

# Neighbourhood Policing – Leeds District

## Keep your phone safe

HOW safe is your phone?

North East Leeds Police are running a campaign which encourages school pupils and anyone with a mobile phone to register the IMEI number (serial number inside the phone) on the Immobilise database. This would enable the owner of the phone to ring one central number and deactivate the phone, should it be stolen.

During the last operation of this type 200 mobile phones were checked, several of which were seized and returned to their rightful owner.

The operation led to the arrest of 20 people on suspicion of offences including robbery and burglary and North East Leeds saw reports of robbery drop by 43 per cent compared to the same period last year.

■ Anyone wishing to enter the details of their mobile phone onto the database should log on to [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) for more information.

# Lets 'bag' thieves together

RESIDENTS in the Headingley area are being encouraged to work with a neighbourhood security scheme to help catch 'purse-dipper' thieves.

Headingley Shop Watch was set up to improve safety in the area for local residents and shoppers following a series of thefts.

The scheme brings together retailers, volunteers and West Yorkshire Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in a team effort to drive down crime.

Over 20 shops are involved in the scheme, providing support to each other by sharing information through a 'ring round' scheme. Each retailer is given a maximum of three phone numbers to call to inform other traders as quickly as possible if a shoplifter is operating in the area.

The scheme is now focusing on purse dippers after a spate of incidents in the area. Residents have been invited to Shop Watch events to receive advice on how to protect themselves from

thieves, and have also been issued free 'purse chains' by PCSOs. These secure purses firmly to belts or bags to keep them out of purse dippers' reach. Police are also warning shoppers to be extra vigilant and keep their bags in their possession at all times.

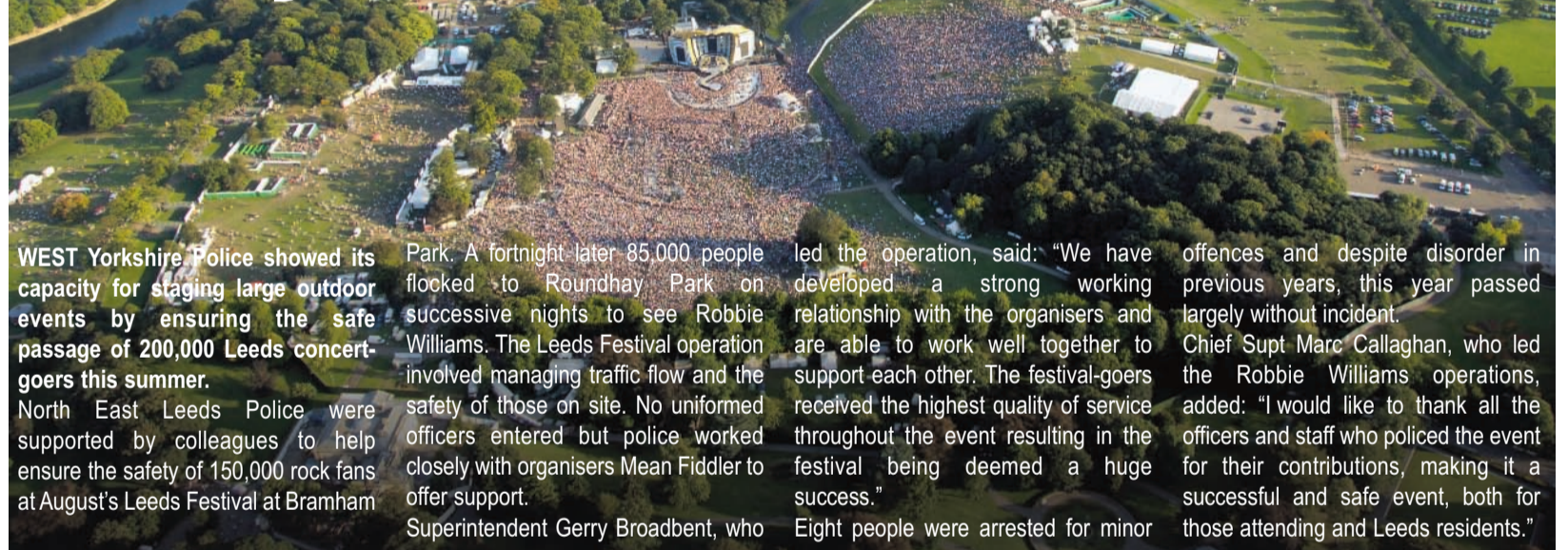
The purse chains have a clip at each end, allowing shoppers to attach their purse to either their bag or belt as an extra security measure.

PC David Robinson said: "These purse chains are an extra preventative measure to stop thieves getting their hands on shoppers' bags. We have had reports of handbags being stolen or purses stolen from handbags. People often carry photographs in their purses or other items of sentimental value, which cannot be replaced, but they forget to protect them when out shopping and thinking about other things. These purse chains can go some way towards protecting them for you."



PCSO Pinder Gakhal demonstrates the key chain at Headingley Shop Watch.

# Safety first as Leeds rocks



WEST Yorkshire Police showed its capacity for staging large outdoor events by ensuring the safe passage of 200,000 Leeds concert-goers this summer.

North East Leeds Police were supported by colleagues to help ensure the safety of 150,000 rock fans at August's Leeds Festival at Bramham

Park. A fortnight later 85,000 people flocked to Roundhay Park on successive nights to see Robbie Williams. The Leeds Festival operation involved managing traffic flow and the safety of those on site. No uniformed officers entered but police worked closely with organisers Mean Fiddler to offer support.

Superintendent Gerry Broadbent, who

led the operation, said: "We have developed a strong working relationship with the organisers and are able to work well together to support each other. The festival-goers received the highest quality of service throughout the event resulting in the festival being deemed a huge success."

Eight people were arrested for minor

offences and despite disorder in previous years, this year passed largely without incident.

Chief Supt Marc Callaghan, who led the Robbie Williams operations, added: "I would like to thank all the officers and staff who policed the event for their contributions, making it a successful and safe event, both for those attending and Leeds residents."

## Contact us

THERE are a host of ways to contact your Leeds policing teams and find out about the latest crime-fighting initiatives.

West Yorkshire Police's Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT) website allows you to sign up for e-mail news updates of the latest activities.

You can find out exactly what's going on where you live, with all Leeds districts within the following city policing areas included:

- \* City and Holbeck
- \* Pudsey & Weetwood
- \* North East Leeds.

The neighbourhood policing team website - [www.wypnpt.org](http://www.wypnpt.org) - enables you to type in your postcode, which is then matched up to your nearest policing team.

■ Details of all the local contact phone numbers can be found on the NPT site

■ In a life-threatening emergency, you should always call 999

■ For non-emergencies please call 0845 6060606.

## PC Dingle on patrol!

MORLEY residents did a double take when confronted by the sight of an Emmerdale star out on patrol with West Yorkshire Police.

Verity Rushworth – aka 'Donna Dingle' – turned to officers in Leeds to help prepare for Donna's new role in the village as a special constable.

To help her get into character, she sought professional help by spending a day with Morley Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT). She worked closely with officers to learn the essentials and ensure her character is as realistic as possible.

Verity then joined the NPT, part of City and Holbeck Police, for training in handcuffing techniques and using a baton.

"I've learnt so much and it was an amazing experience," she said. "I feel

privileged to be a part of the team and it's great learn a few tricks of the trade to bring to my role in Emmerdale. Thank you to Morley police team and who knows, you may see me using the techniques to arrest a Dingle very soon!"

Verity worked alongside PC Mick Amos throughout the day, and he said; "It was great to have Verity on patrol with us. There are so many programmes that touch on the work of the police but it can be a very complex job, so it's important that the actors have some understanding of what we do.

"Every day we come into contact with a variety of different people for very different reasons but all Morley residents were keen to give her a warm welcome," he added.



Emmerdale star Verity Rushworth with PC Mick Amos.