



Well it's CCTV Newsletter time again, although if the truth be told it's a tad later than I'd actually planned; still better late than never eh? On the news front, it's been a absolute bumper harvest this summer, with even more reports coming in from right around the globe. Interesting to note that there does now appear to be an emerging theme revolving around cutbacks and general cost savings, particularly in the UK and US, but also in many other countries ... more to follow! As always, if you've missed out on any previous editions, you can easily catch up by going to the CCTV Newsletter Archive on my main site at www.doktorjon.co.uk; and if you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to drop me a line ... [newsdesk\[at\]doktorjon.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk[at]doktorjon.co.uk). Enjoy DJ

Doktor Jon's CCTV & IP Video Newsletter



Cash cutbacks, cameras and confusion symptoms of hard times ahead?

I happened to mention last time that we appear to be living in 'interesting' CCTV times, but based on many reports coming in over the last few weeks, it seems that financial worries and the continuing headache of trying to fund ongoing operations during a prolonged period of austerity, are keeping a lot of minds very actively occupied at the moment. Cornwall Council is perhaps the latest UK authority to look closely at their costs and actual payback associated with it's CCTV operations. [This is Cornwall](#) highlighted that amid growing concerns, the council will be looking at how effective their video surveillance is proving to be, and whether the annual operating costs of almost £ 800k (\$ 1.2m, € 900k) can be justified in maintaining the operation of just 161 security cameras.

Meanwhile, [This is Wiltshire](#) reported that the residents of Devizes can breathe a sigh of relief, after councillors agreed to a £ 10k (\$15k, €12k) rescue package, to help keep their three year old eight CCTV camera system in operation. Although they were looking for a cash injection of over £ 13k, the urgent release of funding will at least help to keep the cameras operating for now.

Back in the 'Garden of England' a shake up of Public Space Surveillance camera operations in parts of Kent, has seen the Sevenoaks CCTV Manager take over operation of the Tunbridge Wells Control Room; whilst according to [This is Kent](#), Sevenoaks District Council has already made around £ 40k (\$60k, €45k) worth of cost savings by dispensing with two of their eight CCTV Operators. The London Borough of Southwark will very soon be able to increase it's camera count by around 30%, after it's officers reached an agreement with the capital's Transport for London (TfL) agency. [Southwark News](#) reported that following discussions, it's been agreed that the council's Control Room will be able to access 71 cameras currently being used for traffic management, which will hopefully help to address a sudden rise in violent crime throughout the borough.

Across the pond, [Recordnet.com](#) described how under proposals from City Hall, the city of Stockton in California is planning to pull the plug on their entire 76 camera video surveillance system, in a desperate attempt to help claw back a \$23 million budget deficit. At present the cameras are monitored by part time staff, who apparently have previously retired from the local police department; if the cutbacks do go ahead, it's been suggested that as many as 31 CCTV Operators will be made redundant.

Driving on, with CCTV increasingly being used for traffic enforcement

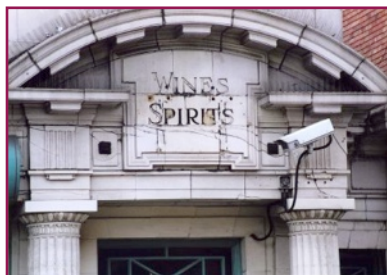
Following a recent investigation by [Big Brother Watch](#), numerous media organisations have been quick to highlight the true cost to motorists, of CCTV enforcement for minor traffic offences in the UK. For example, the [Wandsworth Guardian](#) reported on how in the last year, the local council had issued 21,000 penalties after recording unsuspecting motorists on camera, resulting in fines of almost £ 1.2m (\$1.8m, €1.45m) just for dropping off or picking up passengers outside the local train stations. The [Islington Gazette](#) describes how as the use of Smart Car CCTV traffic enforcement vehicles becomes ever more popular with local councils, it's been revealed that the London Borough of Islington actually raised £ 84k (\$ 125k, € 100k) with just two vehicles, over the last twelve months. In the same period, the neighbouring authority Camden raised £ 375k, whilst Haringey pulled in almost £ 400k in fines. Meanwhile, it's been reported by [ChiswickW4.com](#) that Hounslow Council in west London, has suspended the use of some CCTV cameras that were being tasked with traffic enforcement. According to official government guidelines, Penalty Charge Notices can only be issued for traffic offences, if sufficient warning signage has been displayed, and it's the lack of suitable notification that has apparently prompted the Council's turnaround on their existing camera enforcement operations.





DJ's pick of recent CCTV related news stories from around the globe

Thief arrested on souped up charges - A 27 year old man has been charged with breaking and entering, and larceny, after he forced his way into the First United Methodist Church in Hickory, North Carolina. Even though the church authorities had previously been helping the homeless individual, he carefully disabled the buildings electricity supply, before breaking in and stealing \$ 15 worth of food, including two tins of soup. Despite the power outage, the church's CCTV continued to operate on a back up supply, allowing police to quickly identify their suspect. - [Hickory Daily record](#)



Frenzied destruction that starts with the Crack - Seven brothers have been given custodial sentences after wrecking a pub in Balbriggan, Dublin, causing around €90k worth of damage. Their orgy of destruction was clearly captured on the bars security camera system, despite their repeated attempts to break down the office door, and force their way through to where the recording equipment was being securely stored. - [Herald.ie](#)

Scrap yard owners left quite cross - A man has been acquitted of stealing copper cable from a scrapyard in Luqa, Malta, after the court failed to accept his identification from a poor quality CCTV recording, this despite the business owners having recognised him from an earlier visit. - [Times of Malta.com](#)

He doth protest too much - A post graduate student, Adil Hussein has been banned for life from the Aligarh Muslim University in Lucknow, India, after encouraging protest over the university's plans to install CCTV throughout the campus. - [The Times of India](#)

May the force be after you - It's bad enough when a bank is held up at gunpoint, but for the staff at the Chase bank in Long Island, New York, it must have been an added shock to see the robber dressed up as Darth Vader. Having fled the premises with his ill gotten gains, he was last seen riding away on a pushbike. The entire episode was captured on the banks security camera system, and the local Suffolk County Police force are now currently studying the 'film'. - [Newsline](#)

Not enough time, gentlemen, please ... - A Bar in Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, has been closed by police, after it was discovered that the CCTV system was not being operated correctly. An inspection by officers discovered that the previous 31 days activity had not been recorded, which is a specific requirement stated on the premises licence to sell alcohol. - [This is Nottingham](#)

A lesson learned - Following the national outcry over the deployment of over 200 CCTV cameras in a predominantly Muslim area of Birmingham, UK, police have been consulting with local residents, and receiving a surprisingly positive response. Despite nationwide media coverage over the deployment of both overt, covert and ANPR surveillance cameras using counter terrorism funding, a meeting of local residents highlighted general approval of their use, but open concerns about the prior lack of consultation with the community. - [Birmingham Mail.Net](#)



Facing up to the consequences - A gang of violent teenage thugs who went on the rampage in Trafford, have been convicted after police and forensic specialists used facial mapping techniques, to help identify the suspects from CCTV recordings. Greater Manchester Police and the Crown Prosecution Service managed to secure convictions, after officers trawled through over 300 hours of security camera recordings to help produce a timeline of the gangs movements leading up to the attacks. - [Manchester Evening News](#)

Cameras up, crime down - The installation of CCTV by 25 local councils across Malaysia, are credited with helping to drive a significant reduction in crime. According to the Housing and Local Councils Minister, the deployment of almost 500 CCTV cameras, all linked back to the district and state police, has helped to reduce the crime rate by 30%. - [Bernama.com](#)

The trees keep watch - To help protect the drinking water supply for Sydney, Australia, authorities have installed a number of covert CCTV cameras in various trees around the Warragamba Dam. In the first twelve months of operation, 40 individuals and businesses have been fined for a range of offences, including dumping asbestos, and illegal deer hunting. - [The Daily Telegraph](#)

Anything good on the telly? - It's 3.30 am in the middle of the night, and Jeffery Young is sitting staring in disbelief at the TV monitor in his Orlando home. Having woken from a deep sleep, he was shocked to see on his security cameras, two men breaking in to his bar situated in Largo almost 100 miles away. After phoning the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office to report the burglary in progress, he sat back and watched as a gun toting deputy chased down the suspects, who have since been charged with burglary, criminal mischief and resisting arrest. - [Tampabay.com](#)



DJ's pick of recent CCTV related news stories from around the globe - continued



A bare faced misuse of authority - A senior prison officer with over 18 years dedicated service in Dallas County jails, has lost his job after allegations of impropriety. Whilst CCTV is routinely used throughout the facilities, it was a camera set up to monitor the showers used by women prisoners, that was instrumental in his downfall. Apparently the privacy masking 'strip' that is supposed to maintain the prisoners modesty when they're effectively stripped off, had somehow managed to escape from the monitoring screen. - [Star Telegram](#)

Changes are a comin' - Swedens Minister for Justice Beatrice Ask, has put forward proposals to make it easier for municipalities to obtain permission to install CCTV in 'hot spot' areas, and to allow shopkeepers to notify after cameras are installed, rather than seek consent before. For normally privacy conscious Swedes, the moves are a significant shift, which opposition parties have been quick to condemn. - [Stockholm News](#)

One thing leads to another - A pilot project operating CCTV cameras in Nairobi, Kenya, has been seriously affected after vital monitoring equipment was stolen from the control room located at the National Archives. A spokesman for the city has described how the cameras had previously helped to significantly reduce crime, which has now increased sharply since the system has been disabled. - [Capital News](#)

Grassed up by a camera - A 32 year old Coventry man has been caught red handed, when he systematically removed a newly laid lawn, from a housing development being monitored by CCTV. The camera recorded the suspect as he loaded up his wheelie bin with the fresh turf, and transferred it to his home in the wee small hours. By way of a "community resolution", the developers Bellway Homes have agreed with West Midlands Police to allow the suspect to re-lay the grass, from where it was originally taken. - [BBC News](#)

Surveillance in the smallest room - A less than impressed customer has complained, after the owners of the Pure Lounge Bar in Basingstoke, Hampshire, installed a CCTV camera in the gents toilet. Citing problems with vandalism as their grounds for placing surveillance in a normally privacy protected environment, the General Manager Ernie Phelps is quoted as saying that "We are doing our bit to stop crime and disorder". - [The Basingstoke Gazette](#)

Cameras contribute to cutting crime - Latest figures released by Northampton Borough Council, reveal that the towns CCTV system helped police in dealing with 15,000 incidents, and contributed to nearly 2,500 arrests in the past year. Whilst the town itself has 525 cameras, a further 51 cameras are also monitored in the neighbouring towns of Daventry and Wellingborough. - [Northampton Chronicle & Echo](#)

Cameras keep the capsicums covered - Farmers in North Queensland, Australia are increasing security including the deployment of extra CCTV cameras, after a crop was sabotaged. The attack in Bowen District, resulted in seven million pepper seedlings being destroyed after a poison was deliberately added into the plants irrigation system. - [ABC Rural](#)

The Watchmen keep watching - According to the CCTV Control Room Manager, Chelmsford's shoplifters rarely get up until after lunch. Tasked with monitoring the Essex towns surveillance system 24/7, it's been reported that 837 criminals were spotted on camera during the past year. - [This is Total Essex](#)



Wear the badge with pride - A scottish company has developed an ID badge with a built in video camera. Designed to protect lone workers particularly in the health sector, the wearer can enable the record function when required, and despite it's mere 130g. weight, is capable of recording encrypted video for up to 10 hours. - [Express.co.uk](#)

Popped in to pick up a - Fortunately it's a happy ending for Kelli the Humboldt penguin, after she was unceremoniously snatched from her pen at Dublin Zoo. The three abductors apparently got over a four metre high perimeter fence to grab the terrified bird, before making their escape in a taxi bound for the city centre. Following a tip off to the Gardai the animal was later found wandering the streets, and after having been returned safely to her traumatised mate, police and zoo officials are now carefully studying CCTV and webcam images to see if they can identify the suspects. - [Herald.ie](#)

Cameras target Muggers on the streets - Success for the Johannesburg Metro Police department, after nine suspected members of a violent street gang, were arrested during a concerted surveillance operation. Following a rash of street robberies and thefts in the city centre, police used CCTV to gather evidence on the suspects, who were quickly arrested by plain clothes officers as they were about to rob their final victim. - [Eye Witness News](#)

Oh ... well replayed sir!! - Scientists from the University of Exeter, have been carrying out a detailed research project, looking at the behaviour of *Gryllus campestris*, also known as the field cricket. Using 96 infra red cameras dotted around a meadow in Asturias in northern Spain, the scientists managed to record over 250,000 hours of video material, detailing the most intimate aspects in the everyday lives of all 152 resident crickets. - [TimesOnline](#)



DJ's pick of recent CCTV related news stories from around the globe - continued

Highlighting the power of Old Glory - Employees of a federal contractor in East El Paso, were intrigued on returning to work to discover how their Stars and Stripes, which had last been seen flying proudly from the company flagpole, had somehow managed to fold itself up on the ground. On replaying the surveillance video, they were amazed to see a local homeless man braving a violent storm in the middle of the night, rescue the fallen flag from the car park puddles, and carefully fold it up in a military style, before also recovering the downed flagpole to a nearby place of safety. - [NewsBusters](#)

Granny's have it taped - Fed up with the growing problems of Anti Social Behaviour in their Leicester community, a group of ten senior citizens have decided to use CCTV to tackle the problems. The redoubtable ladies aged from 67 to 92, are ably assisted in deploying the high tech systems by a 27 year old male colleague, and between them they have so far captured over 100 incidents, many of which have been handed over to police. - [BBC News](#)

Will they never learn - A report by researchers at Hull University, suggests that the widespread use of CCTV alongside other security technologies, is turning the UK's schools into virtual 'prisons'. According to Dr. Michael McCahill, a criminology lecturer at Hull's faculty of social sciences, 85% of teachers questioned reported CCTV being used in their schools, and their research highlighted pupils being routinely regarded as suspects, on a regular basis. - [Telegraph.co.uk](#)

Not so snappy driving George - The singer George Michael may be best known for his rendition of tracks like 'Careless Whisper', but after an unfortunate early morning incident where he reportedly managed to plant his Range Rover in the front of the Snappy Snaps store in Hampstead, North London, police are now investigating a case of possible careless driving. The 47 year old singers low speed manoeuvre was apparently caught on the local authorities Town Centre CCTV, and whilst enquiries are continuing, he has been bailed to return to the police station on Friday August 13th. - [MailOnline](#)

Carnage caught on camera - The latest terrorist outrage to affect Pakistan, was caught on CCTV as suicide bombers detonated their devices at the Data Darbar. A selfless security officer was seen chasing after one of the bombers, just moments before the device detonated, resulting in more than 42 people being killed, and a further 175 injured, as devotees had gathered for prayers at the Data Gunj Bakhsh shrine. - [Daily Times](#)



Plates under the spotlight - The Home Secretary has announced that the nations 4,000 camera Automatic Number Plate Recognition system, will be included in UK Government plans to regulate the future use of CCTV. Whilst more than 10 million vehicle number plates are automatically logged every day by a dedicated network of surveillance cameras, various options are now being considered as to how best the use of the system and the vast amounts of data that it gathers, can continue to be operated effectively within a proper regulatory framework. - [BBC News](#)

Up on the roof - An 18 year old soldier has received an 18 months conditional discharge from court, along with fines totalling almost £ 3,500 (\$5.3k, €4k), after his drunken antics were captured on a homeowners CCTV system. The squaddie was refused permission to fly out to Afghanistan with his regiment due to his age, so instead drowned his sorrows with a huge quantity of alcohol, before being captured on camera dancing on the roof of a residents parked car. - [This is Staffordshire](#)

A wall of monitors helps China stay calm - As tensions rise in Urumqi, the capital of China's Xinjiang region, authorities have reportedly installed 40,000 high resolution CCTV cameras, which are now being constantly monitored by police. As the anniversary of last years ferocious ethnic unrest approaches, it's hoped that the surveillance cameras will help the authorities to manage tensions between the mostly Muslim ethnic Uighurs, and the Han ethnic majority. - [VOA News.com](#)

Facing up to the consequences - A pair of bungling brothers managed to steal a large haul of cigarettes worth £ 10,000 from a petrol station shop in North Devon, but their getaway was far from faultless. Having removed their masks possibly to give the security cameras a better chance of facial recognition, they then managed to entangle themselves on razorwire, with one of the hapless duo actually cutting his man bits, in their rush to escape. The investigating police officer highlighted CCTV and DNA evidence as "the clinchers", after the less than dynamic duo were handed custodial sentences at Exeter Crown Court. - [Mail Online](#)

When the camera is above it all - A 34 year old woman making her way home from a friends house in the Bishopsworth area of Bristol, was dragged off the footpath and raped directly beneath a roadside street surveillance camera. The attack which took place just after midnight went undetected, as the high angle of the camera prevented the operators from spotting the incident, or recording any images of the suspect below. - [This is Bristol](#)



DJ's pick of recent CCTV related news stories from around the globe - continued

Petards and hoist, spring to mind - A 48 year old garage workshop owner has been convicted of drug dealing, after having been caught out by his own CCTV cameras. The man and a 27 year old accomplice were sentenced to a total of over 16 years in prison, after police raided the North Lanarkshire garage, and recovered a substantial quantity of illegal drugs, a shotgun and a crossbow. Investigating officers discovered a number of the drug deals had actually been recorded on the premises security camera system. - [BBC News](#)

Delays cost a bomb - A couple returning to the UK from their travels in France managed to trigger a major security alert, after they attempted to board a Eurostar train in Paris carrying a live artillery shell. The antique munition which they picked up as a bargain in a Sunday morning flea market, was spotted by security officers on CCTV, sparking a full scale alert which suspended services and required bomb disposal experts to deal with the situation. - [Mail Online](#)

Taking security to new heights - Scientists at Reading University in the UK, are currently conducting an anti terrorism research project funded by the European Union. Advanced electronic and video analytic systems are being developed to help identify terrorists on aircraft, simply through aspects of their 'suspicious' behaviour. - [Telegraph.co.uk](#)

Not exactly one step ahead - When a freshman maths student decided to go on a shooting spree in the Northern Virginia Community College last year, first responders were left at a serious disadvantage. Despite the gunman's rifle having jammed after the initial shots were fired, a report investigating the incident management has highlighted serious failings in the campus video surveillance system, with 36 of their 45 cameras out of action, when they were needed most. - [Washington Post](#)

The appliance benefits from an alliance - Senior fire officers in Edinburgh have just completed a six month trial, giving phone operators access to the city's extensive camera surveillance network, in an effort to help cut down on hoax emergency calls. The new facility has also permitted despatchers to evaluate emergency situations before crews arrive, and on numerous occasions have been able to co-ordinate a police response where personal safety may have become a significant issue. The trial has proven so successful, that it's now become a permanent facility in the Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service Control Room. - [News.Scotsman.com](#)



You aint seen nothing yet - Following in the wake of a high profile murder earlier this year, Dubai Police have announced their intention to spend the equivalent of over \$ 135m installing additional security cameras right across the emirate. With a current network of 25,000 cameras in operation, CCTV has already proven it's value having been instrumental in investigating the death of a senior Hamas official, back in February this year. - [The National](#)

Seeing isn't always believing - A new book which in part explores the wider implications and effects of video surveillance, has been published by the author Professor Torin Monahan. Examining the concept that video surveillance may create a false sense of security, and ultimately prove to be counter productive as an effective security measure, is just one of the themes discussed in "Surveillance in the Time of Insecurity". - [Vanderbilt News](#)

Cops capture card thief on camera - Stealing money from a person's cash card may be a fairly universal problem, but when the victim is employed in the budget inspection branch of the Azad Maidan Police Commissionerate, it shouldn't take too long to get the authorities on the case. As officers from the Mumbai police started their investigations, they quickly recovered CCTV recordings taken at the ATM machines, and were able to identify a senior clerk employed in the victim's office. - [DNA India](#)

Pictures worth a thousand words - Researchers working at the UCLA in California, have been developing a computer based evaluation system, that can convert video images into descriptive text. The technology whilst not yet market ready, is nevertheless sophisticated in its capability to break down an image into its constituent parts, and then automatically produce a written and searchable database of the contents. - [Physorg.com](#)

Views from above, studied from below - With the US military increasingly using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) in theatres of war, the sheer bulk of video footage that is now being gathered has created significant problems for commanders. Trying to archive and catalogue surveillance videos on such a huge scale, has prompted analysts to look at techniques currently used by the broadcast TV industry, to see if it's possible to electronically tag events and features, to help intelligence officers locate key segments of recordings in a far more efficient way. - [Los Angeles Times](#)

Not enough time in the line - The suspect in a murder trial was successfully tracked by detectives, using a trail of CCTV images from a number of cameras located along the route leading to the scene of the crime. Despite claims from the killer that his vehicle had been incorrectly identified at the beginning of its journey, the prosecution managed to demonstrate to the court that in order to have been recorded on two cameras at the times he claimed, the Mitsubishi Shogun would need to have been driven at 545 mph. - Source - [The News - Portsmouth.co.uk](#)



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... and just a few more extra little bits!



We like to think that the world of CCTV is pretty fast moving, but for AD Group CEO Mike Newton, it's practically pedestrian in comparison to his off duty exploits. When he's not pondering designs for the next generation of Dedicated Micros DVR's, you'll more likely find him powering his way through the field in the Le Mans 2010 endurance races. With RML AD Group LMP2 co-drivers Thomas Erdos and Ben Collins, the team recently scored a notable podium result in the world famous [Le Mans 24 hour race](#), which was quickly followed up by 1st place in the [Algarve 1,000 kilometres event](#) (photo left - l/r Ben Collins, Mike Newton & Tommy Erdos celebrate their well earned Algarve victory - photo ©Peter May / Dailysportscar).

Looking forward; with the team leading the field going into the next Round 4 race being held on August 19th - 21st at the Hungaroring in Hungary, anyone wanting to follow Mike's progress can log on to [www.rml-adgroup.com](#); we wish him and the team great good fortune for the coming race ahead.

Looking back; the organisers of IFSEC 2010 have recently announced that the pre audit [attendance figure for this years event](#) stood at 22,743 - this compares to 25,427 in 2009.

Looking up may be the order of the day for the office workers captured in this [YouTube footage](#), but for anyone seriously thinking of pursuing a career in high level covert CCTV installation, there's a lesson in there somewhere.

.... and finally, some forthcoming Security and CCTV related Shows and Events

- 4th August - [IP in Action LIVE USA](#) - The Conference Center at Waltham Woods, Boston, MA, USA
- 10th - 11th August - [Midwest Security & Police Conference \(MSPCE\)](#) - Rosemont, Illinois, USA
- 25th - 27th August - [Secutech Vietnam](#) - Saigon Exhibition & Conference Center - Saigon, Vietnam
- 29th Aug. - 1st Sept. - [Advanced Video & Signal based Surveillance](#) - Boston, Massachusetts, USA
- 31st Aug. - 2nd Sept. - [IFSEC South Africa / SECUREX](#) - Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1st - 3rd September - [Security 2010](#) - Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre - Sydney, Australia
- 1st - 3rd September - [SeguriExpo](#) - Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 9th September - [IP in Action LIVE](#) - Gateway Hotel, Nottingham, U.K.
- 29th September - [Local Authority CCTV Conference](#) - Westminster, London, U.K.

If you have any comments or suggestions, or if you'd like to register a friend or colleague to receive future copies of this regular CCTV / IP Video Newsletter, please drop a line to:- newsdesk@doktorjon.co.uk

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