

Think you want my job?



SERGEANT VANESSA EYLES, 37, has been a police officer for 17 years and works for the West Midlands Police

THE GOOD "I joined the police as I wanted to help people. Every day is different, which is motivating, and I go home satisfied. I find it rewarding knowing I'm making the place safer for the public."

THE BAD "I suffered an assault that was pretty serious, so I'd say the most challenging part of my job is the danger aspect. But we have fantastic equipment and support, which prepares us for every eventuality."

STILL INTERESTED?

- Joining the police is more about life skills than qualifications. "You need GCSEs but, more importantly, good communication is a must. I liaise with the public, criminals, witnesses, victims, MPs and other police officers on a day-to-day basis"
- To make contacts, become a 'special constable'. These are sworn police officers with the same powers as the police, but they work voluntarily.
- Research and prepare for a fitness test. "You'll be expected to be in good physical shape," says Vanessa.
- Police sergeants earn between £36,000 and £41,000. For more information, visit www.policecouldyou.co.uk.

Every day half a million Brits are hungover at work. We know it's not clever but it sort of makes us feel a bit better.

MAKE CASH FROM YOUR CAR

Fancy making some money from your car if it's just sat outside your flat? WhipCars offers a service where you can loan your car to safe drivers in your area while you're not using it. And you don't need to worry about insurance either - WhipCar is fully insured and any claims won't affect your personal insurance. With almost 1,000 cars on its database, you can also visit the site to hire out a car for yourself. Three days with a soft-top sports car, anyone?

For more information visit www.whipcar.com.



"If you think I'm loaning out this baby you've got another think coming"

This little piggy went to market, this little piggy stayed at home, this little piggy had roast beef... and this little piggy started saving so she could still indulge her handbag habit in her eighties



Pensions in brief

When your income stops, you're going to need money to pay the gas bill and keep you in, er, designer slippers. Standard Life talks pensions - without the yawn factor.

WHAT'S A PENSION?

It's a long-term 'savings pot' that you access in retirement, but unlike normal savings it has some added bonuses. There are tax benefits, and many employers will help with extra contributions. You generally can't take money out of a pension, which stops the temptation to splurge in Topshop.

WHEN SHOULD I START SAVING?

The sooner the better! Putting small amounts away now can make a huge difference later. Saving an extra £150 a month will make nearly £7,500 a year in income difference from when you retire until you die (around 17 years).

WHY DO I NEED ONE?

The government is slowly withdrawing help, so you need to be pension-savvy. One report found that only two out of five women have a plan for their long-term finances or pension. Act now.

WHERE DO I START?

Check out www.getarealitycheck.co.uk, which will help you to figure out what you need to save. Also, ask your employer. They may pay into a pension for you, even if you don't contribute. ♦

BY ANNABELLE LEE. PHOTOGRAPHS: PAMELA HANSON/TRINKARCHIVE.COM; CAVEHISH PRESS; FOLIO.ID.COM; GETTY; STUDIO 33