



# Protecting London

The Metropolitan Police is a big family for top cop Lucy D'Orsi.

Lucy D'Orsi is one of the highest ranking officers in London's Metropolitan Police, which is known as the Met for short. As the deputy assistant commissioner for special operations of the Met Police, she is involved with organising security for the royal family, politicians and airports, as well as for events such as New Year celebrations and visits of foreign leaders, such as US president Donald Trump, to London.

"When I joined in 1992, I never thought I'd be where I am today," D'Orsi tells *The Week Junior*. "It's an amazing career and I've had huge opportunities to do so many different things."

D'Orsi applied to join the Met after she finished university and has never looked back. "You can make a real difference," she says. "Sometimes you provide support to people at the most difficult time in their lives." Some of the qualities D'Orsi says make a good police officer are compassion, resilience

and being able to communicate with people. Part of the job of being a police officer is dealing with lots of different people: from royals and politicians to people who have been affected by crime and tourists asking for directions on the street. "If you're looking for a profession that you can enjoy and is different every day, then policing is definitely a career you should consider," D'Orsi says. "It feels like being in a big family."

This year marks a special anniversary for the Met because it is 100 years since women police officers were allowed to join. D'Orsi says it is great to see more women

joining the force and to see more women at senior levels – the head of the Met is Commissioner Cressida Dick. D'Orsi says she owes a lot to the very first female police officers. "Their commitment, courage and bravery shaped policing today," she says. "It certainly enabled people like me to be a senior officer."



D'Orsi joined the police in 1992.



**HISTORY MAKERS**

On 17 February 1919, 21 women signed contracts to become police officers with the Metropolitan Police. Today, there are more than 8,000 women on the force.

Paul Smith



## At home in the heights

Paul Smith is never found working in an office. Instead, he can be seen dangling on ropes from the Forth Road Bridge or Edinburgh's St Giles Cathedral. His job as an industrial coatings specialist (someone who paints or varnishes structures) takes him to the top of Scotland's tallest buildings. Many would find the heights scary, but Smith says he enjoys his job. He told the BBC, "In my own mind I am confident that I am not going to fall. I like to carry out things to the letter and make sure they are conducted properly." His favourite workplace is the Forth Road Bridge, explaining that he loves "the outright exposure to all of the elements. You can't hide from anything – it tests everything about you."

## The dirt specialist

Professor Christopher Hunt had to sit beside an unusual passenger on a flight back to the UK from Iraq last year: a 90,000-year-old skeleton. The Neanderthal woman (early humans who lived in Europe and Asia between 200,000 and 30,000 years ago) looked like "a damp digestive biscuit after too much dunking", according to Hunt, but he needed to get her back to the UK safely. He was delighted when he unearthed the skeleton in a cave, and described the find as "arguably one of the most important on record". The bizarre flight is just one of many adventures for Professor Hunt, who describes himself as "a sort of dirt specialist". He says the skeleton will be returned to Iraq in the future, adding, "We'll have her passport ready."



Professor Hunt (left) digging out the skeleton.

## THEY SAID IT!

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**"If we're going to be here we need to make a statement, not just stand in the shadows and get intimidated"**

Quinton Peron, who, along with Napoleon Jinnies, became the first male cheerleaders to perform at the NFL's Super Bowl.

