

FEATURING:

- **Peterborough arsonist handed indefinite jail sentence**
- **Babatunde Adeyeye: Serves Queen and country**
- **100% detection rate on staff assaults at Milton Keynes**
- **Ipswich man jailed for indecent exposure**
- **Officers pull man from burning car**
- **Site foreman jailed for Gospel Oak assault**

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CUSTODY BUS SLASHES PRISONER PROCESSING TIMES



The London North prisoner processing unit (PPU) has now dealt with more than 150 prisoners during proactive operations on Area, saving hundreds of hours and enabling officers to be on the frontline for longer.

The PPU, also known as the 'custody bus', has an average processing time, from arrival to release, of less than 90 minutes. In ordinary circumstances, processing a prisoner at a police station can take up to four to six hours, thereby saving officers more than 500 hours since it was launched in March last year.

Custody Sergeant Linda Chamberlain said that the short processing time has enabled officers to be out on the frontline for longer, and has helped to reduce crime across the whole of the London North Area.

It has also allowed smaller operations to run for longer periods as officers do not have to spend great lengths of time in custody.

And the PPU has reduced the amount of paperwork for officers. For example, the bus carries supplies of pre-organised packs for cannabis warnings, and also has a drug testing kit on board which has been used more than thirty times.

The facility can test class A and B drugs, often allowing a charge to be given immediately thereby reducing the need for bail.

"In addition to saving hundreds of policing hours and improving efficiency, the fact that the bus is such a high-profile vehicle also serves to raise awareness and promote BTP," said PS Chamberlain.

The custody bus has been deployed to around six major multi-agency events including the Strawberry Fair, V Festival, Reading Festival and some major sporting events. It has also been deployed to many locations across the London North Area, including Slough, Ealing Broadway, St Pancras, West Hampstead, Luton, Ipswich and Norwich.

"Many of these operations have been joint initiatives with Home Office forces, including the Metropolitan Police, Essex Police and Cambridgeshire Police," added PS Chamberlain.

Contact PS Chamberlain on 07825 376552 or PC Neil Stannard, who will try to accommodate your requirements whenever possible.



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AREA COMMANDER UPDATE

London North Inside News sometimes brings you stories that are shocking, that can create an impression that the railways are a very unsafe place to be.



As the policing commander for your patch, I thought I would take the opportunity this month to provide a balance to some of the stories that we rightly bring you about the crimes we deal with. The railways are, in fact, very much safer than they have ever been. For instance, in 2002, we detected 12% of serious crimes. So far this year we have detected 38%.

There has also been a 34% drop – from 10,000 crimes to just over 6,000 of our most volumous offences, including theft of vehicles and pedal cycle crime. While staff assaults remain a constant challenge, we are now detecting just over 58% of all physical assaults reported to us by staff. If we recover forensic evidence using spittle kits, we actually detect 90% of offences. One of the proudest achievements of London North is how we have substantially reduced robbery on the network. Five years ago it was not unusual to have 10 or 20 robberies a night. Together we have reduced them by 55%. It is now rare to have more than three robberies a week across the whole south-east of England.

So, when you read about the arrest and convictions of criminals in this magazine, also bear in mind that the railways are getting safer - safer than they have ever been.

OPERATION SILVERBACK COMBATS GRAFFITI

Despite a busy Christmas night in Ilford, London North's plan to deter and combat graffiti over Christmas and the New Year has been hailed a success.

Detective Inspector Dave Aiton said that although there were reports of graffiti on trains at disparate locations around the Area, the extent and value of the criminal damage to rolling stock was relatively minor.

Some excellent work by PC Scott Darrah, PC Colm Abbott and DS Bertie Roddy helped to see five Australian graffiti vandals arrested for "tagging" trains at Ilford rail depot. The enquiry has since been taken on by London North detectives who say that the case is progressing well.

"This was a great bit of work from all involved," said DI Aiton. "There were a few other locations that sustained relatively minor graffiti, but the hard work at Ilford was certainly the main event over the festive period, resulting in five arrests."

"Notably, the profiled vulnerable locations and larger depots were largely unaffected," DI Aiton added.

"This is a vindication of the LN patrol strategy and a positive manifestation of the Area's operational plan and the diligence of deployed officers."



PETERBOROUGH ARSONIST HANDED INDEFINITE JAIL SENTENCE



Jailed: Watson

A 27-year-old man from Peterborough has been sentenced to jail after he broke into and burnt down the BTP station at Peterborough.

James Watson, 27, of Redgate Court, Parnwell, Peterborough, was sentenced to an indefinite term to protect the public and will serve a minimum sentence of five years. When released he will be on licence for life.

Peterborough Crown Court heard that after breaking into the station in the early hours of 6 September last year, Watson, who pleaded guilty to arson and burglary, stole police uniforms, belts, CS sprays and seized drugs, among other station property.

He then returned to the building and, after finding a generator with petrol inside, he poured it over a police evidence bag and started the blaze, which left the building gutted.

It was a grainy CCTV image that helped BTP detectives bring Watson - whose own defence counsel told the court was "obsessed with authority" - to justice.

He was arrested by officers the day after the fire in a pub after they spotted him in CCTV pictures entering the building and leaving on a bike.

Detectives also made use of local police intelligence and knew that Watson had targeted Thorpe Wood police station in 2006, stealing uniforms and a police car.

Property in a shed near where Watson lived was also recovered, and included black bin-liners filled with CS spray, cannabis, police uniforms and hats.

BTP officers had to make use of facilities kindly made available by Cambridgeshire Police after the blaze but are now working out of other offices near to Peterborough station.

Detective Sergeant Dave Strange, investigating officer, arrived at the scene while the police station was still ablaze and described in court the impact that the fire had on the team at Peterborough.

"We were all upset by what we saw," said DS Strange.

"To the people that worked there, it was like a second home. Many officers lost personal possessions and had case files that took months to put together destroyed."

DS Strange added: "What happened at Peterborough made us determined to track down those responsible and bring them to justice for what was an extremely serious offence."

London North Area Commander Chief Superintendent Mark Newton praised the efforts of all involved in the swift arrest and charge of Watson.

"With little more to go on than a murky CCTV image, the team managed to identify the suspect, pursue, arrest and then charge him with burglary and arson within just days of the incident occurring," said Chief Supt Newton.

"The response from uniformed officers and our detectives was excellent in terms of maintaining the scene and investigating this incident, in what were extremely adverse and trying circumstances for us. This was an excellent bit of police work from all concerned."



Burnt out: BTP's Peterborough office

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NEW SET-UP FOR FOOTBALL POLICING AT EUSTON SEES SUCCESS

London North now has a dedicated 'barrier line enforcement team' specially formed to police football fans at Euston station.

The formation of the team comes after a large group of Arsenal fans caused problems on a train travelling to King's Cross last month.

Inspector Bob Munn, officer in charge at Euston station, met the train at King's Cross with a team of officers, which led to the arrest of sixteen fans for racially aggravated public order offences. Officers are investigating links between this group and a group of Arsenal fans who caused problems on a Virgin train into London. Further arrests are anticipated in the near future.

In another recent incident, a BTP serial escorting Chelsea fans back to London encountered problems with a group who had been drinking and chanting in the first-class carriage. The train was met at Euston by more officers due to the problems and three men were identified and arrested for assaulting staff, section 5 Public Order, and drunk and disorderly behaviour.

The enforcement team consists of an inspector, a sergeant and six constables, with photographic capabilities to assist in gathering evidence, with support from the Dog Unit if needed.

The officers will work closely with Network Rail and Virgin Trains revenue protection inspectors, to enforce dry



trains and positively deal with fans that are not fit to travel.

Officers will also use all powers of arrest open to them in a firm but fair way to set the standard of behaviour expected.

Inspector Munn said that the positive intervention policy is the best way to deal with problematic fans, particularly as Virgin Trains are now running more frequent services.

"We will deal with any troublemakers connected with football disorder and have deployed the right resources to be able to do so at Euston effectively," said Inspector Munn.

Sector Commander, Chief Inspector Jim Nattrass, added: "The strategy will enforce good behaviour on those seeking to cause trouble and will reassure the travelling public as well as staff.

"The intention is that all people enjoy their day, and those seeking to intimidate passengers and staff or engage in antisocial behaviour will be prevented from travelling, and dealt with accordingly."



SITE FOREMAN JAILED FOR GOSPEL OAK ASSAULT

Last month a 24-year-old man from north London was sentenced to 26 weeks in prison for racially aggravated assault and threatening behaviour towards a member of London Overground rail staff.

Maciek Mol, a building site foreman, arrived at Gospel Oak station on 30 September last year having consumed large amounts of alcohol.

He repeatedly verbally abused and physically assaulted the female member of staff before being arrested by PC Colin Hall.

"The victim suffered blows to the head but thankfully her injuries were not serious," said Inspector Paul Thompson

of the London Overground team.

He added: "Mol demonstrated clear racist behaviour towards both the member of staff and a member of the public who tried to restrain him throughout the incident. During interviews, Mol was sober and fully admitted the offences, showing no remorse for his racist behaviour.

"As such we are pleased with the outcome of the case which was thoroughly investigated by the officers involved."

Transport for London



BABATUNDE ADEYEYE SERVES QUEEN AND COUNTRY IN AFGHANISTAN

This month, *LN Inside News* brings you an insight into the life of one of our officers who was called up to serve in Afghanistan on the Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) squad.

PC Babatunde Adeyeye of the London Overground sector has returned home having served Queen and country in the Middle East for nine months after being called upon by the Territorial Army.

PC Adeyeye served in various capacities across the Helmand province within the munitions disposal team, as an infantry escort, a medic, and as a trainer educating infantry troops about explosives. He worked with various units including the Parachute Regiment, the Royal Scots, the Royal Military Police, the Queens Royal Lancers, Special Forces, the Danish Explosive Disposal team, and the US Marines.

"We were given about a week to acclimatise to the extreme heat as it was the start of the summer period. However, the momentum of operations quickly changed and there was always a job on the go," said PC Adeyeye.

"My primary role was to stabilise unexploded items including land mines, fired munitions, and any other weapons that presented a hazard to allied forces and local Afghans.

"However, the roles were constantly evolving and I was attached to various teams during my tour. Often, I was literally given on the job training, and having to carry out the task in a real life scenario, which was quite daunting at times."

He remembers one mission in particular when he was attached to an armoured section as EOD escort. This was to transport a new turbine to the Kajaki Dam to improve the electricity supply for locals in Helmand province.

"It was a critical mission for the battle group and a great attempt to win the hearts of local people," said Adeyeye. "The armoured call sign I was attached to was tasked to move ahead of the main column carrying the turbine, and clear any enemy forces. It was a memorable experience as I spent about twelve days living out the back of one of



Babatunde with service medals

the vehicles and was on my belt buckles in the intense heat forging a route for the main column.

"It was an extreme few days but I felt a sense of pride when the mission was completed. The explosive threats encountered were successfully disarmed with no fatalities and only a few injuries from direct enemy action. It was strenuous, but I came out of it on a high."

He describes one of the major lows of his tour as losing a team member who was killed while attempting to safely dispose an improvised device in the Musa Qala area of Helmand province.

"This hit the EOD fraternity quite hard as he was one of the most experienced operators on the ground," he says. "I lived and worked with him, and it was quite a blow."

"During the tour I was out on patrol in local villages. I met some of the Afghan people and was able to see that they just want a bit of peace in their lives. The country has been blighted by war for so long and they are just fed up with it. The patrols were quite intense as the risks posed by suicide bombers had increased significantly, and while we were trying to engage with the locals we were also leaving ourselves open to a horrendous attack.

"I returned to the UK and was presented my operational medal in November at the Didcot Barracks of the Royal Logistic Corp EOD base in Oxfordshire. It was a proud moment and a sense of appreciation for the effort I had put in during the tour. It was also a moment to reflect on those who had-

n't made it and the sacrifices they made to bring about peace in that region."

Area Commander Mark Newton said that PC Adeyeye would receive a commendation for his exemplary service and conduct. He said: "Babatunde has exhibited some of the finest traditions of British policing and has shown amazing bravery. Often it seems that our Armed Forces are forgotten. However, when I heard his story, it made me feel very proud of what they are doing in this region of the world."



BI-NATIONAL CHANNEL TUNNEL DECONTAMINATION EXERCISE

Each year an Anglo-French Bi-National exercise is conducted with the aim of maintaining emergency response skills and practices needed for responding to an incident within the Channel Tunnel.

This year's exercise, Bi-Nat 19, was UK led and comprised a simulated chlorine leak on board a Tourist Shuttle (Eurotunnel car train) with casualties and decontamination units active in the tunnel from both the Fire and Rescue Service/Sapeur Pompier and Ambulance Service/Service d'Aide Medicale d'Urgence (SAMU).

There was a major incident room on both sides of the Channel Tunnel, staffed by the respective countries' responders. On the UK side of the tunnel this included BTP, the other blue light services, County Emergency Planner, the NHS and Eurotunnel.



This room, the Incident Co-ordination Centre, formed the Silver level of command for the exercise. In this instance, BTP Silver Commander was Sergeant Tony Riley from

Ebbsfleet, who played a critical role, disseminating information to and from the tunnel system and providing advice and guidance on the incident.

Inspector Stuart Downs, officer in charge at Ebbsfleet and Stratford International stations, said: "The exercise went well and all parties were able to jointly re-test their practices and procedures in order to expeditiously address incidents within the Channel Tunnel, keeping their impact on the rail network to a minimum."



FRAUDSTER ORDERED TO PAY ALMOST £5K COMPENSATION TO NXEA

A 31-year-old man from Brentwood has been ordered to pay almost £5,000 compensation to National Express East Anglia (NXEA) after travelling on the line with fraudulent tickets since December 2005.

Kevin Critchell, who works as a configuration manager, admitted the offences after he was caught out by a revenue protection inspector (RPI) at Liverpool Street station in May last year.

The RPI seized a number of rail tickets from Critchell that were for much shorter journeys than his daily commute

from Shenfield to London.

He was reported to police and PCs Ian Waudby and Jill Pocock, of the Area ticket fraud squad, subsequently arrested him.

In interviews, Critchell admitted buying short journey tickets thereby avoiding the bulk of his fare and was recently ordered to pay £4894.30.



EBBSFLEET OFFICERS PULL MAN FROM BURNING CAR

Last month three Ebbsfleet officers pulled an elderly man to safety from his burning vehicle on a busy motorway.

PCs Hartley, Sutton and PCSO Minnerthy were on their way to an infrastructure maintenance depot in North Kent following reports of suspicious activity in relation to cable theft in the Detling area.

While southbound on the A2, approaching Gravesend East, they noticed smoke and flames coming from the car in front of them. The flames grew, lapping the underneath of the car and officers immediately signalled the driver to pull over.

The man in the vehicle, who was in his late 80's, was pulled out of the car to safety and told officers that he was completely unaware that his car was on fire.

Kent Fire and Rescue service Crew Commander said that the car could have exploded at any moment had it not been not stopped.

Needless to say, the man was very grateful to the BTP officers for saving his life.



SOUTHEND MAN CHARGED WITH GBH AND COMMON ASSAULT

A 28-year-old man from Southend has been charged with grievous bodily harm and common assault following an investigation by Liverpool Street CID.

The arrest and subsequent charge of James Wood follows from an incident in July of this year when a man and his friend were assaulted on a C2C train after a night out in London.

As their journey progressed towards the Southend area a group of rowdy youths boarded the train. The two victims challenged the group's behaviour and were subjected to verbal abuse.

While this was happening, another man, who was independent from the group, attacked both victims and caused one to suffer a fractured eye socket and a broken jaw.

"This was a nasty assault that resulted in serious injuries for one of the victims," said investigating officer T/DC Joe McClenaghan.

"At first we had very little evidence other than statements from both victims who gave a vague description of the offender.

"We were able to get a still of the offender from station CCTV at Shoeburyness where he had alighted. The still was circulated and an officer from Essex Police subsequently provided an ID."

Wood was arrested and interviewed but stated no comment to all questions asked. He was later picked out on a VIPER parade by both victims.

CPS authorised charges of GBH and common assault.

Wood now awaits committal to Crown Court.

30 MONTH SENTENCE FOR HAYES & HARLINGTON KNIFE ATTACK

A 21-year-old man has been sentenced to 30 months in prison after he attacked a man with a knife at Hayes & Harlington station in April 2006.

The man had been waiting at the station to get the train home with his elderly mother when he was confronted by a group of rowdy youths who he exchanged words with in the booking hall.

He was then followed by one of the group, Daniel Bromfield, back down the stairs towards the platform.

He was stabbed four times in the upper thigh by Bromfield and fell down the stairs on to the platform where his mother was waiting.

The victim received emergency treatment at the scene before being taken for further treatment to his wounds at Hillingdon Hospital.

The sentence comes after a long enquiry by Paddington CID, which involved an appeal to the BBC's Crimewatch show.

After he was finally arrested in April of this year, Bromfield admitted the offence.

He was sentenced to prison at Harrow Crown Court last month.

"This was a very good result that came about after a lot of hard work and determination," said Detective Sergeant Chris Neeson.

"DC Paul Hegarty worked extremely conscientiously to detect this offence and made extensive enquiries to find and identify the suspect from CCTV footage.

"Following a successful appeal to the BBC's Crimewatch show earlier in the year two text messages came in which identified Bromfield as the suspect and he was arrested for the offence to which he later admitted."

DS Neeson added: "The final outcome of a custodial sentence must be seen as inevitable for what was a very serious offence."

100% DETECTION RATE ON STAFF ASSAULTS AT MILTON KEYNES

Recent statistics show that officers at Milton Keynes station are currently achieving a 100% detection rate on staff assaults.

Since last April, the beginning of the financial year, there have been 14 assaults on both London Midland and Virgin Trains staff at the station.



Every single one of these crimes has been solved and offenders have been brought to justice.

Officer in charge, Sergeant Pete Goodchild, said: "Rail staff have just as much right as everybody else to perform their job without fear of violence.

"We hope these successful figures show that if a member of staff at Milton Keynes is assaulted, BTP officers will leave no stone unturned to trace and prosecute the offenders."

Detective Inspector Dave Aiton, who is coordinating the Area wide campaign to tackle staff assaults, said:

"Officers at Milton Keynes have made a significant contribution to Operation Lockstock and set an excellent example for other stations across the Area."

London midland

IPSWICH MAN JAILED FOR INDECENT EXPOSURE

A 32 year-old-man from Ipswich has been jailed for 18 months after breaching an ASBO and indecently exposing himself on a train between Melton and Beccles.

Last November Jonathan Baigent boarded the train and sat opposite his victim.

He had placed his leather jacket on his lap and the woman noticed some movement from the corner of her eye.

She glanced across at him and noticed that he had fully exposed himself.

She immediately alerted rail staff who reported the incident to police and met the train at Oulton Broad South station before arresting him.

Baigent was already subject to a sexual offences protection order an antisocial behaviour order, and was on licence from prison for other sexual offences.

Sergeant Andy Cook, officer in charge at Norwich, said: "Baigent's record of sexual offences show that he is a clear danger to women and we welcome the sentence that has been handed to him.

"Some excellent work by PC Chris Manders on this case has been well rewarded."

He was sentenced at Ipswich Crown Court earlier this month after pleading guilty to breaching his ASBO and was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment.

His ASBO has been reinstated for a further 2 years.

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