

Officers working over the Christmas period deserve some cheer and to help with the festive mood Rita Waroujian picks out some of the best Dogberry's from over the last decade

A prisoner at a custody suite in Hull claimed to have a speech impediment, epilepsy, dyslexia and autism, but fell down on his explanation of the reason why he was compelled to shoplift, "I'm a Nymphomaniac," he told officers in Humberside Police. After a few moments of consideration he then said, "No that's not the right word is it. I think I might mean Cleptomaniac."

Police, October 2005

Three Israeli Embassy representatives sought assistance from Hertfordshire Police over tracing the next of kin of one of the victims of two helicopter crashes over Palestine. An officer was assigned to help the Embassy officials and he took them to the University of Hertfordshire to

The best

interview a brother of a victim. While they were awaiting the officer decided to try out a little bit of Hebrew dialect he had been taught by a friend. There were confused looks on the faces of the Israeli delegates - one of them an army major, another rabbi, when one of them replied: "Thank you, but I don't own a goat with diabetes."

Police, November 1997

A woman parked on the zig-zag lines approaching a zebra crossing in Honiton, Devon, because she had to pick up cases of wine for a local church function and wanted to be as close to the off-licence as possible to help her straining back. While she was in the shop she was issued with a fixed penalty ticket by a constable who was of course unaware of her plight. The lady duly arrived at the church and unloaded the cases for the function she was catering for - a visit by the Devon and Cornwall Police Choir.

Police, April 1997

A constable from Lincolnshire was dispatched to the A153 at Ancaster, near Grantham, following a report that a sheep was roaming the highway. She found the sheep and chased it down a public footpath, out of harms way



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and waited for the shepherd to arrive. They could not immediately find the animal so he asked her: "Can you describe the sheep?"

Police, November 1999

They have a problem in Cumbria. Not all the personnel, both police officers and police staff, have had training in IT and in particular how to receive and send email. The support manager, an Inspector came up with a perfect solution to the difficulty. He decided to send an email throughout operational support to identify those who had not been trained.

Police, December 1999

A probationer in Derbyshire fell victim to a joke reminiscent of a scene from the cartoon, *The Simpsons*. The rookie officer had a message left for him to ring a Det Insp Dration on an internal telephone number. Imagine the poor officer's blushes when he rang and asked for DI Dration.

Police, July 2005

A constable from Lancashire Police was recently on duty at a football match between Preston North End and Stockport County where he was supervising the fans turnstiles. At 3.05pm when all the fans were in the ground, he noticed a lad, aged around seven, standing alone outside the ground. The officer asked him if he was lost. "No," replied the lad, "but my dad is".

Police, March 2001

An officer from Surrey Police sent in the following entry from the daily crime reports.

Theft from Motor Vehicle - undetected Between 23.00 11/10/05 and 07.00 12/10/05 Location given: By the sleeping policeman Station Road East, Ash. I only hope the sleeping policeman was suitably refreshed.

Police, November 2005

A gentleman in South Yorkshire was recently stopped and issued with a fixed penalty ticket for speeding. He disputed that he was speeding and wrote a letter to the criminal justice unit. He claimed he could not believe that he had been stopped for speeding. He thought he had been stopped because he was displaying a stolen excise licence.

Police, December 2005

At the end of April, they issued new telephone numbers for the Warwickshire branch of the Crown Prosecution Service located in Lemington Spa. When someone from the local constabulary telephoned the general enquires number listed, a voice answered, "Hello, this is the Warwickshire District Refuse Department."

Police, June 1999

An old lady in Surbiton was delighted when a PC returned her missing vehicle excise Licence." I was driving along the avenue when the wind blew it off," she explained. "I realised now that I should have stuck it on the inside of the windscreen."

Police, August 1998

Following a call from an elderly lady an officer from of Kirklees Roads Policing Unit, West Yorkshire Police, was despatched to deal with a horse said to be in distressed state having been impaled on a post.

On attending, the officer was able to report that the horse was not impaled on anything but was simply feeling frisky. It was enough to radio this sensitive reply to the despatch centre, but he was left to explain to the little old lady that the horse was fine, and perhaps she should visit an optician.

Police, September 2006

Officers are increasingly finding themselves being bombarded with acronyms and when an inspector based at the IPLDP (Initial Police Learning Development Project) team at Greater Manchester Police was told a department was being looked at with a beady eye, he could be forgiven for asking: "I'm sorry but who are the BDI?"

Police, January 2006

Police in Gravesend, Kent, received a frantic call from a man who needed urgent assistance following a crime at his home. PC Whalley was despatched to the scene to help the caller, a Mr Wright. As he approached the address a man asked him: "Looking for Mr Wright?" "Quick as a flash PC Whalley replied: "Aren't we all."

Police, January 2003

