

“ PPP ”

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

A seasonal story.....With apologies to Enid Blyton!

Noddy was unhappy. Yet again he had received a letter in the post telling him he would have to send off his licence and money as PC Plod, using his latest toy, the Dickybird speed camera, had caught him over the limit once more. He was certain he was driving safely, and had not seen PC Plod and his van hiding in the bushes until too late, as he was concentrating on the road ahead rather than his speedometer.

Meanwhile, in his new headquarters, Brainstorm Towers, Chief Constable Brainstorm was pleased with himself. He was constantly in the news, and his friends at the Daily Lost, the main Toytown newspaper, never disagreed with anything he said. In fact, their most fearless and controversial reporter, David Barclays-Lloyds-Halifax, wrote each week how wonderful he was. It did not matter that David Barclays-Lloyds-Halifax lived a long way off in Narnia, and only got his information second hand, as the Daily Lost never let on to their readers, and in fact gave them the impression he actually lived in the area.

At the Daily Lost things were also looking good. Every other day they were able to fill in at least a page about how well Chief Constable Brainstorm was doing, especially the wonderful statistics regarding safety on Toytown's roads. It was incredible that after the Dickybird camera was introduced in October 2001, 2003, saw a reduction in deaths on Toytown's roads from 44 in 2002 (the first full year of the Dickybird operation) to 49, and then in 2004, a further amazing reduction to 58!

So good were the statistics that this year the Daily Lost was able to put up a banner headline stating 'road deaths down in Toytown' even though there was sometime to go to the end of the year. However, this confidence was proved correct, for as 2006 entered its last few days, deaths had already been reduced from 42 in 2005 to 45 in 2006! What an amazing success rate, justifying Chief Constable Brainstorm's announcement earlier in the year that his force had already reached the government of Toyland's requirement of a 40% reduction in road deaths.

Elsewhere things were just as rosy, with crime rates plummeting, mainly down to Dobbin, the milkman's horse, being seconded to patrol duties, and Toytown's rhubarb farms also benefiting. Unemployment was non-existent as large numbers of Toytown's population were involved processing the huge amount of paperwork, and resultant money, obtained from PC Plod's efforts with the Dickybird camera, and the legal industry had to employ more solicitors to deal with those foolish enough to challenge their speeding tickets in court. In fact so dedicated had PC Plod become that he didn't even leave his van for a comfort break, preferring to relieve himself into a bottle!

However, as usual, Big Ears was even unhappier than Noddy. He wasn't very bright and thought Chief Constable Brainstorm's figures were wrong. He didn't understand that 45 is less than 42, and that having his house burgled twelve times was not actually theft, and therefore couldn't possibly be included in the figures submitted to the Toyland Government's inspector of police statistics.

His attempts to form a pressure group were constantly thwarted by the Daily Lost refusing to print anything criticising their hero, and even being unwilling to accept a paid advert for a meeting he wished to hold. Glumly he tried to understand the arithmetic involved in 45 being less than 42, and wondered whether perhaps his cousin in far away Russia, who'd been sent away to a re-education camp, might be able to help.

Big Ears' attempts to get Noddy to support him also failed miserably, for although Noddy wasn't very bright either, and couldn't understand how 45 was less than 42, the dire threats of going to court and huge fines if he didn't send off his £60 pounds and licence frightened him, and so, even though he thought he was yet again the victim of a money making scam, he raided his piggy bank and sent off the money.

Of course, we all know that this is just a story, and couldn't possibly happen in the real world!

Best wishes for a scam-free 2007, but do drive CAREFULLY & COURTEOUSLY, and do not drive at excessive speed for the CONDITIONS, even if the arbitrary speed limit is higher than is safe.