



South West Fife Police Community Newsletter



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**

Keeping people safe

POILEAS ALBA

Foreword

Welcome to the December edition of your community policing newsletter.

This edition may be slightly smaller than usual, not because we have been any less busy, but quite the opposite!

Some of the team have been enjoying some well earned annual leave after a really busy spell leading up to and delivering the policing operation for COP26. This means that it has been full steam ahead for everybody else!

This month has seen the team focus on traditional festive safety activities, including a Winter Safety campaign, as well as engaging with licensees and patrons, ensuring that people are enjoying safe events.

Sadly this month has seen a move towards stricter measures and working practices in relation to COVID due to prevalence of the new Omicron variant of the virus. As a result we may physically attend fewer calls and meetings in order to protect the workforce and public through the festive period.

This month we will share some news of local happenings, promote the work of Fife Road Policing Unit and highlight one of our colleagues. We hope that you enjoy the newsletter! To receive future copies please email RosythCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk.

We wish everybody a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year!

December 2021

Your Area

Our staff are deployed by wards, and for simplicity we may refer to these occasionally.

Ward 1: West Fife & Coastal Villages (includes Newmills, Culross, Cairneyhill, Torryburn, Low Valleyfield, Oakley, High Valleyfield, Blairhall, Kincardine, Carnock, Gowkhall and Saline).

Ward 5: Rosyth (also includes Pattiesmuir, Limekilns, Charlestown and Crombie)

Ward 6: Inverkeithing & Dalgety Bay (also includes North Queensferry, Hillend & Aberdour)

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Cop of the Month

Gavin “Gav” Mould



Gav is a response cop with over 29 years service. In fact, if you were to ask Gav he would doubtless be able to tell you exactly how much more than 29 years service because for the past couple of months he has been maintaining a daily countdown on a dry wipe board in the station so that we all knows exactly how long it is until he retires.

Some might think that this is Gav gloating, but we all know that the real reason he does this is so that we can prepare ourselves for when he is not here!!

You see, Gav has developed such a wealth of experience and knowledge over the years that he is not only viewed as the “go to” senior cop for the probationers he is tutoring or his other team mates, but he is often called upon to keep the team sergeants right.

For an officer with the uncanny ability to appear perpetually grumpy, Gav makes a point of making time to help his colleagues, really going above and beyond what is expected. This is highlighted not only by his own team, but by other teams at the station, and it is for this reason that he has been nominated for the dubious honour of being our Cop of the Month.

Gav joined the police on the 22nd October 1992, around the same time that many of his colleagues were starting High School (or indeed Primary School!) He must have been a fresh faced probationer at some point, but we have been unable to find any definitive proof of this, and can't imagine him with anything other than his current craggy outward visage.

Working his entire police service in West Fife, what Gav doesn't know about the area or it's inhabitants isn't worth knowing. After several years as a response officer, Gav fulfilled an ambition and became a detective in 2001. During a lengthy spell in plain clothes, Gav was trained as a Crime Scene Manager, a specialism he maintains to this day. He is very highly regarded in this field, and although he is trying to step back from this a bit to avoid a multitude of court dates after he has retired, something tells me that this will be resisted until the day he finally goes!

Gav doesn't suffer fools and always says it like he sees it. In a job like policing, as I am sure you might imagine, this isn't always universally popular! His message is always well intentioned however, and despite the near-permanent scowl, he really does care about his job and the communities he serves.

Gav is a very keen cyclist and is supremely fit (and tough as nails). Indeed, to this day he commutes to and from work for dayshift, backshift or nightshift on his bike, come rain, hail, shine or snow. He has completed several long distance challenges for no other reason than to prove to himself that he can cycle 200+ miles in a day.

Gav is also a very keen and competent musician, and for many years he has played guitar for various bands across Central Scotland. Rock covers are his speciality, and I am sure that retirement (in 294 days or so) will provide Gav ample opportunity to spend more time in the studio honing his craft,

But we still have Gav for 294 days, and despite his advancing years (!) I am sure that we will continue to get his best from him until he bows out the door.

Thanks for all of your hard work Gav, it really is appreciated. A very worthy and popular nomination for Cop of the Month.



Night of Action (Part 1)

On Friday 10th December Tina Paton and Sandy Thomson took part in a Night of Action with partners, deploying as part of MAIT (Mobile Alcohol Intervention Team).

A very successful initiative over a number of years now, MAIT targets young people in the community, encouraging positive choices, providing health and safety advice and discouraging antisocial behaviour.

Police accompany staff from Clued Up & Safer Communities Officers and target areas where youths are known to gather at key times. While on-the-spot advice can be provided, there are often opportunities for agencies to form the beginnings of positive relationships with young people that can be continued into the home or school environment.



Tina blending in with the team

Keen to make the most effective use of our time, gone are the days of having a night in comfy jeans and trainers with the rest of the MAIT team! To ensure that we were ready to assist our colleagues with response duties at the drop of a hat, Tina and Sandy deployed in uniform with their own vehicle. We are keen to maximise opportunities to work with partners while understanding the need to be fully available to the communities we serve, particularly at key times.

A considerable part of the night was spent in the Blairhall area following a number of complaints of damage and antisocial behaviour in recent weeks. The event was well received by the community and a number of young people were engaged with.

The next Night of Action with MAIT is planned for Friday 7th January 2022.



Night of Action (Part 2)

Also on Friday 10th December, your Rosyth Ward Officers Louis McGuire and Simon Large attended at CJs Pool Hall in Rosyth. Liaising with the licensee in advance, the officers set up a small stall in the foyer, promoting safer drinking habits and providing 'Spikeys'. Simon and Louis discussed with patrons the steps they can take to ensure they keep themselves and others safe whilst on a night out. This is the first of a series of events we are planning, working together with licensees to make their premises safer.

The officers also demonstrated personal protective equipment, such as personal panic alarms, which are available to purchase direct from the police at a modest price. If you would like information about any of these products or about Community Safety advice in general, please email RosythCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk and we will put you in touch with the right people.



A small selection of products to improve your safety



Simon demonstrates a Spikey

Spikeys (right) are bottle stoppers that fit neatly inside the top of your bottle. The small hole through the centre is just the right size to slide a straw through.

By closing the gap between the straw and edge of the bottle you are greatly reducing the possibility of your drink being spiked.

Each spikey is designed to be used only once, and once fitted correctly into a bottle it cannot be removed.

Although we had a small supply of these to sample, they can be purchased relatively cheaply from various sources on the internet. Just search "spikey" online and you will find all of the information you need about them.

One of the best features that we can see is that the bright colours make these highly noticeable. Everyone will see that your drink is protected, and it never hurts to appear vigilant!





Fife Road Policing



As part of our newsletter, as well as providing some information about what your local officers have been up to, we would like to provide some insight into the work of our colleagues and partners who also work in our area, and across Fife. This month we would like to introduce you to a road policing officer, PC Kirk Haig, based at Glenrothes. Kirk will tell you a little about himself, his role, and current priorities for his team.



Now you see us, now you don't...

One 18 yr old driver en route to a driving ban

My name is Haig Kirk and I am a Road Policing Officer based in Glenrothes. I have been attached to the Fife Divisional Road Policing Unit since August 2021. Before joining the department, I spent over 4 years working response policing in Craigmillar and Portobello in Edinburgh, then a further 18 months response policing in Leith. I also have specialisms in CBRN decontamination and as such was deployed to COP26 during November 2021.

The Fife Road Policing Unit forms part of the road policing resource for the East of Scotland which incorporates Forth Valley, Fife, Edinburgh City, West Lothian, East Lothian, Midlothian and the Scottish Borders.

Our purpose is to patrol the main road network, proactively detecting crime, responding to and providing support at emergency incidents/major events and investigating serious/fatal road traffic collisions.

We also collaborate with partner agencies and organisations to prioritise the fatal 5 offences, speeding, seatbelts, mobile phones, drink/drug driving and careless driving.



A typical scene a Road Policing officer might attend



Road Policing Winter Safety Campaign

At this time of year, we have a focus on a dedicated Winter Safety Campaign which includes drink and drug driving. We have some advice in respect of this, which will assist in making your driving experience safe and legal this winter:

Ensure basic checks are done regularly (at least weekly) for example screen-wash, tyre condition, external lights working.

Check you have turned all lights/electricals off when finished driving your car to conserve battery, especially in colder weather.

Ensure that your car is fully cleared PRIOR to driving (snow, ice, de-misted) and that you have the means to do this (scraper, de-icer).

Check weather forecasts and travel updates regularly and plan your routes accordingly.

If you are stuck in queueing traffic or passing the scene of a collision DO NOT use or record on your mobile phone; this is an offence while driving, dangerous to emergency services at the scene and insensitive to families of those involved.

You are up to 3 times more likely to be killed or seriously injured in a road traffic accident when driving after taking cannabis, and you can now be tested at the roadside for it. View this short film <https://youtu.be/Gn2PusXJC6Q>



A recent seizure from a driver under the influence of drugs

It is important to consider journeys the morning after – could you still be over the limit? If yes, then don't drive as the legal limit is low for alcohol in Scotland. View this short film <https://youtu.be/DO5oAJzOUzQ>

You are responsible for your own actions - drink and drug driving can have devastating consequences, people can and have died and those responsible have been imprisoned. If found guilty of drink or drug driving, this will show on a criminal record. You could receive a large fine, disqualification and up to 6 months imprisonment. The same applies if you refuse to provide a breath sample or drug wipe without a reasonable excuse.

This has the potential to impact on future employment, access to foreign countries such as Australia and USA, and working with children or people who require additional support.

If you want to read any further advice, you can view this on:

Road Policing Twitter account <https://twitter.com/polscotrpu>

Road Safety Scotland Twitter account <https://twitter.com/roadsafetyscot>

Road Safety Scotland Facebook account <https://facebook.com/roadsafetyscotland>

Road Safety Scotland website <https://roadsafety.scot>

End of an Era



Longannet Power Station was opened in 1973 and was the last coal-fired power station operating in Scotland. Longannet closed in March 2016 and since then work has been ongoing to demolish the power station.

Following the demolition of the chimney stack at Inverkip Power Station in 2013, Longannet's stack was the tallest freestanding structure in Scotland at 600ft, dominating the skyline in the West of Fife.

For several months local officers have been involved in planning meetings around the demolition of the chimney at Longannet.

The demolition was carried out by contractor Brown and Mason, supported by a number of other agencies. Police Scotland's main role was to provide support outside the controlled site, largely focused on the safety and integrity of the local road network.

Local officers were supported by colleagues from the national Police Motorcycle Unit, who assisted in ensuring the free flow of the trunk A985, and the Marine Unit who assisted civilian boats in maintaining the exclusion zone on the water. We also liaised with our colleagues based in Grangemouth given the natural vantage point at Skinflats and potential for vehicles and crowds gathering.

The demolition took place at 9am on Thursday 9th December by way of a planned detonation of explosives. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon was invited to press the button, detonating around 700kg of explosive, neatly levelling the chimney stack.

The demolition went without issue, leaving a very different view for the local Community.

The demolition was attended by a number of people specially invited to Longannet, many of whom were former employees at the site, including Willie Ferguson, former local councillor and long-time supporter of the local police. He like many other local people spent many happy years in employment at Longannet.

While not intended or advertised as a public event it was clear given the iconic nature of the structure and the large number of local people that the site provided employment for that it would draw some attention. We sought to maintain public safety while being as unobtrusive as possible. We would like to thank local residents for their patience and understanding during the event.

Winter Road Safety



Advice for drivers during winter:

- Make sure your car is ready for winter
- Check that your tyres, brakes, windscreens, wiper blades and windows are free from defects and clean
- Drive to the road conditions. Road conditions can change without warning, stopping distances will be affected by the weather
- Make sure your windows are clean and aren't misted up
- Make sure there is no snow and ice on your windows before you drive
- When the roads are icy, drive at a slow speed in a high gear
- Accelerate and brake very gently
- Driving distracted (for example, using a Sat Nav) can cause additional stress. It is dangerous for yourself, passengers and other road users.



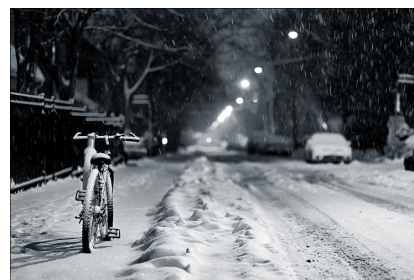
Advice if you are out walking during winter:

- Dress for the weather by wearing reflective or bright-coloured clothing so other road users can see you when it's dark or visibility is poor
- If you are walking home late at night, make sure someone knows where you're going and when
- Vehicles can take up to ten times longer to stop on slippery road surfaces so take extra care crossing the road
- Stick to pedestrian crossings
- If there are no crossings nearby, find a place with a clear view and wait for long gaps in the traffic before crossing the road
- Don't cross the road between parked vehicles, unless it can't be avoided then take extra care (look out for vehicles that suddenly reverse or pull out)
- Never cross the road behind a bus
- If there is no pavement, keep to the right hand side of the road so you can see traffic coming towards you.



Advice to consider if you are cycling during winter:

- Make sure your bike can be seen by people on the road
- Use a good set of front and rear lights (white at the front, red at the back)
- Wear clothes that help you be seen on your bike, such as bright and light reflective items
- Pay attention to road signs, markings and particularly red lights
- Do not cycle on the pavements, they may be slippery and can also endanger pedestrians
- Be mindful of the effects poor weather can have on other road users
- Make sure you know about the dangers around you
- Cars can take twice as long to stop in wet weather
- Braking can be unpredictable in ice and snow



How Should You Contact Us?

Always dial 999 in an emergency. The calls are free from any phone.

An emergency is when:

- Someone's life is at risk
- Someone is injured
- There is a fire
- Offenders are nearby
- Immediate help is needed

101 is the number to contact the police when it's less urgent than 999.

The 101 non-emergency number makes it quicker and easier for you to contact the police when you don't need an emergency response, for example to:

- speak to your local police officer
 - report a crime that's already happened, such as a theft or damage to property
 - get crime prevention advice
 - make us aware of any policing issues in your area
- 101 provides one easy-to-remember number to contact the police wherever you are in Scotland, or elsewhere in the UK.

The 101 non-emergency number is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When you dial 101, the system will determine your location and connect you to the service centre covering your area.

In an emergency always dial 999 - when a life is in danger, a crime is in progress or a suspect is nearby.

South West Fife Community Team

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Email (Ward 1): WestFifeCoastalVillages-
CPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Email (Ward 5): RosythCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

Email (Ward 6): Inverkeithing-
DalgetyBayCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

**** The above email addresses are not monitored 24/7 and should be used for routine contact with your community officers. Please do not report crime via these emails. ****

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/>

Twitter: @policescotland
Twitter: @SWFifePolice

Facebook: www.facebook.com/policescotland



CrimeStoppers.
0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.



Keeping People Safe

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