

“ PPP ”

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Chief Constable's Blog Posted Thursday, June 26, 2008 by CC

*On Tuesday the Deputy Chief Constable and I held the last two sessions of our 'Roadshow 2008', at 'Y Stiwt' (a very splendid Victorian meeting hall) in the old mining village of Rhosllannerchrugog near Wrexham. This Roadshow has been a very considerable undertaking – we have set out, as we do every other year, to see the whole of our staff in groups of 50-100 in order to discuss developments in policing in North Wales. We have 2597 people at present (**1593 police officers and 1004 police staff**); seeing them all has required 26 meetings in 5 different locations around North Wales. The meat of the session this time breaks down into these four areas:*

- We're doing great – in terms of fighting crime and disorder and increasing public safety we are amongst **the very best there is, nationally and even internationally** – so “thank you”*
- What do you the team want in return? A discussion about **reward and recognition***
- The advent of the '**learning organisation**' to help our people (we're a people business) reach their full potential – an idea from Toyota*
- **Understanding our customers better**, and what we are doing to become more focused on our quality of service and their satisfaction – in a phrase, **citizen focused policing**, about which you will hear a great deal more in the future*

*Anyway, it's over now, after a 3 month marathon - next the hard work of delivering the improvements. Then having cut our teeth we're going for the **Augean Stables**; should be a **cake walk, I reckon**.*

The PPP comment What are we to make of this arrogant, self congratulatory blog? In Greek mythology, **Augeas** whose name means "bright", was king of Elis. He is best known for his stables, which housed the **single greatest number of cattle** in the country and had never been cleaned until **the great hero Hercules** came along.

The fifth of the Twelve Labours set to Hercules was **to clean the Augean stables in a single day**. The reasoning behind this being set as a labour was twofold: firstly, all the previous labours exalted Hercules in the eyes of the people and this one would surely degrade him; secondly, as the livestock were a divine gift to Augeas they were immune from disease and thus the amount of dirt and filth amassed in the uncleaned stables made the task surely impossible. However, Hercules succeeded.

Augeas was irate (and DISENGENUOUS!) because he had promised Hercules one-tenth of his cattle if the job was finished in one day. He refused to honour the agreement.

So Brunstrom sees himself as Hercules, and maybe the HQ, being rebuilt between fires, as the Stables full of bullshit accumulated since 2001. The MET had a cockney nickname for RB, it was **WESTHAM** I.e. Two sto(e)ps from **Barking** on the underground.