



the newsletter for AWE's neighbours

Connect



Protective policing key to our safety

A new policing initiative, known as Project Servator – already in use by a number of police forces around the country, including the City of London Police and British Transport Police – is being introduced at AWE.

As a result, you may notice a more visible Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) presence at, and around, AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield.

The MDP, working closely with staff at AWE, is launching this new model of protective policing with the aim of deterring and detecting a wide range of criminal activity – from petty crime to terrorist activity – around the AWE sites, while providing a reassuring presence for local people.

A key priority for the MDP and AWE is keeping people in the communities around AWE safe. As the threats our communities face change, so too will the deterrence measures. Every opportunity is taken to review and reinforce the high level of security at the AWE sites. This increased police activity is not related to information about a specific threat; it is simply a consequence of deploying existing resources in a more visible manner.

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Samantha named UK's best

AWE's Samantha McRae has been named the UK's Maintenance Apprentice of the Year 2016.

She received her trophy at the Nuclear Skills Awards, which were hosted by TV presenter Simon Reeve.

The 23-year-old, who joined AWE's Skills Academy in 2011, has been closely involved in initiatives to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers and apprenticeships.

Samantha has been particularly keen to promote engineering apprenticeships to other youngsters, especially females.

In 2014, Samantha was recognised for her efforts to encourage other young people into apprenticeships when she was invited to meet then Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg in London.

The AWE apprenticeship scheme has been running for nearly 65 years and 11 per cent of the workforce are ex-apprentices. The scheme typically recruits 45 new apprentices each year.

Of her win Samantha, said: "I am delighted to have won this award.

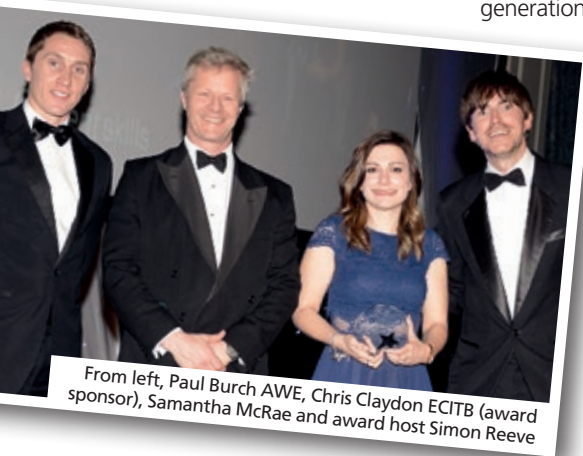
The AWE apprenticeship scheme has given me real-life skills and knowledge with the future of a great job.

"I decided to apply for the AWE scheme because I wanted a job with a great career path and knew people who worked at AWE and said it was great. It ticked all the boxes for me. Now, almost five years on, I couldn't be happier. I hope this win will help inspire other young people into taking up an apprenticeship."

Kerry Barker, Head of Profession for Electronics Engineering and Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology, who joined AWE's apprenticeship programme in 1985, said: "I want to say a huge congratulations to Samantha on winning this prestigious award.

"Samantha embodies everything AWE wants out of our apprentices. She excels in all she does, constantly going above and beyond the demands of the role and is an outstanding representative of AWE. I am sure Samantha's commitment to enhance how AWE inspires the future generation of school leavers into a career in STEM is one of the reasons why she won this award. Her unwavering commitment to apprenticeships and promoting STEM roles to women is outstanding."

● For more information about the AWE apprenticeship scheme go to www.AWE.co.uk



From left, Paul Burch AWE, Chris Claydon ECITB (award sponsor), Samantha McRae and award host Simon Reeve

AWE plays a crucial role in national defence by providing and maintaining warheads for Trident, the UK's nuclear deterrent.

AWE is contracted to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) through a Government-owned Contractor Operated (GOCO) arrangement. While our sites and facilities remain in government ownership, their management, day-to-day operations and the maintenance of the nuclear stockpile is contracted to a private company, AWE Management Limited (AWE ML). AWE ML is a consortium of three equal partners – Serco Group plc, the Lockheed Martin Corporation and Jacobs Engineering Group.



Duo take top jobs

AWE Management Limited has appointed its first independent Chair to the AWE ML Board, Ian Tyler, and a new Chief Executive of AWE plc, Iain Coucher.

Iain Coucher, who succeeded Kevin Bilger, said: "I am delighted to be able to build on the work already in progress under Kevin's stewardship, to deliver transformational change across AWE that will ensure the organisation continues to deliver against the customer commitments and do so effectively and efficiently.

"This is a unique and hugely important programme and I'm excited by the opportunity."

Ian Tyler added: "AWE is a nationally important asset and key to Britain's defence. I am extremely honoured to be appointed as its first independent Chair and look forward to supporting Iain Coucher in delivering the programme of transformation which AWE has embarked on."



Iain Coucher



Ian Tyler

Feedback wanted... and win

We really want to know what you think about *Connect*.

For your chance to win an iPad mini 4, simply answer some questions for us.

The deadline for answering the online questionnaire is 21 July 2016.

To enter the free draw go to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3MX5NNZ> and answer a few questions about *Connect*.

The winner will be contacted in August and announced in the next edition of *Connect*. Best of luck.

(AWE can confirm that any information provided will not be used for marketing or promotional purposes.)



Submarine speakers

Lord Peter Hennessy gave an insight into the UK Submarine Service at a packed William Penney Theatre in Aldermaston.

More than 160 current and ex-AWE staff and representatives from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) attended the lecture from Lord Hennessy and his book co-author James Links.

Lord Hennessy, Professor of Contemporary History at Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London, opened his remarks by paying tribute to his former pupil, the late Kate Pyne, who served as AWE's esteemed technical historian for many years.

Peter and James Links gave a historical perspective on the UK Submarine Service based on their recently published book *The Silent Deep*. Written with unprecedented co-operation from the Submarine Service itself, and with support from MOD and AWE, *The Silent Deep* is the first authoritative history of the Submarine Service from the end of World War II to the present as Britain debates the renewal of its submarine-carried nuclear deterrent.



From left, James Links, Lord Peter Hennessy and AWE scientist Lizzie Murray

Peter said: "We hugely enjoyed our evening at Aldermaston – an institution that has contributed so mightily to the UK's nuclear enterprise. The company was highly agreeable and the questions truly stimulating."

The speakers described the development of Britain's submarine fleet, its capabilities, its weapons, its infrastructure, its operations and – from the testimony of many submariners and the first-hand witness of the authors – what life is like on board.

NEWSINBRIEF

10-YEAR CELEBRATION ... AWE had its first four candidates accredited with the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) 10 years ago. Our Graduate Scheme and Initial Professional Development (IPD) has been successfully reaccredited in 2009 and 2015 and this December we held our 16th review. In July 2012, AWE also joined the RSC Corporate Partner Programme.

Security spotlight

Hi, I'm Dave, from the AWE security team.

Welcome to the first of a regular security blog in *Connect*.

Given the work we do, it is unsurprising that we focus considerable energy and resources on protecting our sites. It is vital to us that you also feel secure and are able to report any concerns you might have about our security.

Security is a regular headline in the national news and at AWE we take these issues very seriously.

Working closely with all aspects of UK government, we do our utmost to protect our sites, our buildings, our information, our material and our people.

You will have seen very visibly some of the more obvious security measures we take to protect the site: for example, we control who and what is allowed to access the site so we can have strong assurance that it does not present a risk to us.





Project Servator: highly visible and highly effective

There are a number of tactics that will be co-ordinated under Project Servator to achieve this high level of protective policing.

The tactics centre on highly visible, unpredictable deployments of police officers and other specialist resources, such as police dogs, armed police officers, plain clothes police officers and detectives in unmarked cars. They are supported by technology in the form of automatic number plate recognition and CCTV cameras. People can expect to see the police talking to local community members and handing out information packs.

Due to the way the project works, the tactics have the welcome effect of deterring all types of crime within a given area. Project Servator has been tried and

tested by police forces all over the country, at public events and in crowded places, such as the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and the Lord Mayor's Show in London.

Adopting the tactics will enhance MDP's ability to protect AWE defence assets and this protection extends to encompass local communities.

The MDP officers involved in Project Servator have all received the specialist training in the latest techniques to detect criminals and identify those with criminal intent. Key to their success, however, is the fact that it is impossible to predict where and when the next police deployment will take place, what it will look like or how long it will be in place.



MDPPROFILE



John and Summer

John is an MDP constable with more than 25 years of experience, who in recent years has been handling a specialist police dog called Summer.

He and Summer, a six-year-old Labrador retriever, form a potent team when it comes to detecting prohibited materials and items, which Summer specialises in.

John said: "Summer is a real favourite with children and, for her, finding an article, even something that is quite dangerous, is simply a game which she loves to play. She is happy as long as when she finds something she gets a reward; sometimes a chance to play with her toy!"



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If you have any concerns, or in the event of an emergency, you should contact **999** or, for matters of a less urgent nature, call **101**.

If you have information about MDP or AWE that does not require our immediate attention then you should contact us at mdp@awe.co.uk or **01189 814111** at any time day or night.

Over the next few months, MDP officers will be looking for your support by asking local businesses to display posters and to provide customers with handouts about Project Servator.

Through leafleting and poster campaigns, we will be asking all of you to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity. It is this vigilance that helps protect communities from criminality.



Environment champion Royce has many roles

In our series on AWE's Local Liaison Committee (LLC) members, we profile **Dr Royce Longton**, an LLC member for Burghfield...



Dr Royce Longton has been a member of the AWE Local Liaison Committee since its inception, communicating AWE business to the local community via the Burghfield Parish Council.

Dr Longton enjoyed an academic career as a plant ecologist, working with the British Antarctic Survey at the University of Manitoba in Canada, and at the University of Reading where he was Head of the Department of Botany. He wrote one book, *Biology of Polar Bryophytes and Lichens* (Cambridge University Press, 1988), and more than 80 peer-reviewed research papers. He was awarded a DSc degree in 1993.

Dr Longton has been actively involved in community life in Burghfield for many years – as a member of the Parish Council since the mid 1980s, as Chairman of the Neighbourhood Action Group and formerly of the Burghfield Residents Association. He served as Councillor for the Burghfield Ward from 1993 to 2015 on Berkshire County Council, and more recently on West Berkshire District Council where he was Leader of Council for four years. An enthusiastic champion of environmental conservation and enhancement, he served on a number of regional organisations and for many years has been Chairman of Thames Valley Energy,

a not-for-profit company promoting renewable energy technologies throughout the Thames Valley.

THE LLC

The LLC, which has its own terms of reference, brings together 31 representatives from local authorities in Berkshire and Hampshire. Together, they represent around half a million neighbouring residents. It's an ideal platform for local people to gain a better understanding of AWE's activities and raise questions through their elected representative on the Committee.

Residents' patience 'appreciated'

In 2015, AWE contracted Scottish & Southern Energy Power Distribution (SSEPD) to install a new power supply to its Aldermaston site.

The project, which is essential for delivering AWE's core mission, necessitated the installation of underground cabling along a 12-kilometre route to Aldermaston.

The choice of routing for the cabling required careful consideration of a number of factors and their potential impact. They included:

- Impact on affected members of the public, both road users and residents
- Impact on private land owners – SSEPD has no compulsory powers to allow it to access private land
- Impact on AWE's programme schedule

- Cost impact – the existence of existing infrastructure (railway crossings, canals) that would need to be traversed.

All of these factors were carefully assessed and reviewed with key stakeholders including West Berkshire Council, Network Rail and private landowners.

AWE is very aware that the choice of route and resulting works needed for completion of the installation have caused inconvenience for some local people along the chosen route.

Community Engagement Manager Philippa Kent said: "AWE realises recent disruption has been very frustrating for some local communities. We appreciate the patience and co-operation of all local residents and road users who have been affected.

"AWE has worked closely with

contractors SSEPD and Durkin to keep disruption to a minimum. Unfortunately, road closures and diversions have been necessary to ensure the safety of all road users and the contractors carrying out the works.

"This project forms part of the essential infrastructure that underpins our mission to support the security of the UK."

People living in the local communities affected have been, and will continue to be, given advance notification of upcoming works by SSEPD on AWE's behalf and, in the case of road closures, alternative routes will be signposted.

- If you have any questions about this project, email communityandschools@awe.co.uk

Community campaign cuts car speeds

An AWE-sponsored Community Speed Watch initiative has made a "significant impact" in reducing speeding in a local village.

In September last year, Ashford Hill and Headley Community Speed Watch Group was officially launched to try and lower the numbers of speeding cars through the villages.

Twenty Speed Watch volunteers received training from local police to use a speed indication device (SID) loaned to the group by AWE.

In the first eight weeks, the group recorded 1,000 vehicles speeding.

Councillor and Local Liaison Committee member Lynn Austin told *Connect*: "The Community Speed Watch has had a significant impact and made a huge difference, thanks to the volunteers who stand out in the cold and rain on early rush hour mornings.

"The number of speeding vehicles has shown a downward trend, especially outside Ashford Hill Primary School, where we initially recorded a dozen or so vehicles per hour. This has dropped to almost zero. It is going to be very

important to maintain a continued presence."

The volunteers record the speed of vehicles using the SID and collect the vehicle details of those exceeding the 30/40 mph limit through both villages. The details are then passed to the police, who issue a warning letter. If a person is caught speeding for a third time, the letter is hand-delivered by the police.

With traffic through rural villages on the increase, the group targeted key risk areas, with their most notable successes coming outside the local primary school.



Speed Watch volunteers outside Ashford Hill Primary School



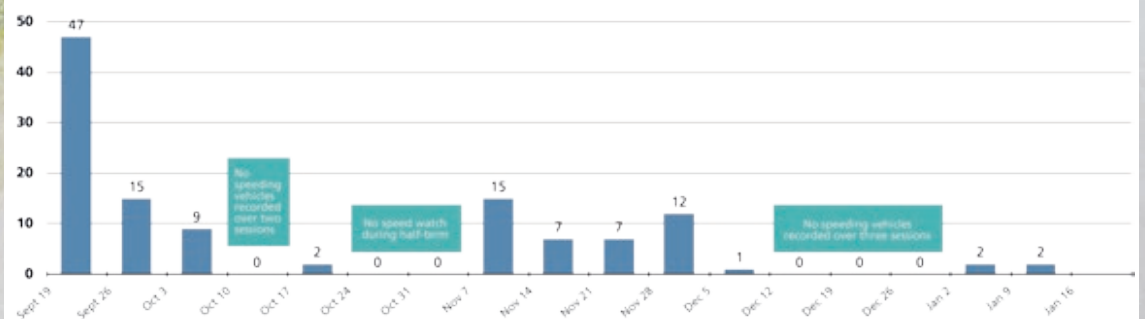
HOW AWE CAN HELP

AWE is keen to support other communities by loaning out approved SIDs on a temporary basis.

Generally, a reduction in speed can be evidenced over a six to 12-month period when the device will be returned to AWE to be made available to other qualifying communities.

We currently have two devices which can be loaned to communities who have an approved Community Speed Watch scheme. More details about the Community Speed Watch scheme can be found at www.thamesvalley.police.uk

NUMBER OF SPEEDING VEHICLES OUTSIDE ASHFORD HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL





Go online for AWESome help

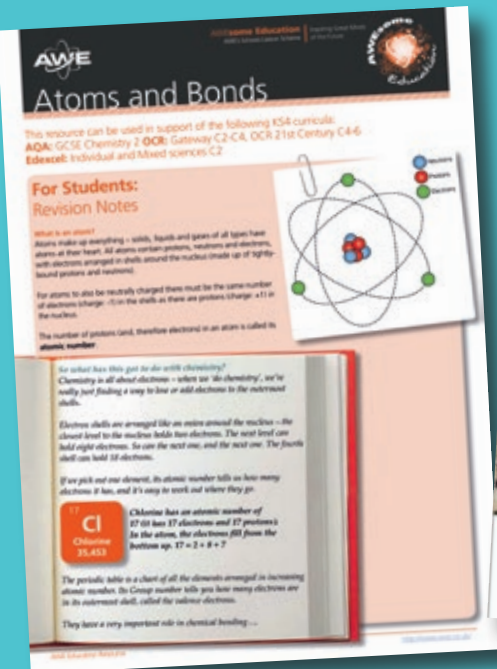
Are you a teacher? Have you been to AWE's Education Zone?

The online Education Zone has been created in conjunction with the AWESome Education Scheme which already supports more than 80 schools throughout the Newbury, Reading and Basingstoke areas.

Some of the AWESome Education resources are only available to local schools as it wouldn't be practical to take our experiments and equipment hundreds of miles across the country, so we have worked on producing some new resources on our website for everyone to download.

The online education portal offers AWESome Education resources free, to everyone.

To find out more go to www.awe.co.uk



An AWE apprentice shows local schoolchildren engineering components

Pupils tackle engineering challenge

More than 30 pupils from local schools took part in an engineering challenge at AWE, designed to inspire the next generation to take up an engineering apprenticeship.

The year 10 and 11 pupils were given a tour of the AWE Skills Academy where apprentices

are trained in mechanical maintenance, electrical maintenance, electronic maintenance, precision machining and control and instrumentation.

AWE apprentices helped organise and run the recent school event which aimed to encourage young people into engineering apprenticeships.

Grads showcase science in action

A team of four graduates represented AWE at the annual Physics at Work event at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge.

This event aims to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects to schoolchildren aged 14-16. It is the seventh year AWE has been involved with the event which included presenting 36 times to a total of 720 pupils from around the country.

The team presented a talk on lasers and the AWE facility Orion which included the difficulty of generating a lot of energy in such a small space.



Volunteering support recognised

AWE was recognised by Hampshire County Council for its commitment to supporting staff in volunteering as school governors. AWE was one of 30 companies thanked at an awards ceremony in February. An AWE staff member who is a school governor nominated the company for letting him have time off to volunteer.



Alexis awarded student honour

AWE Deputy Chief Scientist Norman Godfrey, right, and the BBC's David Allard present the Student of the Year Award to Alexis Parish from Vyne Community School in Basingstoke at the Skills Tree Awards 2015.

The Skills Tree Awards, organised by educational charity Basingstoke Consortium, are a celebration of the time and commitment businesses, schools and colleges and other partners invest in projects that support young people's preparation for adult life and work.



Some of the latest intake of apprentices at AWE

Apprentice scheme in the spotlight

Apprentices old and new came together to help enthuse local educators on the merits of the AWE apprenticeship scheme.

Ahead of National Apprenticeship Week, 14-18 March, AWE invited career advisers from Hampshire and Berkshire schools and colleges to meet current and past apprentices.

The event aimed to promote the AWE apprenticeship scheme which has been running for almost 65 years.

Apprenticeships enable AWE to develop a talent pipeline to ensure the company has a skilled and qualified workforce to fulfil the needs of a demanding technical programme.

Eleven per cent of current AWE employees joined via the apprenticeship scheme and many have gone on to have a long and rewarding career, some in very senior leadership positions.

In the 50s and 60s apprentices at AWE had the option to board close to the site and many built up lasting friendships.

Former AWE apprentice Paul Harvey, who joined the scheme in 1958 and was a former Chairman of the AWE Apprenticeship Association, says: "My career started at AWE. It was the best start I could have had and set me up for a very successful future career in the pharmaceutical industry."

Norman Apperley, an electrical engineering apprentice between 1959 and 1964, realised he wanted to work with computers while at AWE and following his apprenticeship, he spent the rest of his career at a leading computer manufacturer. He says: "The AWE apprenticeship was very good and varied and taught me very early on about the importance of computers. I could tell even then that computers were the future thanks to AWE."



Former AWE apprentices meeting with new AWE apprentices



Today, the Apprentice School is a nationally recognised Skills Academy



AWE has donated hundreds of glasses for an Indian charity

Spectacular donations!

Staff from AWE have donated nearly 300 old and unused pairs of glasses to help underprivileged communities in India.

The donation will be taken to India by local optician Priyanka D. Patel, Principal Optometrist at Optimum Vision Clinic. The charity, run by Dr Sanjiv Desai, an Ophthalmologist at the Tarabai Desai Hospital and Research Centre, administers glasses to those in need.

Michele Maidment from the AWE Community Committee said: "AWE is pleased to work with a local business and assist their charitable work. We are proud of our staff who continue to support the important work charities undertake.

"We are delighted with the response, collecting almost 300 pairs of glasses."

Charity grateful for cheque boost

AWE has donated £5,000 to a local charity that supports children with cystic fibrosis (CF). The charity Anna's Challenges supports children in Basingstoke and surrounding areas that attend the North Hampshire Hospital.

AWE is committed to supporting local and national charities with donations, sponsorship and practical help.

The charity helps children and their families by buying essential equipment that the CF team don't have the budget for. These items will help make the children's day-to-day lives a bit easier and, hopefully in some cases, add some fun.

AWE staff member Vicky Thomas, whose son suffers from CF, nominated the charity for this cash lump sum after receiving support.

Rachel Marke, who set up the charity after her daughter Anna was diagnosed, said: "With this money, we can continue to donate physiotherapy and medical equipment, physio toys, provide outings for the CF Sibling Support Group and offer activity grants and travel grants for hospital visits. We are so very grateful to AWE for its generosity and support."



The £5,000 cheque is handed over

Three-way split for cash

Fundraisers from AWE have donated more than £17,000 to three charities following a year of events to raise money.

Since January 2015, members of the AWE Team Challenge – a corporate event designed to strengthen team building – and members of the AWE UK Challenge team have baked cakes, washed cars, run miles and held quizzes to raise money.

£8,500 of the fundraising was donated to the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust and the remaining amount split between the AWE national charity Whizz Kidz and local charity Living Paintings.

Since 2012, members of the AWE Team Challenge have donated almost £40,000 to the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust.

'The public around AWE are our eyes and ears'

Phoebe is a police constable who is primarily based at AWE Aldermaston. Her main role, supported by her colleagues, is to deter and disrupt criminals who could directly affect AWE or the MOD.

As a nationally accredited authorised firearms officer (AFO), she performs the majority of her duties as a crew member of an armed support vehicle

(ASV). To provide her with some variety she also carries out general patrol duties inside the secure site.

The ASV is a very versatile and flexible unit which provides the mainstay of the new Project Servator tactics, capable of responding quickly and effectively to a range of armed and unarmed incidents.

Critically, the role allows Phoebe to interact not only with the on-site defence community but also the

civilian communities around the AWE sites.

Phoebe said: "We cannot be everywhere all the time, so the public around AWE are our eyes and ears. They live here and instinctively know when someone is acting suspiciously or if something is not right.

"If we can stop criminality around our sites then it not only protects personnel working inside AWE, it also helps to keep the local communities safe as well."

