

# VPC Newsletter



## The Aims of the VPC are: -

- To promote a practical understanding of policing amongst all young people.
- To encourage the spirit of adventure and good citizenship.
- To support local policing priorities through volunteering and give young people a chance to be heard.
- To inspire young people to participate positively in their communities.

We are starting to see cadet units coming back together!

After a year of COVID restrictions, and apart from a very short period last summer, VPC activity has taken place in the virtual world.

However now, with the lifting of some restrictions around the delivery of youth activity, we have been able to get VPC units back together, initially outside but as of

earlier this month, inside activity is permitted also.

Not all police forces are in a position to return straight away, with some taking the opportunity to refresh their schemes in order to open up again in September, and that is fine – everyone needs to be ready and comfortable to return to 'normality'. We hope that in the coming weeks and months restrictions will

continue to lift as we follow the roadmap out of COVID, so that cadets and leaders can get back to what they do best – making a difference in their communities! We look forward to welcoming back old and new cadets and leaders alike.

*National VPC*



## FIND US ON...



# HRH PRINCE PHILIP

## 1921 - 2021



It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh on Saturday 10<sup>TH</sup> April.

Prince Phillip gave 82 years of dedicated service to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. In 1939 he joined the Royal Navy at 18 years old and served with distinction in the second World War before giving up active military service in 1952 after reaching the rank of Commander, with the coronation of Her Majesty the Queen.

The Duke was an advocate for young people and in 1956 established the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, inspired by his former headmaster, and he remained heavily involved until his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, remaining a patron for the rest of his life. He attended his 500<sup>th</sup> Gold Award Presentation in the UK in 2013, and carried out engagements on behalf of the DofE, visiting DofE groups both within the UK and across the world, until his retirement from public engagements in 2017.

6.5 million young people have benefited from DofE in the UK and many of our Volunteer Police Cadets make up that number who have, or, who are completing Bronze, Silver or Gold awards.

The DofE become one of his most remarkable achievements equipping and empowering young people from all communities to build the skills, confidence, and resilience they need to make the most out of life and make a difference to the world around them. The Duke described the DofE as a 'Do-it-yourself growing up kit.'



### Ed Sherry OBE MSc – Strategic Director, National VPC Hub

*'Like everyone not just in this country but, around the world, we are deeply saddened by the passing of The Duke of Edinburgh who has been a pillar of our society and companion to our Queen for so many years.*

*The institution that bears his name, The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme has been instrumental in changing the lives of thousands of young people over many years. Since the VPC started, great numbers of our members have completed the Award and as leaders and others who support the VPC we all have personal experiences of how it's structure challenges young people to break out of their comfort zones, try new experiences and meet new friends. The VPC is proud to continue our participation in The Duke's Award Scheme as we support ever more young people into active citizenship.'*

Soraya was a cadet, cadet leader, part of the National VPC hub team, and is now a serving Police Officer with Greater Manchester Police and achieved the Gold Duke of Edinburgh award in 2019.

*'The Duke of Edinburgh Award is not only one of the most celebrated achievements across the board when it comes to glimmering CV's or applications for young people but also that on the achievement of life. Enabling young people to open doors, stretch their limits and feel something in return of prestigious pride and self-achievement. For me it was all of those things.*

*My bronze award felt to me an adventure and half, but little did I know I was only just beginning. 13-year-old me and my school friends must have made our camping experience one Bear Grills could only dream of. I learnt basic mapping skills which I took a like to, I enjoyed using the compass to navigate us to our next check point which made me feel like I was a wild explorer!*

*My silver expedition stretched me to be more independent. I had to learn to be more self-sufficient for longer and working with a team around me, I ensured all the camp mates had everything they needed to make it through a longer walking and camping experience.*

*GOLD! What an experience. I was the only female out of 6 people completing this expedition together. This in itself was out of my comfort zone. I came from an only girl's school so being in a team with a group of males was definitely an environment I wasn't used too. My gold award pushed me personally to understanding my own mental blocks when it comes to challenges, I face. Sometimes I can become narrow minded and not see the bigger picture but when you have a brilliant team around you it's important to take in what other routes maybe better. I also learnt it's important to push yourself and remember those around you may be in the same boat but not in the same storm. Sometimes by talking and engaging together you are problem solving unknowingly this will help you push yourself to get through it.*

*I've always felt a huge sense of pride post expeditions. The Duke of Edinburgh Award has been a huge part of my life for over 7 years and each time I've either learnt a new skill, hit a new target, or pushed myself to do something completely out of my comfort zone. I learnt how to be self-sufficient, I learnt my own personal boundaries of pushing myself, and most of all I learnt how to be confident enough in my own decisions.*

*There are so many memories and experiences I think about or use in my everyday day life. I endeavour to keep pushing myself and exploring the world around us. Those are experiences you can't get in any other environment or setting.*

*Completing the duke of Edinburgh award, it has equipped me with the skills I needed post 18 in my everyday working life and that's something you can't teach people but only assist them to learn.*

*Thank you to His Royal Highness for opening doors for so many young people and enabling them to reach their full potential in life no matter what the boundary or difficulty. May he rest in peace.'*



On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021 HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh was laid to rest in the Royal vault in St Georges Chapel, Windsor Castle.

Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer, National Police Chiefs' Council, VPC portfolio lead, laid a wreath to the mark the Dukes' funeral at Bodmin Police Station, on behalf of the VPC family.



Metropolitan Police (Havering) VPC unit about to embark on Duke of Edinburgh Award activity observing the national two minutes silence





## Volunteer Police Cadet Heroine!



13-year-old Emily Edwards, a Cadet with the Metropolitan Police was one of the first people on scene at a serious road traffic collision on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April on Kington Hill, South West London.



an elderly lady from the vehicle. The driver was later cut out of the vehicle by the Fire Service and was believed to have suffered a broken neck.

Having recently completed a first responder course as part of her cadet programme, she remained calm under pressure and called the Ambulance Service and prevented passers-by from trying to remove the driver,



\*Scene photographs & content courtesy of Sillet Photography

Through her actions in preventing passers-by from moving the driver Emily undoubtedly prevented further injury being caused and due to the nature of the injury suffered by the elderly driver, possibly saved their life.

The whole VPC family are extremely proud of Emily's actions. Well done Emily!

Nicola, Emily's mother said -  
*'Emily is overwhelmed by all the lovely messages she has been reading through my LinkedIn and Facebook pages. On that Easter Sunday, she just kicked straight into Police*

*Cadet mode putting into practice all the training that she has learned from Staff PC Juliet Saunders, PC Hayley Parkes and other Staff at the Kingston VPC. However, her overwhelming wish at the moment, is to find out whether the elderly couple involved in the accident are safe and sound. As parents, we know that we are in safe hands with Emily by our side. We are immeasurably proud of her and thank all the VPC Staff and Volunteers for the life skills that Emily has achieved thus far through the Cadet Programme.'*



# Helping to shape future of policing



West Midlands Cadet Kien has always had a passion for policing and when he leaves school, he wants to become a police officer.

But until he's able to apply to join us as a student officer, he's getting some experience of the job a West Midlands Volunteer Police cadet.

Kien said; "I applied for the Cadets 18 months ago, when I was 15. I was able to join some proper sessions to start with but then it all moved online due to coronavirus.

"Before lockdown, I'd taken part in memorial events for Remembrance Sunday which made me feel very proud.

"We'd also taken part in operations with regular officers, like patrols of the German market in Birmingham and being part of security operations. I've also joined a team of covert officers to experience what they do and a local policing team during a knife sweep."



And some of the things he'd learned in cadets meant he was able to act quickly when he saw a man armed with knives at a petrol station. He was later honoured with NPU Commander's Award.

He said: "I called 999. I was able to use skills I'd learned as a cadet, to give clear details and keep them simple. I did this and officers were able to act quickly to apprehend the man."

Being in the VPC means Kien is helping to shape the future of policing across the West Midlands.

He has been elected as a Youth Commissioner working with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and sits on a funding scrutiny panel. He's also on the West Midlands Cadets Governance Board which meets bi-monthly to discuss the future of cadets and ways to improve the scheme with

Assistant Chief Constable Mark Payne, members of the Citizens in Policing Team and representatives from other departments.

In addition, he sits on the Cadets Voice Panel, which is made up two cadets from each unit who help plan future meetings. As part of this, he's represented West Midlands Police at a national youth event.

Kien said "Being a cadet just gives me loads of experiences that I wouldn't normally get as a teenager. It provides a fantastic insight into policing.

## Newly appointed High Sheriff Cadets



Gloucestershire Constabulary is proud to introduce their new High Sherriff Cadet. Cadet Green is not only their 6th High Sherriff Cadet but the first ever Treasure Seeker Cadet. We wish him all the best in his new role.

The Gloucestershire Treasure Seekers Police Cadets initiative was launched in November 201



Meanwhile in North Wales, Cadets received their High Sheriffs badges from the High Sheriff of Clwyd.



## West Mercia Cadet receives 'TryAngle' Award



The TryAngle awards are awarded by Young Solutions, Worcestershire and recognise outstanding efforts and achievements of young people aged up to 18 years. This can be for trying their best and “going above and beyond” whether at school, work, college or in the wider community across Worcestershire.

Cadet Josh is a 16-year-old volunteer police cadet with the West Mercia Police - South Worcestershire cohort and joined the cadet scheme in September 2019. Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, Josh has continued to attend the weekly cadet zoom meetings and has strived to keep engaged as well as taking on home schooling and preparing for his GCSEs or the current equivalent assessment that will now take place.

Whilst they have not had face to face cadet meetings, Josh has also continued to volunteer at Perdiswell Young Peoples Leisure Club and has attended a weekly session where he assists with a group providing help and support to adults with learning disabilities. He makes the tea, chats with the service users, and helps with completing forms and administration both for the providers and the users of this group.

During a time, which has been difficult for all communities, Josh has shown great commitment and resilience and given up his own time to help others who are most vulnerable. Josh was not only nominated by his Cadet Leaders but received a second nomination from the group as well and was successful in his category of Citizenship and Environment. Young Solutions Worcestershire received 69 nominations in total with 3 winners in each of the 5 categories.



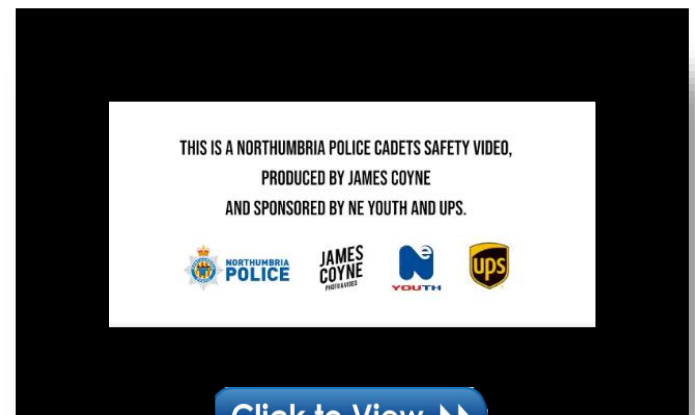
## Safety first

Northumbria Police Cadets (North Tyneside Unit, Year 3 Cadets) took part in a road safety initiative relating to drink/drug driving aimed at under 25 years, delivered by NE Youth charity.

The road safety sessions were in collaboration and funded by UPS delivery company UK. UPS offered to all youth groups who took part in training sessions an opportunity to apply for funding to create a social action project relating to road safety which could be shared with other youth groups.

The Cadets decided to apply for the funding and voted to make a video, designed by, starring and produced by cadets. “Phone Down, Look Around” is what they came up with.

The video is aimed at peer to peer education about the use of mobile phones used by pedestrians and how people just walk out in traffic without looking. Due to the excellent standard of the video, the road safety program will now use the video in their training session. The cadets have also been asked to create another video in collaboration with road safety within the force. So watch this space for its release.





# STEPHEN LAWRENCE DAY

22 APRIL 2021



On Stephen Lawrence Day 2021, Thursday 22 April, Volunteer Police Cadets joined Fire Cadets and Emergency Services Cadets from units across England and Wales to give voice and action to Stephen's legacy, proudly partnering with the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation and key partners at the Home Office, Prince's Trust and other organisations.

Despite COVID restrictions, with many units still yet to return to face-to-face activities sessions, National VPC and National Fire Cadets Leaders utilised a range of resources and briefings to present to their cadets, building bridges with lots of joint unit co-operation.

Cadets and adult leaders promoted Stephen's legacy, the tragedy of how his life was brutally ended by racist offenders, in an unprovoked attack and how the failure of the subsequent police investigation to bring the offenders to justice at the time, impacted on Stephen's family and the wider community. And also the very positive empowerment of where we are now in 2021, led by our young people looking forward.

28 years later, much has changed as a result of what happened, both in policing, the criminal justice system, and our communities. Much still remains to be done - and this journey is far from over.

Cadets and young people in 2021 from all backgrounds and communities supported #StephenLawrenceDay #SLDay21 and take on challenges set by our good friends at the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation. This includes #ChallengeAccepted cards and planning their own youth-led social action projects.

National VPC Project Lead Tim Mann said "We're so proud of amazing young people in all our cadet units who have fully embraced Stephen Lawrence Day 2021 and responded with positivity, energy and enthusiasm.

Thank you to all who took part not just on 22 April, but now looking forward over the next 12 months, because Stephen Lawrence Day and his legacy is not just about one day.

Thank you to all the adult cadet leaders, colleagues and other volunteers who have made this possible." "Most of all, thank you all at the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation for your positive support, encouragement and enthusiasm, Baroness Lawrence, Rt Hon Stuart Lawrence and all the team we have worked with this year."





15 year old Cadet Awele from the Metropolitan Police (Southwark) VPC joined representatives from the Fire Cadets and Princes Trust as part of a virtual Question & Answer panel with the Policing Minister Kit Malthouse. Watched by around 130 other young people she asked some great questions including recruitment of more police officers from ethnic minorities and made some great observations around living as a black woman in South London and how her perception of the police changed when she became a Cadet.



Awele became a Cadet in 2019 and was awarded the 'Best New Met VPC recruit' in the 2019 Met awards by Commissioner Cressida Dick, after the event she said, "I never really talked to police before joining VPC but have learned so much! To help build positive change - we have to BE part of that change together, not just sit back!"

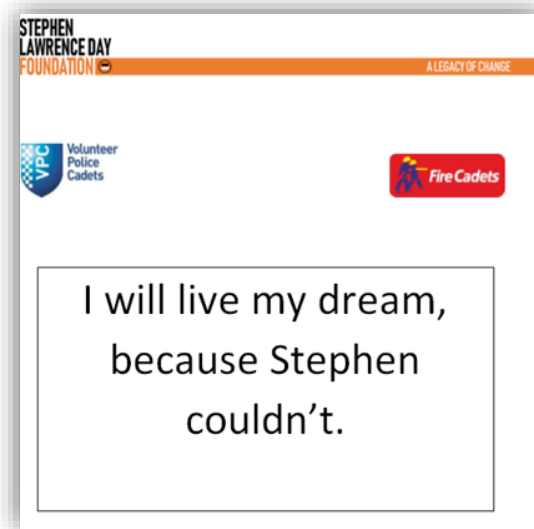
Some examples of activity included -

Warwickshire – cadets and leaders from across the county joined together online to learn about Stephen Lawrence and what SLD21 means for them. Creating a montage capturing their #ChallengeAccepted thoughts and goals.

Devon & Cornwall and Avon & Somerset – over 75 VPC and Fire Cadets came together in a big virtual event run by adult leaders from both groups, learning about Stephen Lawrence Day, talking about racism and hatred and how every young person's voice counts. Exciting times ahead and powerful commitment to being the change they want to see in the world, to #LiveYourBestLife!

Derbyshire VPC teams explored Stephen's legacy, aims of Stephen Lawrence Day, and made it very relevant to them all in 2021, in their communities and their lived experiences, through amazing artwork and visual ideas.

A HUGE thank you to everyone who took part this year (and we are now looking forward to all that comes next!)



# STEPHEN LAWRENCE DAY

22 APRIL 2021





# Zoo clean up

COLCHESTER ZOO



Cadets from Colchester VPC have taken advantage of the recent changes in COVID restrictions and have helped at Colchester Zoo for the first time in a long while.

Colchester Zoo were preparing for their reopening in April and the Cadets helped clean out the Goats enclosure of nettles.



The cadets then carried out a 'bark backing' exercise. Filling the Gaboon enclosure with bark.



The cadets rounded of the day by cleaning the Tiger enclosure and watching the feeding (from a safe distance!)





## Summers' coming!

For those VPC units lucky enough to be near the sea, social action activity, COVID safe, beach cleaning has been a chance to get back together whilst performing a very important piece of social action activity.

Pembroke VPC carried out a litter pick & community engagement in Tenby Harbour and castle beach/South Beach areas. Cadets engaged with residents who were very appreciative and thanked the cadets for their hard work



Cadets from Lancashire's' Blackpool and Fyde cadet units spent the day beach cleaning, on what was already a pretty clean beach to start with! Cadets and Leaders were seeing each other in person for the first time in over a year, and some were new Cadets who joined in September 2020 and had only been able to access online sessions and meetings.



## Quiz Masters!

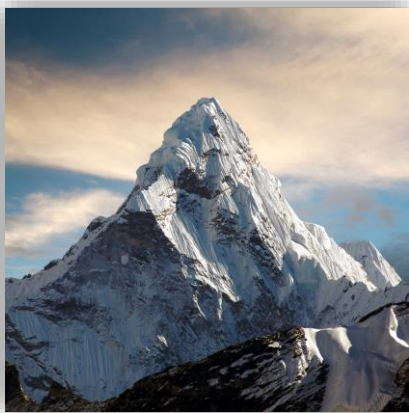
On Tuesday 13th April 2021, Gwent Police's NxtGen Team held an online virtual Quiz for a number of VPC Cadet units dotted around the UK. Cadets from the British Transport Police, Metropolitan Police, Greater Manchester (Stockport), Isle of Man, North Wales, South Wales Dyfed Powys, and others logged in to take part in a 50 question, General Knowledge Quiz held on Quizizz.



Gwent Assistant Chief Constable, Ian Roberts, was in attendance and opened the meeting and spoke about wellbeing and collectiveness with our young people and the importance of our Cadet Units.

Competition was fierce with prizes for the top 3 cadets with Theo from Stockport coming out as the overall winner, with Lilee-Mae and Lucy, both from the Isle of Man, coming out in 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Cadet leaders joined in before and after and expressed how great it was to be part of the first Virtual Quiz held for the Cadets. The Isle of Man have kindly offered to host Quiz Number 2 for a date in the future, and we are all looking forward to meeting up again and pitting our wits against other Cadet groups again!



## Cadets step up for charity



Did you know the very first Red Nose Day was in 1988 and a massive £15 million was raised?

Each year there are more and more people who donate towards this cause and even more people getting involved fundraising themselves, including celebrities! In 2015, it was announced that in the 30-year history of Comic Relief, the Red Nose Day and Sport Relief appeals had raised in excess of £1.4 billion!

Money raised goes towards helping people across the UK and around the World this includes supporting people with getting access to quality mental health services, accessing safe accommodation, accessing specialist services for those who experience domestic abuse.

In March, Gloucestershire Volunteer Police cadets decided climbing Mount Everest would be an amazing challenge to attempt and would at the same time raise money for a great cause.

Mount Everest is 8,848 meters high ... the average house has 13 stairs. In order to climb Mount Everest, the cadets and leaders attempted to climb 4,466 flights of stairs within five days leading up to the 19th of March, Red Nose Day. Even



Authorised Firearms Officer Ian Saunders, one of Gloucestershire's VPC leaders, took up the challenge climbing in full operational kit!

Cadets, including Treasure Seeker Cadets and VPC leaders started climbing on the 15th of March and climbed through to the 19th of March logging every step and although they did not manage to reach the top the intrepid climbers did manage 3,275 flights of stairs and raised an amazing £1,081.00 for this wonderful cause.

Gloucestershire Police could not be prouder of their Volunteer Police Cadets and leaders and you never know next year they may reach the top!



Also, in March Surrey Police Chief Constable Stephens requested those within the Force help support the Chief's Charity for the year, MIND, by getting involved in the 27/27 Challenge.

Two members of the Surrey VPC - Unit leader Bennetts and Cadet Ellie took on the challenge to Walk 27 miles in 27 days.

Each respectively completed the challenge which enabled them time to enjoy the natural environment around them and have regular walks with a family member or friend (COVID safe).

Together and inclusive of gift aid the pair have raised a total of £596.00 – well done!!

Walking is defiantly good for the mind, body, and soul. Will you challenge yourself to get up and put on your walking shoes to improve your health?



**Citizens**  
in policing  
VALUING VOLUNTEERS

**HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A SPECIAL CONSTABLE?**

**CADETS AND PYVS:**

Join us online on **Weds 19th May 18:30** to find out if you are ready for one of the most rewarding and challenging volunteer roles out there.

**ARE YOU READY?**  
Find out if you are up to the challenge

**VPC** Volunteer Police Cadets

Click [HERE](#) to register

**Have you got a story for us?**

**We want to highlight the great work done by Cadets & Leaders across all VPC schemes.**

**Let us know by emailing: [vpc.admin@vpc.police.uk](mailto:vpc.admin@vpc.police.uk)**

**(We endeavor to include as many articles as we can)**

