

National VPC Newsletter

December 2023

Welcome to this mega Christmas edition of the National VPC Newsletter, highlighting the activities & achievements of VPC Units, Cadets, and Leaders across the Police Forces of England & Wales.



The Aims of the VPC

- 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.





Remembrance Day 2023



Once again Cadets from across all VPC schemes, pulled their boots, ironed their uniforms and paraded in Remembrance Day parades across England & Wales this year. All Cadets displayed professionalism and respect for the annual act of remembrance for those who sacrificed all in conflicts or acts of terrorism.





Remembrance Day 2023



Cadets from several forces were privileged to attend the National Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph in London on Sunday 12th November. Cadets from the Metropolitan Police, City of London Police, were joined by Cadets from Cumbria and Northumbria and took their places in the Youth section of the parade.



Together with their VPC leaders they marched past the Cenotaph, in Whitehall, London.



On Sunday 19th November, Cadets from across the Metropolitan Police area gathered in Whitehall for their own annual Act of Remembrance.

An impressive turn out of around 300 Cadets paid respect to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, alongside their reviewing officer Assistant Commissioner Pippa Mills



Cadet trip of Remembrance



Back in August as part of this year's remembrance - Cadets from Kent visited Normandy. The following article was written by Cadet Sgt Jospeh Day-George from their Tonbridge Unit and gives a very personal perspective of the trip.

A Trip of Remembrance in Normandy

By Cadet Sgt. J. Day-George

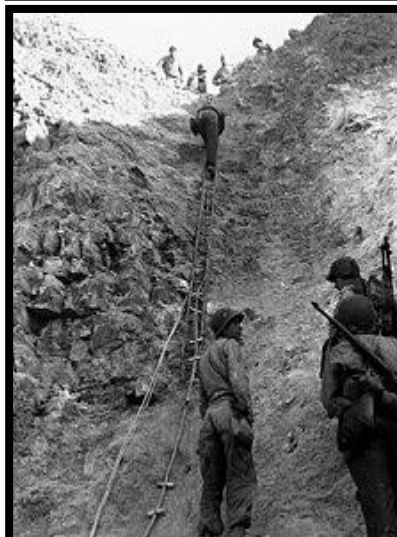
On the 27th August 2023 I departed on a trip to visit the 5 D-Day Beaches, (Gold, Utah, Omaha, Juno and Sword) and the memorials in Normandy associated with each site and the wider landing as a whole. This was with Kent Police Cadets of which I am a member.

We find it vitally important to remember those who have given their today for our tomorrow and this was our aim to learn the individual stories of the common-man who risked or even lost their lives. Our Itinerary was jam packed, going to all 5 beaches, museums, and memorials.



On the next day we visited the American War Memorial, which was inspiring to see the story of so many honest and spectacular people who came from the states and died on Utah and Omaha beaches. We continued onto Omaha Beach, and then onto Pointe du Hoc which was an unfortunate massacre on so many people, as they tried to take the high fortification under heavy fire.

In a simple chronological order, after arriving in France we headed for Pegasus Bridge. Where we saw the impossible task assigned to Major John Howard and D company 2nd Airborne Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, who heroically took Pegasus and Hosea Bridge and under heavy fire, in order to cut off German supplies to the landing beaches. Afterwards going to Merville Battery, a German fortification part of the Atlantic Wall that was taken in the swift stroke before the landings on 6th June later in the morning. And finally ending up at Sword beach for the day then heading to our accommodation for the night.



Eventually the US Forces succeeded but not before 77 of 225 Americans died, which is one of the worst percent losses of 35% and causing injury in some shape or form to almost every soldier involved in the operation. Afterwards we headed to Dead Man's Corner where we watched a 3D video about the operations of D-Day, and Mission Albany where 1000s were killed or MIA due to the fierce fighting circulating.

After this we received a culture shock when we got to the German War Cemetery as it was much more mellow and dull. Which is terrible to see as all those people were just wanting to live their lives and instead had it taken from them in the French Countryside, under orders of Nazi leadership.



The next morning, we headed out early towards St Mere Eglise and St Marie du Mont where we visited the Airborne Museum and had some free time to explore St Mere Eglise, where I had a lovely baguette and crepe. But there was always that feeling knowing the fighting that occurred in these towns was still stained in the shadows and brick work of the old church. At the church in St Mere Eglise a parachutist was killed in landing, causing him to be caught on the tower and was left dangling from his parachute off the side of this church. (A mock up is shown in the picture left) After this we went to Utah beach and the associated landing museum.

On the final day in France, we started off at Arromanches and Mulberry Harbour B, which was an incredible modularised port that the British brought over from Great Britain to the Normandy coast, which was vital for allied logistics and supplies. Throughout the 6 months of operation 4 million Tons of supplies, 2.5 million Soldiers and 500,000 vehicles came through Mulberry B, at one point this was the busiest harbour in the entire world. It is nice to think of some of the incredible logistical successes as well as it didn't require a human cost and instead teamwork and determination. We had some free time to explore the town and Gold Beach. We stopped by Longues-sur-Mer, Jerusalem War Cemetery, and a Canadian Cemetery. Jerusalem Cemetery was certainly the most impactful, being the smallest war grave maintained by the CWGC, and the story behind its location.

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We had some free time to explore the town and Gold Beach. We stopped by Longues-sur-Mer, Jerusalem War Cemetery and a Canadian Cemetery. Jerusalem Cemetery was certainly the most impactful, being the smallest war grave maintained by the CWGC, and also the story behind its location. A squad of British troops had seen some German tanks on the approaching road and so called in an airstrike, however due to it being a busy time the bombers couldn't take the request immediately, they waited for a while before moving on at which point when they moved out of cover the bombers flew by. The entire squad was killed by friendly forces, a nearby allied hospital was damaged and among the dead was a 16 year old Private Jack Banks the youngest British casualty of the Normandy invasion. The mistake and miscommunication caused the death of so many.



When looking back on the war as a whole, I see the simplicity of mind we had at the time but that was all so complacent in the true damage and cost. I find it vital that we remember the past and learn from it; and to never let another soul die in such a manner. However we still have war and conflicts and need to do everything in our power to stop any more hurt.



Something I learnt is the difference between the countries involved and how they see their dead. It isn't only the UK, America & Canada but Germany remembers also.

Cadets join up in Lord Mayors' parade



Before taking part in the Remembrance Day parades Cadets from the City of London Police, Hertfordshire, Surrey, Gloucestershire, Thames Valley, Northumbria, and Essex Police got the chance to practice their marching, taking part in the London Lord Mayors' Parade on Saturday 11th November.

Described by one VPC leader as a 'once in a career opportunity for the cadets to experience'. The Cadets were exceptional and a credit to their respective police forces.



The Cadets marched alongside other uniformed youth groups from our partners in 'You London'

Lord Ferrers AWARDS 2023

The Lord Ferrers Awards recognise outstanding contributions to volunteering in policing. Each year nominations are received from VPC schemes across England & Wales for the awards in two of the categories - Volunteer Police Cadet - Individual Award and Team Award. This year was no exception with a number of nominations considered by the judging panel. The awards took place in October in London.

VPC Individual Award Winner



Winner of the VPC Individual Award was Cadet Billy Alderman (Windsor & Maidenhead, Thames Valley Police).

Billy was nominated due to his persistent hard work and dedication to the community. Billy has struggled at School with his learning. However at Cadets he really comes into his own. Billy shows maturity and takes personal responsibility for his and his groups actions.

Billy has led the way with community engagement across RBWM. He has taken part in test purchase operations for knife crime, Alcohol and fireworks. Helping to keep dangerous items off the street and out of the wrong hands. He took part in an Event for the Queens platinum Jubilee on Windsor long walk, engaging with the public, litter picking and assisting organisers run an event that had tens of thousands of visitors.

Billy helped create a training package whereby our Cadet Group visit Elderly and Vulnerable groups and teach them how to get the best put of their smart phones and tablet computers. The Aim being to help combat isolation and loneliness. (especially having gone through Covid lockdowns) and has also had a real benefit in preventing Fraud and Scams that are associated to digital communications. Not only did Billy take a leading role in designing the course he has helped train other cadets and led them on numerous visits to community groups and delivered exceptional training and service to the people who need help the most.

Billy is the Head cadet; his leadership qualities are of the highest standard. He leads by example and is always the first to volunteer.



He took a very keen interest in this year's White ribbon Campaign and is always seen wearing his ribbon to promote the cause of preventing violence against women. Billy is exceptionally regarded within his peer group, which is evidenced by the way he promotes self-confidence and will spend time listening and helping other cadets with their tasks. Billy will encourage engagement from others and speak up for them when required. He has even been known to help cadets polish their boots before uniform inspections. Billy is also highly regarded by the cadet leaders and Billy makes a superb bridge between his peers and the adult leaders.

Billy has even been known outside of his cadet role to volunteer his time in the community and was regularly helping in his community by cutting their grass in the summer.

Billy is a huge Benefit to the Community and Thames valley Police. Billy would one day like to use these skills to become a police officer, and although school learning has been difficult for him, his VPC leaders have no doubt the skills he presents to Cadets will put him in an excellent position to achieve his goals.

VPC Individual Award Runner-Up

Runner Up in the VPC Individual Award was Cadet Jack Newton from Ivybridge unit from Devon & Cornwall VPC. (Pictured together with DCC Dave Thorne)

Jack was awarded runner up for his lead in social action to collect clothing to benefit young people who had become homeless and were being helped by the Night Stop Charity.

Jack organised a local drop off point and would take items collected back to his home to be stored.



Jack then organised the cadets into teams to sort out the 236 items of clothing collected into categories to make them manageable for Night Stop. The collection was gratefully received.

Jack is always keen to support other cadets and is a superb role model for other young people in the way he conducts himself, and certainly hits the aims of the VPC. Congratulations Jack.

Team Award. Double success for Northumbria VPC !

Winners of the VPC Team Award were Northumbria Polices' Percey Hedley VPC Unit.

The unit is based in a college near Newcastle for young people with special educational needs & disabilities.



Northumbria VPC were also Runners Up in the category, with their North Tyneside Unit being recognised for their contribution to Youth Led Social Action in support of policing and their communities.

Leadership Award winner



Not to out done a dedicated VPC leader was the winner of the Leadership Award.

Inspector Matt Breeze, from Suffolk Police was given the Leadership Award at the annual Lord Ferrers Awards which recognise outstanding contributions to volunteering in policing.



Following his prize Insp Breeze said: "I was shocked when I heard the news. I was one of a number to pick up awards relating to volunteering in policing from across the UK, I felt honoured to be recognised alongside other very deserving winners."

As well as his role as cadet leader at the Ipswich unit, the 43-year-old is also the Locality Inspector for Ipswich East SNT, which includes Kesgrave, Woodbridge, Felixstowe and the surrounding area.

Suffolk Constabulary's Citizens in Policing Manager Karen Harris BEM added: "I am thrilled that Matt received this national award in recognition for his contribution to the Suffolk cadet scheme, Matt has been a massive support to me since cadets came into my portfolio in 2016.

Norfolk in Social Action



Norfolk Police Cadets have started work on Social Action Projects, with the Breckland Unit working with local Safer Neighbourhood Team's to identify vulnerable members of the community and for Cadet's to help support them.



For the Gooderstone Project, it was highlighted that an elderly member of the local community would benefit from some support after being a target of a crime, the Cadet's, alongside the SNT did a Crime Survey and identified areas of the property where the Unit could assist.



The Cadets all worked so very, very hard, despite the atrocious weather conditions - and not one of them complained once! Their efforts will make a huge difference to the lady who lives at the property, who was amazed that they turned up in the bad weather and then moved to tears at their finished results.

One of the parents supplied a hamper to the lady on behalf of Breckland Cadets - who was lost for words when the cadets presented her with this. (Pictured left & below).





Kent Police Cadet Coordinator, Julia Lindon-Taylor was nominated for special recognition by the Cadets Vocational College (CVC) at their annual graduation ceremony at the Royal Sandhurst Military Academy.

Cadet Coordinator receives special recognition



The Cadet Vocational College (CVC) wanted to thank and honour a small number of people who have made significant contribution to the cadet learners and Jules was someone they felt should be recognised.

Jules has said that "it was truly an honour to receive the special award In Recognition of Outstanding Contribution as a VQ Officer within Kent VPC. To aid young people to develop through the Cadets Vocational College qualifications is truly rewarding as it is their hard work and determination that provides hope of a future generation of adults".

Jules has led the CVC programme in Kent which has involved the development of other leaders within the cadet units to enable them to help and support cadets with the programme. Over the last two years, 45 senior cadets have enrolled onto the BTEC level 2 programme and there are currently another 15-awaiting enrolment.

The CVC programme used within the Kent VPC scheme aims to ensure that all young people have the opportunity to obtain a qualification during their time as a Cadet.

The BTEC qualification is available to all young people aged between 16 - 18 and provides a valuable recognition of soft skills such as teamwork, resilience and citizenship - all invaluable to our young people who are looking to apply for university, considering an apprenticeship or applying for any other role within the workplace.

Jules has also been responsible for introducing the Lion award to the newly established Junior Cadet programme. The award promotes and supports the development of our younger cadets through a programme of outdoor activities, first aid skills and social action projects and also supports young people's mental wellbeing, resilience and character building.

'Without Jules' hard work, dedication and in some cases sheer tenacity, we would not have been in a position to offer these amazing opportunities to our young people and Jules is very much deserving of this fantastic recognition. and we are incredibly proud of Jules and of all she has achieved.' (Kent Pol.)

West Mercia Cadets place Poppies on police fleet vehicles



Around 300 of West Mercia Police fleet vehicles had poppies placed on them ahead of Remembrance Sunday.

Sgt Lee Baker and a group of cadets were out and about across the force sticking the poppies to each of the vehicles.

It is the seventh year Lee has arranged for the poppies to be delivered as part of the force's commemoration of those who lost their lives in the two world wars and later conflicts.

Sgt Baker said, "I am extremely grateful to the cadets and their leaders," Lee said. "This exercise provides an ideal opportunity for the cadets to reflect on why we display poppies in preparation for their Remembrance Sunday parades.

"Their enthusiasm was brilliant to see, and they are a credit to their leaders and parents alike. In some small way I hope that this initiative helps to ensure that our fallen are never forgotten."



Gwent VPC secure project funding.

Gwent Volunteer Police cadets have secured funding to support road safety initiatives in Caerphilly

Gwent Volunteer Police Cadets have secured funding from Inspire and Youth Cymru to support Heddlu Bach schools in the Caerphilly County borough purchase 'Parking Buddies'.

Inspire is delivered by UK Youth in partnership with British Red Cross, Youth Action Northern Ireland, Youth Cymru, Youth Scotland who collectively work together to support the development of young people across many communities. The funding awarded has enabled the Cadet programme to purchase 14 sets of 'Parking Buddies' for schools who participate in the Heddlu Bach (Mini Police) scheme. 'Buddies' are used outside school entrances to promote safe parking, safer routes to schools and educates parents of the dangers of parking. The Heddlu Bach will be promoting the parking buddies as part of their Mini Police role, promoting safe routes to school in their local communities.



Hayley Brown & Deke Williams (NxtGen Community Police Officers) said -

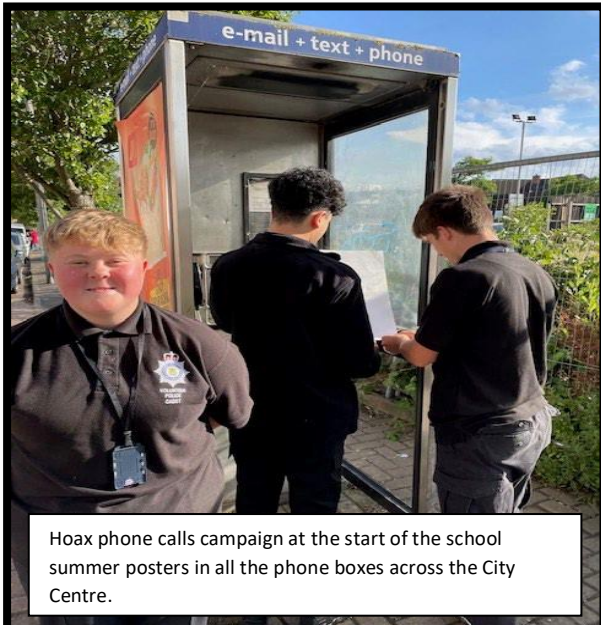
"It's great to see the Volunteer Police Cadets working on projects to support the Heddlu Bach scheme, delivering joint projects within our communities. The Heddlu Bach scheme is aimed at young people aged between 9 and 11 years, they look up to the Volunteer Cadets with pride and aspire one day to become Police Cadets themselves. This has not only given the Cadets skills and experience in understanding finances and funding, they have worked as a team to identify and promote awareness of local issues affecting our schools. The Buddies will give schools to be the ability to promote safer routes for pupils and parents."



Cadets across Cambridgeshire have volunteered over **735** hours in 2 areas of their county as part of the Safer Streets 4 project.

Cadets have taken part in lots of different volunteering activities from Test Purchase operations, litter picking, helping at the Community Fridge, community events, poster campaigns, helping with leaflet drops and Neighbourhood watch promotion. Car washing, Armed Forces Day and booking in guests at the IPA national conference that was held in Peterborough this year.

Cambridgeshire Cadets provide hundreds of volunteer hours



Hoax phone calls campaign at the start of the school summer posters in all the phone boxes across the City Centre.



Business Against Abuse test purchase using Cadets across Peterborough and Fenland



Litter picking in Wisbech



Millfield Community Fridge – Cadets did a total of 185 hours volunteering here.



Cadets helped at Wisbech Museum community event helping the visitor's making arts and crafts.



Cadets took part in the Big Sleep Out where they experienced what its like to be homeless. They raised £750 for a charity.



Cadets conduct knife sweeps in support of



OPERATION SCEPTRE



Kirklees District Volunteer Police Cadets joined up with Dewsbury and Mirfield Neighbourhood Policing Team to play their part in Operation Sceptre, a national week of action to prevent the harm caused by edged weapons.

The cadets, having received an input about search techniques from West Yorkshires Specialist Support Group, undertook weapons sweeps in areas identified as being locations where Anti Social Behaviour has taken place.



PS Stuart Clarke, District Volunteer Cadet Leader and Dewsbury and Mirfield NPT Sergeant said "The weapon sweeps were a great opportunity for the Volunteer Cadets to put their learning into practice whilst helping to make their communities safe and inclusive. The cadets took the role of search lead, which allowed them to develop their leadership and communication skills"

Volunteer Police Cadets are the national youth movement of the Police, Volunteer cadets are aged between 14 and 18 and undertake a wide range of activities in the community."



In Merseyside the Cadet team completed 12 "To The Edge" knife crime presentations and workshops to over 400 pupils at our Mini Police Schools across Merseyside, with the cadets making a great contribution during the week in delivering the Q&A sessions.



The cadets also assisted both Wirral and Liverpool Trading Standards for 2 knife test purchasing events in which one knife sale was made from 12 test purchases. This low numbers of fails are testimony to the Cadets year-round approach to knife test purchasing via Operation Blue, Merseyside Police's knife test purchase operation. And finally, the cadets completed open land searches in St Helens town centre and Victoria Park, in which they found 1 combat knife in a sheath, one pocket pen knife, a tree cutting knife and small pair of scissors. The cadets volunteered over 120 volunteering hours just for this week alone.



Manchester Cadets support Operation AVRO



OPERATION
AVRO
Fighting crime together



15 cadets alongside 5 leaders (+ Special Sgt. Martin Bridge) from the Tameside Voluntary Police Cadet unit supported Greater Manchester Police's 'Operation Avro'.

They braved the cold and horizontal rain to post burglary crime reduction flyers at 400 houses in two crime hotspots in the Dukinfield area.

Operation AVRO is our force-wide monthly blitz on local crime which runs in a different district each month.

Congratulations to the Northamptonshire Emergency Service Cadets unit based at Kingswood School in Corby, who were voted winners of the Youth Organisation Award at the 2023 Spirit of Corby



Northamptonshire Cadets win at the 2023 Spirit of Corby awards.



The Spirit awards recognise individuals and groups who have made an outstanding contribution to the town.

The awards were organised by Corby Town Council and presented at a ceremony at the Holiday Inn in Corby in November.

Established in 2016, the Northamptonshire Emergency Service Cadets is a joint partnership between the county's police, fire and ambulance services.

It is open to teenagers aged 13 to 18. Units meet across Northamptonshire, offering young people the chance to take an active role in supporting the work of police, fire and ambulance staff and making a positive contribution to their communities.

They currently have around 280 cadets across the county, based in one of their six units in Northampton, Wellingborough, Kettering, Corby, Towcester and Daventry.

After leaving the programme, many of the cadets have gone on to become police officers or special constables, or to develop careers in the fire and rescue and ambulance services.

Sussex Cadet assists High Sheriff



Cadet Alex Nikolov is currently the Sussex High Sheriff Cadet and attended a reception at Fishbourne Roman Palace

Alex is pictured right with Jo Shiner (current Chief Constable, Sussex), Andrew Shiner, Alex Stewart, Andy Bliss (High Sheriff, former Chief Constable, Herts), Giles York (former Chief Constable, Sussex).



A credit to South Wales



Three South Wales Police Youth Volunteers (their version of VPC) and who attended the Merthyr Tydfil Police Youth Volunteer Hub are employed in McDonalds in Merthyr Tydfil. In November they had kindly offered to assist work colleagues in Bristol by covering their shifts to allow their colleagues the opportunity to celebrate their works Christmas party.

Tomas Butler, Daniel Waters and Corey Owens were on their way to work when they came across a male clearly suffering from a medical episode. The male was clutching his chest in the middle of the road. They instantly pulled their car over and gave medical assistance to the male. This male was a off duty former police officer who had handed his notice (to retire) earlier that day.

Geraint had been awarded long service accreditation throughout his career and on his retirement from the role of Police Constable he was appointed as Crime Scene Investigation officer as such he continued working for South Wales Police until the date of this incident.

One of the boys spoke to the ambulance service whilst another administered first aid, the third indicated that they were police cadets and attempted to keep him calm. Geraint was reassured to hear that they were police cadets and entrusted them with his keys and asked them to go to his home address to get his wife. The third one did this and on their return the ambulance was already at the scene.

At this point they boys handed over to the ambulance staff and Geraint's wife. They then continued onto Bristol to assist with their shift which they had volunteered to do.

Unfortunately, Geraint passed away later that day.

Due to it being a small valley's community, word travelled back to Geraint's family who had reached out to the PYV's to thank them.

The three Police Youth Volunteers were also invited to the funeral where they represented South Wales Police, along with officers in formal attire. The boys have subsequently been recognised by the Chief Constable for their actions on that date.

All three of these PYV's are a credit to South Wales Police, they are described as always dedicated, diligent and respectful. They truly are a credit to their community and their force.



North Yorkshire attest Cadets

This December North Yorkshire Police successfully attested 8 cadets at a ceremony held at Cambria Primary School, the home of Catterick Police Cadets Police Cadets



These 8 Cadets joined the scheme in September and worked really hard, each week, in anticipation of this night.

They were joined by, 50 family and friends, ACC Bissett. Inspector Mark Gee, Garrison Commander Lt Col Charlie Anderson and Garrison and the Garrison Sgt Major.

The Catterick unit, led by Specials Sgt Nadine Slattery, has been in operation in the Army garrison town since Sept 2017. They currently have 21 young people enrolled (from recruits to 3rd years) and have 6 leaders, 4 of which are former Cadets.



Elsewhere in North Yorkshire.....

Every day the High Sheriffs of the Northeast host a Legal Service event every year celebrating the end and start of the legal year each year. It involves dignitaries and the judiciary from across the region coming together in all their ceremonial dress to have a service at York Minster and then a lunch afterwards at the Assembly Rooms in York.

The High Sheriff wanted to highlight the work of the Police Cadets and asked for a Cadet to carry her ceremonial sword at the service.

York Police Cadet Ralph carried the High Sheriff's sword for the ceremony.



MERRY CHRISTMAS



We try to include as many stories as we can from VPC schemes across England & Wales

Do you have a story that can be shared with everyone?

Has your Cadet unit done something to shout about?

If so, contact us at -

vpc.admin@vpc.police.uk

