewall common, Magor following a robbery where items including a mobile phone had been stolen. The crew commenced a search using the thermal image camera and heat sources were detected in a hut on the wetlands. Officers were then directed into the location and 3 persons were detained.

Road Safety film - Tredegar.

On Sunday 20th July, the crew were involved in a large scale multi-agency road safety production "Lucky Luke" on the Tredegar bypass. The crew carried out a 'case-vac' role for the film crew landing at the Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr.

Arrest – Pontypool.

On Tuesday 29th July, the duty crew attended the Riverside area of Pontypool where a youth had made off from an outstanding stolen vehicle. The crew carried out a search with the thermal image camera and a male was subsequently located and detained.

Arrest – Newport.

On Wednesday 30th July, the duty crew attended the Maesglas area of Newport where a male wanted for numerous offences had made off from officers into open ground. Following a search with the thermal image camera the male was detained.

Aerial Photography – Various Locations.

During the month of July the unit was involved in numerous photography tasks in relation to:

04/07/08 Light air crash at Upfield farm, Whitsun.
05/07/08 Fatal RTC Itton common, Devauden.
11/07/08 Fatal RTC Little Mill.
15/07/08 Fatal RTC Trecenydd, Caerphilly.
26/07/08 Fatal RTC Black Rock Road, Portskewett.

Public Order

(inc. Support Group, Search, CBRN)

Public Order (PSU)

Operationally it has busy 2 months with a variety of potential PSU tactical deployments.

These have included :-

- High visibility patrols in support of Divisional events, notably the Monmouth Agricultural Show, Monmouth Festival and Chepstow Races
- Specific disorder patrols particularly in 'C' Division – this is in addition to normal disorder deterrent and response provided by Support Group every weekend
- Presence at three start of season Newport County fixtures which, except for a small number of arrests, have passed without incident. There have also been further arrests in connection with Operation Meirion – a SWP led initiative targeting a large number of football hooligans wanted in connection with offences from last season.
- Initial work has also started on preparing for the HMIC thematic inspection on Public Order which will be undertaken in October.

Search

Search deployments have included the following :-

- Extensive search of Newport Central Custody Unit prior to it's re-opening in early July
- Several drug search warrants across the force area – which have included jobs in Maindee, Always, Pontypool, Bargoed and Blackwood

- The organization and coordination of Force Search trained officers to attend Exercise Demon Beacon in Shropshire, from 21st to 25th July. This is a bi-annual multi agency (West Mercia Police and Army – Explosive Ordnance Department) exercise and over the course of the week over 70 Gwent officers received training in search, identification and evacuation/cordon responsibilities in connection with explosive and other suspicious objects. (also see CBRN below).

Method of Entry (MOE)

This is a real growth area for Support Group and a tactic which supports most of our other deployments. Sections are using SG more and more to effect fast entries into premises – often through difficult doors or fortified entry points. The Unit leads the Force in this specialist field and continues to develop expertise which includes fast entry through glass.

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN)

Under this fourth area of SG specialist capability and as part of the Forces CBRN remit, the unit also deployed at Exercise Demon Beacon on the last phase of the exercise which was CBRN specific. This was an intensive day with team members being deployed in full CBRN kit for over 8 hours on a range of tactics including search and cordoning.

POLICE DOGS

PC 730 Wood & PD Roy

PC Wood attended a location following a report of criminal damage. Whilst checking the area, PC Wood saw 2 males run off. PD Roy tracked from location over a grassed area and through some alleyways behind some houses before losing the track. All other possible routes were checked with a negative result. PC Wood and PD Roy returned to the location where the track was lost and whilst re-checking the area, located the 2 males who ran away. PC Wood detained the males until local officers attended and the males were arrested.

PC 730 Wood & PD Roy

PC Wood attended the location of a report of 4 persons breaking into property. Upon attending the address with PD Roy, 4 persons were located in the rear garden of the address. A challenge was issued to the persons with PD Roy being extremely vocal; as a result all 4 were compliant. The 4 were detained for local officers whereupon one was arrested on suspicion of burglary.

PC 966 Nicholls & PD Deni

PC Nicholls attended an incident where a stolen vehicle had been located. Two persons had made good there escape and despite an extensive area search, the offenders were lost. Further information was then received to the effect that one of the offenders was at a nearby address. PC Nicholls attended with PD Deni and a search was conducted by PC Nicholls and PD Deni to locate the offender. A male was located hiding under clothing in a wardrobe; he was arrested and handed to divisional officers.

PC 966 Nicholls & PD Deni

Following a robbery at a supermarket, and the circulation of descriptions of the offenders, 3 persons of similar description were located nearby by local officers. Cash and belongings of the victim were found on the footpath and PD Deni was then tasked with tracking from the items. He tracked from the crime scene to where the 3 three persons had been detained by the local officers. As a result of this further evidence the 3 persons were arrested for the offence

PC 518 Cole & PD Duke

PC Cole and PD Duke attended the report of a burglary where a male had broken into the garage. Upon arrival it was apparent from witnesses that the area had been heavily 'contaminated' by passers by, as the scene was on the main route into the factory. Despite this fact, PC Cole still tasked PD Duke into nearby fields and woods, which were unlikely to be contaminated at this time of the day. As a result PD Duke was able to pick up some human scent. He located all the property that had been taken from this burglary and another that had happened earlier. A generator, bike gear and copper piping were located with a value of around £500.

PC 473 Pearse & PD Tizer

A report was received of two males running off on foot, having attempted to steal a patio heater from a garden. A track was located by PD Tizer and as a result of this track, a male was located in a neighbouring housing estate. When challenged, the male proceeded to run off jumping into further gardens, in an attempt to make good his escape. PD Tizer was deployed and detained the male in a garden. He was subsequently arrested for attempt theft.

PC 425 Allen & PD Caster

Three males had abandoned a believed stolen motor scooter in a sports field in Pontypool. PC Allen attended and tasked PD Caster, who tracked into undergrowth and up an embankment, onto a garage forecourt and across a road into a rear access lane. The track continued along the lane and out onto another street where a local sergeant had stopped three males. All were arrested as a result of this confirmation of the officer's suspicions. They admitted the offence during interview.

PC 966 Nicholls & PD Deni

A female had crashed her vehicle through a fence and was arrested for drink driving. She had made claims that she was not the driver and the driver had in fact run off across fields. PD Deni was deployed and through casting him in the isolated location provided evidence to negate the females defence.

Emergency Planning / Civil Contingencies

Over the last 2 months the team has been working hard on a number of significant Force events which have been reported on previously. In terms of Major Incident Preparedness the focus has been Exercise Bardic Surge – a military led multi agency major disaster exercise being run across Mid and South Wales on the 10th and 11th September. Gwent Police are fully engaged with this event and EP Department has led on planning, writing and implementing the Gwent response. It is anticipated that about 200 key members of the organization will be involved over the 2 days, which will test our effectiveness and capability to respond to such an event. Two members of the Police Authority will attend the exercise on day 1, to gain further insight into the challenges we and our partners would face in this type of situation.

Work running concurrently with the above has been the setting up and fitting out of the new Gwent multi-agency Gold Command Suite at HQ. Again, the EP Department has led on this project, which has seen extensive work done against tight timescales over the last 6 weeks. The facility is now almost complete and will be fully staffed and tested during Bardic Surge.

Work has now started on preparing for the HMIC thematic inspection on Civil Contingencies which will take place in October.

Preliminary planning work has also started in connection with the 2012 Olympics – with the mapping out of existing Gwent resources and skills that will also form part of the national picture for UK Policing capabilities in 2012.

CID

Operation Compass - A Division

The trial commenced on 2nd of April 2008 at Cardiff Crown Court in connection with the murder of Tran Nguyen.

At the conclusion of the 5 month trial 3 men were found guilty of manslaughter and 3 acquitted by the jury. Lord Justice Mc Kinnon passed the following sentences on the 11th August 2008.

Huynh Van Quynh – 9 years

Le Van Thanh – 7 Years

Le Van Cong – 7 years

The Judge commended Gwent Police and the investigation team for the thoroughness and detailed manner of the enquiry which he described as protracted as extensive.