



Responses to response policing

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Comic strip hero remembered

Centre pages



Policing Pride Parade

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Students helped to master crime threat

SUBSTANTIAL Force resources have been focused on educating thousands of returning students ... to prevent them falling victim to crime.

With an estimated 65,000 students starting a new academic year this autumn, policing activities across the three Manchester divisions have been coordinated to arrest the burglars and robbers who could prey on teenagers, many of whom will be away from home for the first time.

To press home the crime prevention message, GMP has teamed up with a group of design students from Manchester Metropolitan University to create posters (pictured) to raise awareness among students.

National figures show that around a third of all students have no insurance despite taking possessions worth between £2,000 and £5,500 to university. On the Metropolitan and South Manchester Divisions students were victims in one in five burglaries in 2007/8.

Officers fear a rise in crime levels among students could undo the successes achieved in reducing burglary as part of Operation Storm, the Force's

response to tackling break-ins.

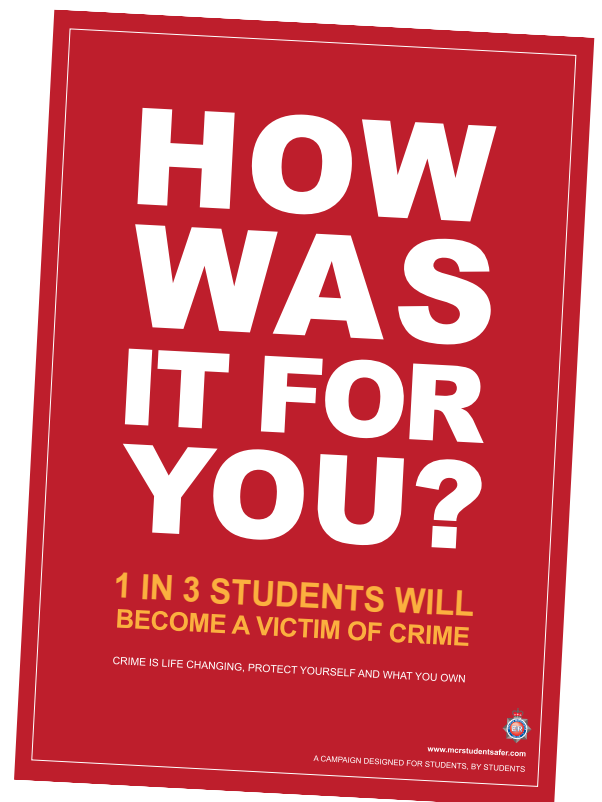
Sergeant Nick Evans, Ops Coordinator for the Manchester Metropolitan Division, said: "From September, we've had 65,000 students returning to Manchester in a short space of time. This is a massive influx – lots of young people who can be vulnerable, lots of personal items on display. The average resident around here is far more switched on to home security, so those students will obviously be a draw to opportunist thieves.

"North Manchester, Metropolitan and South Manchester divisions have been planning for this since the mid summer and are holding daily conferences to put the right tactics in place.

"We're talking high-vis patrols, three dedicated pro-active teams of plain clothes officers targeting key offenders and responding to calls coming in from the public, and working closely with CCTV operators and partners, such as having staff working on the buses.

"In the first week alone we've had some cracking arrests which are down to good

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DESSERT FUND-RAISER FOR DESERT TREK OFFICER

By Mhairi Dewar



Photo: Chris Oldham

A MORNING coffee and a tasty doughnut is a combination that's hard to beat. So what better way to raise charity funds than selling the treats to hungry GMP officers and staff?

This was the plan hit on by Fiona Murray, Funding Officer in the Local Policing Improvement Branch, when she organised a Forcewide Doughnut Day in September.

The event took Fiona back and forth across the Force, delivering hundreds of the snacks, in a bid to raise her £1,000 target.

"I knew that appealing to the

sweet tooth was a good idea," said Fiona. "Nobody can resist a doughnut, so the event was a huge success. The whole Force was able to have their cake and eat it – and do their bit for charity at the same time!"

The Doughnut Day was held to raise sponsorship for PC Chris Daggart (pictured with Fiona), who will be taking part in a gruelling seven-day trek across the Sahara Desert this November, in aid of the Manchester United Foundation.

Chris, who became involved in the Foundation through his work with the Xcalibre Task Force, is hoping to raise more than £3,000 to help disadvantaged children from some of Manchester's most deprived communities.

To make a donation, visit his website www.justgiving.com/Chris-Daggart

A sound foundation to build on

IT'S a year since I joined GMP and this column is an opportunity for me to reflect on what has been achieved over the past 12 months.

I said when I started that I'd spend the first few months looking at what the Force does well and what it could do better, before making a decision on where the Force needed to go.

I kept to my word and have listened to many of you to hear your ideas for improvement and see at first hand some of the excellent work that is taking place.

That process led to the briefings on the Force journey in May and June, and again we asked you to tell your stories about what makes you proud to work for Greater Manchester Police.

I have tried to give a new focus

to the way we measure performance, concentrating on the key offenders and on the need to build public confidence. We have seen some significant reductions in crime but to make more progress we need to make some fundamental changes to the way we organise local policing. Operation Quest is already having a major impact on reducing bureaucracy in Salford and we need to build on that across the Force.

In this issue of Brief you can read about the response policing workshops which are looking at the barriers to providing a better service to the public. We have other workstreams looking at the way we carry out investigations and Neighbourhood Policing. The Optimus project is looking to prepare the Force for likely

future spending reduction, looking to ensure we maintain the service on the frontline. Recent weeks have shown the great professionalism of GMP in dealing with a number of major events and complex investigations. We have a really sound foundation to build on, but we all know we can do better and I remain determined to create the conditions where staff can be the best we can be to make Greater Manchester a safer place.

Peter Fahy



Good news is more news

EVERY day officers and staff are doing excellent work but often we fail to celebrate our successes, writes Clare Hunter.

A new system for good news stories has been set up to use every opportunity to tell each other and the public the great things we do.

By filling in the good news form on the Intranet homepage, information can be sent to the Force Duty Officers, Corporate Communications Branch and 11th floor

staff officers in one go.

Good news could be anything from the arrest of a prolific offender to news of a successful community initiative.

Details of upcoming court cases can also be submitted to publicise them on conviction. Court results must be publicised on the day they happen so details should be supplied in advance to avoid missing out on excellent opportunities to increase public confidence.



OFFICERS and staff got on their bikes for a fundraising Tour de Force – and raised more than £2,000 to assist the work of Child Victims of Crime. A series of cycle themed events were scheduled to coincide with the Tour de France, including sponsored bike rides, cycle to work days and bicycle repair workshops – and culminated with a member of the charity finishing his own 'Tour de Force' at Chester House, having cycled between every police headquarters in mainland Britain.

the voice of Greater Manchester Police

brief

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Articles and contributions for the December edition of Brief should be submitted by the editorial deadline of Wednesday, 11th November.

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intelligence and good pro-active bobbing, including carrying out stop searches where appropriate."

Detective Superintendent Dominic Scally, who is co-ordinating the operation as part of Operation Storm said: "We have had some great support from Force resources with Tactical Aid Unit, Mounted and Dog staff joining us on a daily basis, as well as the Force Automated Number Plate Recognition team under Operation Tornado.

"We're working as a team across the three divisions and speak on a daily basis. We assess where the threats are and share intelligence about key offenders. We then move resources across the divisions to meet these threats and prioritise arrests and warrants."

Superintendent Simon Barraclough, of South Manchester Division, said: "Students are notoriously hard to get through to, particularly new students moving away from home for the first time.

"They have so much else on their minds that, until something happens to them, crime

prevention is simply not an issue. Having a campaign designed for students by students gets the message across much more effectively.

"Students can make it hard for thieves by doing straightforward things, such as keeping valuables out of sight, always being aware of what's going on around them, keeping to well-lit areas and shutting and locking all their windows and doors even when they're at home."

Rob Boardman, President of Manchester Metropolitan University Student Union, said: "It's vitally important that students get this information, particularly those who may not have lived in such a busy, urban environment before.

"We are fortunate in that we have always had a good relationship with GMP and it's reassuring to see the university and the police working together to achieve the desired result. I am really pleased with the campaign and hopefully it will go a long way to helping our students protect themselves."

NEW RECRUITS, NEW JOURNEY

ASSISTANT Chief Constable Terry Sweeney met more than 90 student officers during their first week of training at Sedgley Park to talk them through their role in the Force's journey to become the most effective police force in the UK.

The group were the latest intake of student officers since the launch of the new Force vision in May.

During the session, the student officers were able

to learn more about the future direction of the Force and how GMP is working in more intelligent ways and encouraging staff and officers to be the best they can be to achieve its vision.

"I really enjoyed talking to the students about the journey which the Force has embarked upon," said ACC Sweeney, "it was an opportunity for me to find out why they wanted to join the Force and also a chance for me to share some of my experiences since joining the police."



Why I joined GMP:



PC Clare Williams,
Oldham

"I joined the police because as a PCSO in West Yorkshire I got a feel for what police officers do and I wanted to progress that. I wanted to make a difference to people's lives so that's the main reason why I joined, and also for me joining GMP was a better option as it's a bigger Force than West Yorkshire, so there is going to be more opportunities to do a lot more here."



PC Jonathan Marsden,
Oldham

"I was a PCSO in Oldham so GMP was the natural choice. I just want to make the future better, I've got two kids so I want to make Greater Manchester a safer place for them as well as everybody else, stop crime and anti-social behaviour and just make it a safer place to work, live and be. I'm most looking forward to new challenges, being part of a big team and locking up bad guys!"



PC Philippa Barker,
North Manchester

"I joined the police to help people, to give a more caring aspect to policing and help bring criminals to justice. GMP is a very diverse police force with diverse communities to police, so that's what attracted me to it. Previously, I was an office manager so this is going to be very different! I'm looking forward to going on the beat for the first time in full uniform and being proud to wear the uniform."

A taste of conference policing

By Mhairi Dewar

KEEPING hundreds of hungry police officers fed and watered throughout a major operation like the Conservative Party Conference is no mean feat.

Fortunately, the GMP catering team are old hands at staging large-scale events like this, after cooking up a storm at the Labour Party Conference last year.

Alan Siddall of the Business Services Branch said: "Perhaps one of the most important changes we've made this time, is that we're managing to staff the event mainly with GMP workers. Usually an event like this requires a lot of additional external contractors, costing time and money in recruitment, vetting and training.

"This year we've recruited a number of volunteers from current GMP staff, many of whom used to work in the old canteens. We'd much rather keep things in-house by offering some simple training.

"It really adds to the team spirit of the effort, as we're all pulling together towards the same goal."

The team have also made a number of changes to the menu after listening to comments from officers last year.

Daytime Catering Manager, Janet Wilkinson

(pictured right) said: "We're offering a much wider range of food this time. For example, although the full English breakfast is traditionally the most popular meal, we received so many comments asking for more healthy options that we are now serving continental breakfasts and salads as well."

Throughout the conference, the team serves in the region of 10,000 meals – including 6,000 portions of flora, 12,000 portions of butter, 10,000 portions of sauce and more than 44,500 drinks.

The food is served at the back of the conference venue, Manchester Central, in a specially constructed marquee with seating for 200 people.

"It was a huge leap into the unknown for us last time," says night time Catering Manager, Vivien Western (pictured left). "We were pretty much writing the book as we went along, but we've learned from that and made changes for the better.

"We've expanded the seating area with 50 more places compared to last time, and rearranged the kitchen to give staff a better working environment. Ultimately, it's all about making the process more efficient and a better experience for everyone."



Lantern sheds light on offenders' ID

By Catherine Barlow

AROUND 287 arrests have been made so far this year in conjunction with the use of Lantern – the mobile fingerprint device which can establish a suspected offender's identity within minutes.

However, the potential of the new technology means that the number of arrests is below expectations and more crimes could be solved as a result of its use.

Currently being piloted in 29 forces across the UK by the National Policing Improvement Agency, 42 of the electronic devices have been distributed to divisions and branches across GMP to help save hours of time in identifying criminals and delivering swift punishment to anyone who deliberately gives false information.

"Officers are being strongly encouraged to use the new technology whenever possible," said Assistant Chief Constable Dave Thompson.

"It's introduction represents an important step forward for GMP in our commitment to ensuring we have an effective and efficient police service fully equipped for the challenges of modern policing."

At the push of a button the device allows officers to see if offenders are wanted for any other crime across the country, and within minutes, their identity can be established so officers can decide immediately if

further action is needed.

One officer involved in the use of Lantern is Inspector Jamie Collins of Rochdale Division. He said: "Lantern is an excellent tool which has already had a positive impact on the Rochdale Division. In many cases people are stopped for committing offences and the officer isn't able to confirm their identity as the person does not have any ID or they have provided fake details.

"If the officer accepts the person's details are correct then they take the risk that person may have given false details and subsequently avoid prosecution. Without Lantern the only other option open to the officer would be to arrest that person and take them to the custody office to confirm their identity. This can sometimes take several hours and effectively remove an officer from frontline policing."

Lantern trainer PC Carl Costello said: "Lantern is a valuable tool to reduce crime and disorder and plays a significant role in saving officers time, reducing bureaucracy and bringing offenders to justice who may have evaded the police for a number of years.

"I've trained more than 600 officers to use Lantern and there has been a very positive response from them with some excellent examples being fed back to me of operational use of the device."

No let up for burglars

GREATER Manchester Police has been banging up burglars all summer but there is no let up as the darker months approach.

Chief Superintendent Russ Jackson who heads up Operation Storm said: "There are inevitably a number of factors behind the success we have achieved this year but above all I believe this is down to the tremendous efforts of those front line staff who have tirelessly focused on those repeat offenders who plague our communities. Credit for stemming the tide of these horrid and highly intrusive crimes goes to these teams.

This is about real people's lives but if we look at the statistics, there are now more than 900 fewer victims in the last six months compared to the same period last year."

Inspector David Sutcliffe from the Stockport

Division said that the days of action have been very successful. "Members of the public have been really surprised when we've knocked on their door. Apart from the fact that they were asleep and didn't know they had been burgled they never thought people were caught for these offences."

Operation Storm now faces extra challenges as the nights get darker, thousands of students return to Manchester and burglars 'shop' for Christmas.

Along with a new art campaign, the Battle Bus has been extended until 11 December. An advertising van will also be touring around hot spots in the Greater Manchester area until 19 December supporting local burglary team activity, and encouraging the public to use the Crimestoppers telephone number – 0800 555 111 - to report suspicious behaviour.

Quest for better ways of working

New crime and incident management processes went live on the Salford and Tameside divisions last month.

The changes have been introduced as part of Operation Quest - the Force's initiative to reduce bureaucracy and streamline processes – with the two divisions being the first to adopt the new ways of working before they are rolled out across the Force.

The changes include:

- Staff recruited to new Neighbourhood Investigation Units to deal with secondary non-complex crime investigations
- Response officers no longer carry crimes, but still retain responsibility for primary investigation
- Public Service Teams dealing with all Grade 4 and the majority of Grade 3 incidents, with a new diary system to improve the scheduling of appointments
- Custody sergeants will quality-assure primary investigations for spontaneous arrests and set up a bail action plan where appropriate
- Prisoner Processing Unit adopting new ways of working to process all response prisoners, freeing up response officers to be available for deployment

Detective Superintendent Steve Hassall, of Operation Quest, said: "We are already seeing many benefits as a result of what has been introduced, such as improved grade 2 attendance, time saved faxing crimes, a reduction in failed crimes at the evaluation stage, and improved protection of vulnerable people."

On the first day of 'go-live' on Salford Division, good results included 100 per cent attendance at Grade 1 incidents, no crimes awaiting evaluation, and the number of open crimes on the division being substantially reduced.

No1 Copperpot Credit Union Lottery Winners

The winner of the month's prize draw – a Citroen C1 Car – was Paul Valentine of Northamptonshire Police.

£2,000 Emma Murdoch, Thames Valley

£1,000 Christopher Angold, GMP

£500 Diane Kirk, Nottingham

£250 Stuart Farrimond, retired
David Treloar, retired

£100 Suzanne Whitworth, GMP
Graham Smith, relative
Christopher Colgan, GMP

£50

Howard Hare, retired
Ian Eddleston, retired

Andrew Roe, GMP
Fred Berry, retired
James Wild, retired
Andrew Stott, GMP
David Pawsey, GMP
Lee Bedford, Leics
David Barlow, retired
David Lees, retired
Lorna Hatley, relative
Ian Lees, retired
June Hallett, GMP
Neville Nelson, GMP
John Cartledge, retired
Stephen Jeffreys, retired
Robert Cole, GMP

FIREARMS officers from GMP gained fifth and ninth places overall when they attended the Metropolitan Police International Tactical Workshop in Gravesend.

The event was attended by teams from all over the UK and Europe, as well as teams from Canada.

During the four days, the two GMP Tactical Firearms Unit teams (pictured) took part in several competitions, including rifle shooting, dynamic intervention, assault courses, and other skill-based events.

Running alongside these were tactical workshops where different police forces were able to interact and get an insight into other forces' operating methods. At the end of the competition GMP's two teams were awarded fifth and ninth place overall.

Responding to response policing

RESPONSE policing teams are being asked to do too much, Assistant Chief Constable Ian Hopkins told the first of eight workshops designed to improve the way the Force works.

The sessions – which asked sergeants and inspectors and Operational Communication Branch

supervisors what was working well and what could be done better – were organised as part of the Putting People First programme of work to introduce a New Policing Model and make GMP the most effective police force in the UK.

ACC Hopkins said: "A definition of effective is being prepared and equipped to deal with situations – that means providing a really good service

from when that first call comes in.

"But response teams in particular currently have too much to do. We ask them to write files, interview people, go to court and give evidence, respond to calls, and arrest people.

"It is too much. We are putting too many different demands on them, whereas we need to bear down and concentrate on the core functions.

"Also, because we put student officers into response, we can be sending our least experienced to our most challenging incidents.

During the sessions, officers also heard about the work of Operation Quest in reducing the crimes officers were carrying, the importance of effective briefings, and why standards needed to be maintained.



ACC Hopkins at the first workshop held at Manchester University's campus and in front of one of the vehicles being used to pilot mobile data.



"For us in the OCB, being more effective is about getting officers to the incidents as part of one continuous managed action, and not about just doing our bit and passing it onto response."

Inspector Pete Walsh,
Operational Communications
Branch.



"What's important is having the flexibility to deal with grade 1 and 2 incidents as they come in, rather than having all patrols tied up with lesser grade incidents. Our resources can then be deployed to deal with incidents that are most important to people."

Sergeant Carl Naylor,
Wigan Division



TABLE TOP EXERCISE: Oldham Division commander Chief Superintendent Caroline Ball had a go at table tennis when she attended a Big Lunch event in Oldham.

It was one of hundreds of events taking place across the country during the summer to bring communities together with a range of fun activities and refreshments.

Jailed for burglary

THREE men who broke into 14 homes in the space of just two months to steal cars have been jailed for a total of 27 years.

The offences took place across Greater Manchester and in Cheshire between 4 August and 5 October 2008.

Otis Hunter, aged 28 of Longsight, was found guilty of conspiracy to commit robbery, conspiracy to steal, possession of a firearm dangerous driving and conspiracy to commit burglary when he appeared at Minshull Street Crown Court last month. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Also appearing were 29-year-old Kevin Moore, of Worsley, who pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit burglary and robbery and was sentenced to nine years and four

months, Christopher Harris, 25, of no fixed abode, was found guilty of conspiracy to commit burglary and sentenced to three-and-a-half years.

Shahid Ahmed, aged 31, Oldham, pleaded guilty to handling stolen goods and was given eight-and-a-half months in prison.

A number of the incidents saw break-ins early in the morning at homes in Hale, Sale, Altrincham, Timperley and Flixton, in which car keys were taken to steal the vehicles.

On other occasions, a knife, a gun and a hammer were used to threaten security guards at a shop and a filling station.

The sentencing comes as a further success for Operation Storm, which is tackling burglary across Greater Manchester.

Joined-up approach raises confidence in Oldham

By Claire Smith

OLDHAM Division's approach to monitoring community tensions is helping police to better understand the communities they serve.

Many officers and staff will remember the 2001 riots in Oldham. Since then it has been a long journey to regain community confidence in certain parts of the borough. But by working in partnership with Oldham council and other agencies, the division has developed an effective way to monitor community tensions and understand the complex and diverse needs of each neighbourhood.

Around 20 agencies feed into the Oldham Community Tension Report, including Oldham Council, Oldham Interfaith Forum, First Choice Homes Oldham and local schools and colleges. Each brings a wealth of information to the table about what is going on in Oldham's communities.

"This process is all about community engagement," said Meena Yasin, Oldham's Community Relations Officer. "It's about putting local people first and listening to the things that are causing communities concern at grass roots level.

"It has been key in strengthening the relationships with partners and improving community confidence.

"The tension report process recently proved vital in managing a planned protest in response to the issues in Gaza earlier this year," said Chief Inspector Sarah Jones.

"Thanks to intelligence from the Interfaith Forum it was identified there were strong feelings within the Muslim community and they felt they needed to demonstrate this publicly. We were able to engage with the organisers of the event and arrange a police presence on the day. This helped to ensure the Muslim community could demonstrate in a peaceful and safe manner."

Complaints fall

ALLEGATIONS of rude or inconsiderate behaviour by Greater Manchester Police officers have dropped by more than 30 per cent in six months, according to the Professional Standards Branch.

The Force recorded 434 allegations of incivility between February and July 2009, compared with 629 in the previous six-month period.

Within the same timescale, allegations of assault have also dropped from 686 incidents to 440.

The reductions come following a move by GMP to tackle complaints, which have been increasing year on year.

Assistant Chief Constable Garry Shewan said: "Allegations about officers being rude or using offensive language is an issue that we are very

keen to address.

"The way that we interact with the public is key to how we are regarded and it is important that we constantly strive to improve this communication. Part of this means focusing on reducing and preventing complaints, rather than simply investigating them."

GMP has been working closely with sections of the Force where complaints have traditionally been high, and initiatives undertaken in these areas, including focus groups and customer care training, have produced positive results.

ACC Shewan added: "I am extremely pleased with the work that has been done so far and with the encouraging results. Let's continue to build on this success."



A **STOLEN** go-kart painted in the colours of Ordsall's St Joseph's Primary School has been returned to pupils thanks to the eagle-eyed work of PCSOs Mark Gerrard and Danny McNicholas (pictured).

The two were on patrol in Ordsall Park when they spotted the £600 go-kart being used by youths who ran off.

PCSO Gerrard said: "To see the look on the pupils faces when PCSO McNicholas and I returned it was fantastic - I hope they have many years of fun with the vehicle."

BAND PROVES A THRILLER

PASSERS-BY were moonwalking in the street when GMP's Band played an impromptu homage to the King of Pop, Michael Jackson, at an Armed Services Day in June.

The medley of hits, which included Bad, Man In The Mirror and The Way You Make Me Feel, went down such a treat with the crowds gathered at Piccadilly Gardens, that they ended up playing the piece seven times throughout the afternoon.

Geoff Williams, Director of Music, said: "It was completely a spur of the moment decision, we never expected to get the reaction we did.

"There was a crowd of about 1,000 people watching and before we knew it everyone was singing along, taking photos and filming us on their mobile phones. The tourists in particular seemed to be really enjoying it."

The performance, which took place the day after Michael Jackson died, has even become an internet hit, with several clips promptly appearing on YouTube.

"We've gradually been updating our repertoire to appeal to a wider range of musical tastes and this just goes to show that we can rock with the best of them!"

AROUND THE WORLD



BONN JOVIAL: Armed officers and a helicopter were scrambled to respond to a report of a man being tortured in a wood in western Germany – only to find he was in fact laughing at a humorous book he'd taken into the forest to get some peace and quiet. "People seem to think the sound of Germans laughing is unusual," said an officer.

TESTING TIME: An entrance exam for would-be police constables in India was cancelled after 1,700 candidates were caught cheating by swapping their answers.

PAYING LIP SERVICE: A suspected gang member in Los Angeles has been told by his lawyer to grow a moustache to hide the name of a gang tattooed on his upper lip. Richard Rodriguez's attorney thinks his client may not get a fair trial.

Doh! A DEER: A driver in Lublin, Poland, has been charged with animal cruelty after leaving a live deer on the back seat of his tiny Fiat 126 while he went to work. Dariusz Kaminski thought the animal was dead when he picked it up from a roadside verge.

GMP's festive music celebration takes place at Manchester Cathedral on Thursday 10 December at 7.30pm.

Performing on the night are the Greater Manchester Police Band, vocalist Sue Hulme (from the Operational Communications Branch) and the Larks of Dean Quire from Bury.

Tickets for the free event are available now and can be booked from 14th October via the Intranet home page.

Due to an increase in demand for tickets in recent years, tickets will be subject to availability and restricted to a maximum of six per person. They will be issued on a first come, first served basis.

For assistance or further information, please contact Victoria Smith on extension 65944.

Letters of Appreciation

putting people first

DEGREE OF PROFESSIONALISM

I am writing regarding an incident whereby an intruder entered the property of my grandmother.

The officer attending the incident was **PC David Stephenson** who, over the months preceding the court case, always acted professionally and with great sensitivity to my grandmother, who is in her 90's.

He retained regular contact with her and tried to ensure that her obvious stress was kept to a minimum.

It was he who suggested that a visit to the court for a tour of the facilities might help her to relax and feel able to attend on the day of the trial.

This proved to be very beneficial and PC Stephenson's colleague, **PC Richard Stock**, continued with the good work and was a very reassuring presence.

I cannot praise or thank PCs Stephenson or Stock enough for the manner in which they carried out their duties and would like the appreciation of both my grandmother and myself to be known.

Unfortunately, the general public is not often privileged to witness this degree of professionalism or sensitivity on the part of the Force.

D.M., Macclesfield

ABLE TO SLEEP AT NIGHT

We would like to thank the GMP and in particular, **Special Constable David Nickson** and his colleague, for their continued help and support following the recent incidents that took place at our farm.

Just knowing that GMP are patrolling regularly at the yard and checking on the welfare of the horses and owners enables us all to sleep at night. The incidents that took place were distressing for all concerned and we sincerely hope that the confidence and support you have given us will be continued until such time as the offender is caught.

Once again, thank you most sincerely for your continued support. You are doing a terrific job!

S.F., Bowdon

STELLAR OFFICERS

I would like to sincerely thank **PCSO Garry Williams** for assisting me in a dire situation I faced at Manchester Airport. As a first time visitor to Greater Manchester from America, I

discovered one of my bags missing from my luggage cart upon checking-in for my flight to London. This bag contained my passports, travel itinerary, computer laptop, and other important personal items.

PCSO Williams, sensitive to my situation, calmly and in the most professional manner gathered all the information relating to my missing bag including flight itinerary and personal contact information and explained to me the immediate steps he will take to hopefully recover my lost property.

Seated in the plane and with less than 20 minutes before taking off, the plane crew received a call that my missing bag was found and that an officer was making his way to the gate to deliver the bag from security. Just minutes from the scheduled take-off, PCSO Williams came running down the gate corridor with my missing bag in hand.

I can't thank him enough for his efforts, utmost high professionalism and courtesy. He is at best a God-sent hero. If it weren't for his efforts, the rest of my month long holiday to visit family throughout the

UK and Europe would have been a complete loss and total nightmare. I hope to return to Manchester very soon and look forward to my visit knowing that the Greater Manchester Police is manned with excellent "stellar" officers such as PCSO Williams.

*Michael Verheyen
San Francisco*

WONDERFUL SUPPORT

I would like to express my gratitude for your support and kindness when dealing with my recent case of domestic abuse. I would especially like to thank **PC Joan Goodwin** who has been very considerate and kept me informed of every step. After many years of suffering, I finally decided to involve the police and I wish I had done this many years ago. You have been the start of my life becoming better and each day has been a relief and wonderful. I have commenced divorce proceedings against my husband and the house my son and I live in has now become a home.

I consider myself very lucky to have so many tremendously supportive people helping me to have a new and happier life. I will never look back but I will always be grateful to you all for helping me take that first step.

S.J., East Manchester

IMPROVING ATTITUDES

Our school caters for children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Most children at the centre have been permanently excluded for their behavioural needs and are not able to attend mainstream school. This is because their violence and aggression cannot be managed in a mainstream setting and they present a risk to other children and staff.

We experience a high number of incidents within our school and occasionally there are assaults on staff, which lead to police involvement and Youth Offending Team orders.

PC Mark Smith has been working with us to reduce the levels of violence and has developed relationships with some of the children in the school. He has spoken to the children about what constitutes a crime and the consequences of the choices they make.

These interventions have led to improved attitudes amongst our children (and parents) towards the police and we feel that this is a step in the right direction.

*Dale Grove Primary Centre,
Hyde*

COPING WITH SUDDEN LOSS

My brother, sister and myself wish you to know that we are extremely grateful to **PCs Andrew Webb** and **Gary Fishwick**, who attended our call. Their calm efficiency and professionalism was the greatest help to us in coping with the sudden loss of our elder brother. We are very appreciative of their assistance.

M.T., Stretford

IMPRESSED BY MANNER

This is to compliment **PCs Alison Maceachran** and **Anthony Sheridan** who attended my address following a suspected overdose of sleeping tablets taken by my girlfriend. After the ambulance had attended, both of these officers were faced with some hostile and abusive behaviour by my girlfriend, as they merely tried to assess her condition to see whether she required detaining for her own protection.

However, can I say that both these officers sat very patiently for about 30 minutes listening to her drug abuse background. I was amazed at the manner in which they handled this incident, which ended with

smiles and handshakes all round having reached a very satisfactory conclusion.

Hence we would both like to thank the officers for their professional skills and patience in what started hostile and ended in the way it did.

C.P.H., Ashton under Lyne

GOOD LISTENER

I thought I would drop a line to say thank you so much to **PCSO Alan Lord** for calling at my house the other day and taking time to listen to my various comments on social activity in this particular patch of Trafford. I was delighted to meet him and want to thank him for all the work he has done and the way in which he communicated this to me.

G.E., Altrincham

CONSUMMATE PROFESSIONAL

I have recently had cause to engage with **DC Anthony Weatherley** during an investigation. I represented a suspect arrested for a serious offence and DC Weatherley was one of two interviewers allocated to deal with the case. I dealt with DC Weatherley over a 48-hour period and sat through numerous interviews with him. DC Weatherley acted the consummate professional throughout our dealings. He was polite and courteous at all times.

Despite the seriousness of the offence and its unsavoury nature, I observed DC Weatherley to treat my client with the utmost respect and I believe that his amenable nature assisted in a smooth interviewing process.

DC Weatherley made every effort to ensure the comfort of myself and the suspect and acted above and beyond what I have come to expect at the police station.

L.H., Salford

Send copies of letters or e-mails of thanks and appreciation to the Brief Office, Chester House, making sure the recipient's full name, not just number, is included. Letters may be edited for reasons of space.

Community good causes to pocket the proceeds of crime

By Clare Hunter

CRIMINALS' ill-gotten gains will be used to fund worthy community projects.

GMP's Payback team is making £50,000 available for projects that can make a difference to communities – and is asking Neighbourhood Policing teams to nominate their community good cause.

Officers can apply for up to £15,000 that they feel could benefit a community project on their division (see below for details of how to apply).

Payback was launched earlier this year to encourage further use of the Proceeds of the Crime Act.

Chief Constable Peter Fahy (pictured) has said that POCA should be used as an every-day tool of policing.

He said: "We've all been in that frustrating position where we go into a criminal's house to make an arrest and see the huge plasma screen TVs and top-of-the-range computers that we know they couldn't have bought legitimately.

"This legislation means we can do something about this - seizing items and cash that we suspect have been made from criminality. Every frontline officer has the opportunity to use this legislation to hit career criminals where it hurts, their pockets.

"None of us, or the communities we serve, want to see people benefiting from crime and by using this legislation and publicising our successes we can show local people we are taking a stand against criminality."

Any sum of money exceeding £1,000 can be seized if it is suspected it has been made from criminal activity or will be used to fund criminal activity.

Running a confiscation investigation alongside the criminal investigation can seize assets such as cars, houses and electrical items that are believed to have been bought with the proceeds of crime. Financial investigators based on division can offer advice on how to best to this.

To make the most of this new legislation, an asset recovery desk has been set up in the Force Intelligence Branch. Led by Asset Recovery Manager, Paul Buchanan, the desk is responsible for developing intelligence into asset attack opportunities, leading to an increase in cash seizures and confiscation orders.

In the past 12 months, GMP has secured more than £5.8m in confiscation orders and seized more than £2 million cash from criminals. A large proportion of this cash is given back to the Force to pay for more frontline policing and to give something



back to the community.

Mr. Buchanan said: "By using information submitted to the Force Intelligence System we can target criminals benefiting from the proceeds of crime.

"We really need officers to be aware of the value of financial intelligence when searching addresses so we can capitalise on every opportunity and increase public confidence."

For further advice, contact GMP's Cash Seizure Team on extensions 69117/9, the Asset Recovery Desk on 61746, or officers can contact their divisional financial investigator.

Further information on POCA legislation – and how it can be used to seize criminal assets – can be found on the NCALT training site accessed via the Force Intranet.



Applications of up to £15,000 can be made for projects related to nuisance, anti-social or criminal behaviour, or its impact on local communities.

The project should make a

noticeable difference to a community, demonstrate value for money and be able to be delivered quickly.

Possible projects could be:

- Crime reduction and community safety projects.
- Support for victims of crimes:

better local information, facilities or services for victims of crime and/or anti social behaviour.

- Restoration and renovation projects.
- New spaces, activities or improved facilities.

Full application details are available on the Payback pages on the Force Intranet and should be made by the closing date of **Monday 30 November**. Applications will be administered by GMP's High Sherrif's Police Trust.

Induction roadshow

FOLLOWING the success of the pilot induction roadshow in March, the People and Development Branch held another drop in event on Monday 14 September at Sedgley Park, writes Caroline Anchor.

Opened by Cathy Butterworth, the People and Development Branch Director, the event was aimed primarily at new starters to equip them with all the information they need to know. 27 stand representatives were on hand to provide information from across the Force, including payroll, health and safety, sports and social club, career

development and training. The support networks hosted stands, alongside benefit providers such as Care First and the Cycle to Work Scheme.

Lyn Burns, Head of Assessment, Accreditation & Development Unit, said: "This second induction roadshow has been an even bigger success as we saw a 41 per cent increase in attendance following the pilot in March. We are making some radical changes to our induction programme and we hope these changes will have a positive impact on staff feeling valued and employee retention within the organisation."

Database delivers for neighbourhood teams

NEIGHBOURHOOD policing issues, meetings and contacts are being managed on Tameside Division by a specially-created database.

The Neighbourhood Management System is the brainchild of PC John-Paul Ruffle, a community beat manager for Dukinfield and Stalybridge.

"The feedback from officers has been very good since the introduction of the latest version," said PC Ruffle.

Using Microsoft Excel, the database – first introduced across Tameside in July 2008 – allows Neighbourhood Policing teams to manage their contacts, record details of meetings, as well as issue a range of email templates.

"It means that if a burglary occurs we can send out an email within seconds to ask if anybody saw something. It proved very useful during the Street-a-week operation earlier this year and has helped us to vastly improve communication between teams and team members so everyone knows what everyone else is doing."

Superintendent Catherine McKay, of Tameside Division, said: "The Neighbourhood Management System is an outstanding piece of work by PC Ruffle and a really practical tool for neighbourhood officers to use in their day-to-day work.

"It has many uses to all staff and demonstrates how working in local communities is at the heart of policing. I am delighted to say that it is going to be implemented Forcewide so that all can benefit from using this excellent system."

COMIC BOOK HERO REMEMBERED

By Mhairi Dewar

OVER the years, the bravery of police officers has been celebrated in many ways - but one former GMP officer is immortalised forever in cartoon form.

Starring alongside heroic characters such as Dan Dare, PC Archibald Verth broke new ground in 1962, when the courageous actions for which he was awarded the British Empire Medal, were featured in the Only The Brave strip in popular schoolboys' comic, The Eagle.

Brief visited his widow, Marjory Verth, now living in Shropshire, to get the low-down on the man behind the cartoon.

"I remember the night that it happened really clearly," said Mrs Verth, aged 74. "He had phoned me to say that he was on his way home and that was the last I heard from him. The next thing I knew it was half past 10 and the Daily Mirror was knocking on the door, saying that my husband had

been in an accident."

PC Verth, along with passer-by Roland Hughes, had intercepted a burglar attempting to break into a gunsmith's shop on Withy Grove in Manchester City Centre. When they challenged the man, he pelted them with homemade bombs, setting off explosions and fires from the shop's ammunition.

With little regard for their own safety, PC Verth and Mr Hughes managed to overpower the would-be burglar and arrest him. Both men were awarded the British Empire Medal - and on 15 September 1962 their gallant deeds appeared in pictorial form in The Eagle.

"I think he was quite chuffed about being made into a comic book hero," said Mrs Verth. "Although he never really talked about that night afterwards. To him, he was just doing his job and all that was simply part of it.

"To be honest, I think our two boys were more excited about him being in the comic than anyone

else. It was all round the school that their dad was a hero in the Eagle and they loved that."

PC Verth joined Manchester City Police at Bootle Street in 1957, before spending 11 years with the CID at Brownlee Road. He joined Special Branch at the airport in 1970 and stayed there for 14 years, before poor health following heart surgery forced him to retire in 1984. He died in December 2008 after a long illness.

"He loved his job and was proud of what he had achieved, even though there were lots of people that never even knew about this medal," said Mrs Verth. "He was just a really special man, who is very much missed."

This article appears thanks to the research of former Sergeant John Spurling, who brought the Eagle comic strip to the attention of staff at GMP Museum and Archives. Mr Spurling sadly passed away in May.



PC Verth's medals, from left: British Empire Medal, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, National Service Medal, Suez Canal Medal



How the national newspapers reported the story at the time.



Cartoon reproduced courtesy of the Dan Dare Corporation.



Only the brave are remembered: Mrs Verth and the page from the Eagle
Photo: Chris Oldham



E-fit for purpose

By Janet Wilcox



Lookalike – Miller and his E-FIT

WHEN violent gang member Casey Miller saw a facial composite put together by the Force's Forensic Imaging Specialists, he is said to have remarked in court how much of a likeness it was.

The Force's cognitive interview and use of the E-FIT software had produced a striking likeness based on the main witness description.

Miller, 23, had held a knife to the throat of an art dealer and threatened to stab and kill his wife and two-

year-old daughter in a raid on their home in Cheadle, in May 2007. He was given an indeterminate prison sentence.

Although GMP has been using E-fit (Electronic Facial Identification Technique) for a number of years, new available software means that facial composites can be used much more widely.

The new component allowing this much wider use is called E-FIT V.

There are two main ways a witness describes their memory of what a person looks like: recall and recognition. Recall is when a witness is able to say: "I recall what he looked like". Recognition is when a witness is able to say: "I would know him if I saw him again". Some people are able to clearly visualise what a person looked like and describe it. Others need to see some options before they can recognise that what they see matches their memory. The old E-FIT relied totally on an ability to recall, whereas the new E-FIT V relies on recognition.

Officers wanting to arrange a facial composite should contact Forensic Imaging Reception on extension 66663 to make an appointment for an interview.

PCSO is a poet, don't you know it?

By Mhairi Dewar

A PCSO from Gorton has been so inspired by the work of the B2 Neighbourhood Policing Team, that she has written a poem.

PCSO Tracy Threadgold-O'Sullivan, who works on the Metropolitan Division, put pen to paper after attending an event organised by Redeeming Our Communities, a group set up to promote partnerships between churches, the police and local authorities.

"The event was about giving people whose paths might not normally cross a chance to meet up and swap ideas," said Tracy.

"It made me think about the wider picture and all the people who make a contribution to keeping our neighbourhoods safe. It really struck me that community policing is a team effort that encompasses much more than just the police.

"Hopefully the poem expresses that and shows how pleased we are to be involved in making a difference to the local area."

B2 NPT ODE

The B2 NPT will work together on their beats,
Unite with partner agencies; be seen out on the streets.
They aim to help the neighbourhood; they'll work with every faith.
So people of all ages can feel secure and safe.
They reach out to the kids at school, call in to hear their woes.
When teachers have a problem they'll keep pupils on their toes.
The victims of each crime - they need the strength of our support.
We'll call on them, sort out their locks or help them go to court.
Attending Home Watch meetings is a very worthwhile task,
As that's where all the residents bring things they want to ask.
The LTM, another chance of working as a group,
To help engage a neighbourhood all based around 'the Loop'.
At surgeries, it's good to meet, all our community.
And those who can't attend, we'll make attempts to go and see.
Our KINS are valued critics, of what we try to do.
They help judge our performance and sometimes make a brew!
A summer fair, a Christmas play, a party in the park,
Patrolling on a pedal bike or walking in the dark.
That's where the public needs us. That's policing at its core.
We'll apprehend offenders, intent on breaking law.
At mosques, the pub, the paper shop, in local restaurants.
To see us on the buses, that's what the public wants.
Inspector through to Constable, our cleaning Queen, Desk Clerk,
PCSOs and Sergeants, together we will work.
Response and SOCO, OPU, HR, Comms, Custody,
We need their help throughout each shift, as teamwork is the key.
Our Councillors, the SEMs, ASB teams and more,
And members of the I.A.G. all help us reassure.
Good policing of our neighbourhood is what we'll take to heart.
Whilst working with all sections, so they can play their part.

Christmas present brings a happy future

By Clare Hunter

BUYING one extra gift this Christmas could really make a difference to an underprivileged child.

For the second year running, GMP will be collecting toys for Key 103 and Magic 1152's Cash for Kids Christmas Toy Appeal.

Last year, more than 6,000 under-privileged children

received a Christmas present thanks to Cash for Kids. This year the charity is hoping to help a further 4,000 youngsters.

Emma Brown, Charity Manager, said "We were absolutely overwhelmed by the generosity of GMP's officers and staff who donated a substantial number of fantastic presents last year."

Last year Chief Constable Peter Fahy went to some of the Cash for Kids events and saw the charity's work first hand. He agreed to become a patron of the charity and has completed a zip wire challenge and a 10km run to raise money for them.

In Brief

MANCHESTER radio station Key 103 said a big thank you to Operational Communications Branch staff who raised £1,200 for the Help Harley appeal – a toddler who has lost all four limbs to meningitis.

OFFICERS and staff can now access practical diversity information in just two clicks, with the launch of new Intranet tool, the Diversity Knowledge Bank. The tool will provide useful considerations on topics such as cultural differences surrounding death, disability awareness and hate crime.

STRETFORD-based officer PC Brian Turrall is taking part in a 12 mile multi-terrain race in Cheshire on 1 November to raise money for armed forces charity, Help for Heroes.

ONE of the biggest changes to information technology in GMP for more than 10 years will go live on 17 November when a new Crime Investigation system is introduced.

KEN Sloan from Stockport is appealing for help in tracing a Stockport Borough Police War Memorial 1914-1918 plaque that used to be displayed at the town's former police station. He can be contacted on 0161 442 7419.

FOUR Tameside PCSOs saddled up to raise more than £2,700 in aid of Action Medical Research. PCSOs Lee Ferris, Dave Morrell, Lee Atkinson and Richard Beswick cycled 80km, hiked to the summit of Helvellyn, England's third highest peak, and canoed 4km.

A WOMEN'S Health Event takes place at Hough End on Friday 6 November, from 8.30am to 1.30pm. Places are limited – contact Sarah Laithwaite on extension 62351 to check for availability.

NORTH West Ambulance Service has given the Tactical Firearms Unit six life-saving defibrillators. The defibrillators and training will supplement firearms officers' existing advanced trauma training.

FORMER officers, staff, friends and family are invited to catch up with some familiar faces at the old C Division reunion. The event takes place at the Pig on the Wall Public House, Greenside lane, Droylsden, on Tuesday 27 October from 7.30pm. Contact Wyn McKelvey at Grey Mare Lane Station on extension 63529.

Mr Fahy said: "This charity helps the children living in our local communities. Last year's toy collection proved how generous the people working for this organisation can be. I was absolutely overwhelmed when I saw the number of gifts donated, as well as the obvious thought that had gone into buying them."

Unwrapped presents for children aged up to 16 can be donated at divisional and branch drop off points.

Cash for Kids is looking for volunteers to help sort the toys collected in the Christmas Toy Appeal and supervise some of their upcoming events. If anyone would like to volunteer, email: cashforkids@key103.co.uk.

Admiral rules the airwaves

THREE thousand officers, 24 hours of policing activity, and nearly 300 people charged, were the hallmarks of the Force's crackdown against alcohol-fuelled violent crime which attracted substantial national media coverage.

Operation Admiral, which took place on Friday 21 August, began with an early morning wake-up call to hundreds of wanted people. A video about the operation can be viewed on the Intranet.



Sgt Jon Ormerod gives a briefing at Grey Mare Lane police station at the beginning of the operation



Before dawn, the first of hundreds of homes visited



A morning wake-up call in North Manchester



A wanted man is lead away



Deputy Chief Constable Simon Byrne is interviewed by the media in Piccadilly Gardens



A street briefing in Manchester City Centre



Officers visit a pub to ensure it's complying with licensing laws



Sgt Paul Twiss hands out alcohol awareness leaflets in Eccles

Photos: Bill Morris

Africa challenge for Judith

LEIGH Operational Communications Manager, Judith Johnson, is getting set to prove she's not over the hill on her 50th birthday – by climbing Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro, writes Mhairi Dewar.

"We were supposed to be going to France for a nice relaxing family holiday," said Judith. "But my sister rang me and said there had been a slight change of plan!"

Judith's sister Linda has volunteered her to tackle the mountain in aid of Help for Heroes, a charity close to both their hearts after Linda's son was seriously injured by a landmine in Afghanistan last year.

"It was a bit of a surprise of course," Judith added, "but I'm proud to be doing it. Having seen first-hand what our service men and women go through, I'm just glad to have this opportunity to help such a fantastic cause."

Judith sets off on the trek on her birthday, Saturday 24 October, and hopes to reach the 19,000-foot-high summit seven days later.

"I'm a bit apprehensive, naturally, but I've been training hard and have actually been really enjoying it. I'm just keen to get going now!"

To help Judith reach her £3,500 target, visit www.justgiving.com/judithjohnson2

Show of support

AROUND 250 friends and colleagues of PC Mark Bridges, who died last month, gave him an emotional show of support just weeks before his death.

An event was held in his honour at the Howfener pub in Westhoughton.

His manager, Inspector Graham Neild of the Tactical Aid Unit, said; "Mark had 28 years' service with GMP – most of it on North Manchester Division and the past seven years with the Tactical Aid Unit. He was a true gentleman, a dedicated police officer, and a strong family man. I was flabbergasted by the number of people who turned up on the evening, but that is a reflection of the sort of person he was. The event touched Mark's heart. He was really pleased by the number of friends who came up to greet him and talk about old times."

Stu Pizzey, of North Manchester Division, added: "A spontaneous collection took place at the Howfener and by the Bootle Street Golf Society, of which Mark was part of, where almost £1,000 was raised. Mark asked that the money raised be equally split between Bolton Hospice and Macmillan."



The right time for 999

ON the ninth day of the ninth month of 2009, Greater Manchester's emergency services put out a call to remind people how and when to dial 999.

A media campaign used the date to highlight the 0161 872 5050 non-emergency number and reminded people that tying up the emergency lines unnecessarily puts other's lives at risk.

GMP's head of call handling, Superintendent Karan Lee of the Operational Communications Branch, said: "It's important that the public understands how to help us to help them. By providing detailed information about what is happening and where, and by only using the 999 number in a genuine emergency, they can help us provide the most effective emergency service that we can."

Pictured with other representatives of the emergency services is PC Darren Prince of North Manchester Division.

Three jailed for 'vicious' attack

AN unprovoked attack saw a man kicked in the head so hard it would have made a football travel 40 yards, a court heard.

25-year-old victim Martin Brammall was set upon by three men as he waited for a taxi outside a pub in Hazel Grove to take him back to the house he'd just bought with his girlfriend.

The injuries he sustained to his head and body in August 2008 required emergency brain surgery and left him in a coma for two months.

The attack started after 26-year-old Westley Hiorns, of Hattersley, approached Mr Brummell asking for a cigarette. Without warning, Hiorns punched the victim, and the attack was joined by Michael Atherton, 20, of Romiley, and Spencer Mullen, also 20, of Marple. Mullen was seen to stamp on Mr Brummell's head as he lay

unconscious.

Following a media appeal involving Mr Brammall's partner, Atherton was arrested five days after the attack, and Hiorns and Mullen handed themselves in the following day.

Appearing before Minshull Street Crown Court, all three pleaded guilty to causing grievous bodily harm with intent. Mullen was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and Hiorns and Atherton to six-and-a-half and six years in prison respectively.

Detective Sergeant Hayden Roberts said: "This was a particularly vicious, unprovoked attack, which left Martin fighting for his life.

"Martin has shown remarkable determination with his recovery, and with the support of his partner, family and friends, is now putting his life back together."

ROCHDALE South Neighbourhood Policing Team members went back to school to learn Urdu.

The classes were designed to help improve officers' knowledge of the culture and to strengthen links with the local Asian community.

Twelve police officers and PCSOs from the Kingsway and Milkstone and Deepish wards started the six-week language course at the beginning of August.

PCSO Madasir Nasir arranged the classes which were taught by town magistrate Ghulam Rasool Shazad.

Inspector Michelle Hughes said: "The feedback we have had so far has been brilliant. Everyone who has done the course has been able to use it in their job and they have found that it immediately helps to break down barriers."



Seeking Excellence – One Month to go!

WITH only one month until the deadline for Excellence Awards nominations, many more entries are needed, writes Sarah Wilcox-Standing, the Force's Awards Administrator

This is a great opportunity for all officers and staff to take part and be invited to a fantastic evening at the Manchester Town Hall.

Top tips for writing award entries can be located within the GMP Guide to Recognition and Awards, which can be found on the Awards Team intranet site, along with the details of each category and the nomination form.

The Awards Team are more than happy to give advice and can be contacted on extensions 62533 or 65955

So if you know someone or a team who has done some amazing things over the past year, fill in a nomination form, and who knows, you may be wining and dining the night away on February 26 2010.

FIGHTING INFECTION

With predictions that the country will be hit by a second wave of swine flu in the autumn, Brief speaks to two members of the Force responsible for ensuring GMP is fighting fit for any potential pandemic outbreak.

WHAT IS THE RISK?

Damian Morley, Occupational Health and Welfare Manager: "The risk is that although we have had a number of people sick with swine flu, we are going through a bit of a lull at the moment, so it's important that people don't lower their guard against infection."

Andy Swapp, Force Business Continuity Coordinator: "If swine flu develops it could go hand-in-hand with the seasonal flu we normally expect at this time of year and we could suffer increased levels of sickness.

"We have to protect our key areas around service delivery, and if it comes to losing staff due to staff sickness, we have to look at diverting staff from other duties to those critical functions, such as responding to Grade 1 and 2 incidents, investigating crime, and providing a custody function."

DM: "We could have as many as 6.5 per cent of the national population suffering in any one week, which would mean about 700 to 800 people being ill in GMP."

AS: "That is obviously the worst case scenario, but we have plans in place to deal with it, such as running business continuity exercises for branch and divisional senior leadership teams. These look at the skills of our staff, and where we can use them in a time of crisis."

WHAT ABOUT STAFF HEALTH AND WELFARE ISSUES?

DM: "We have published advice for managers and HR officers on what to do with regards to swine flu and that is published on the Intranet. With the virus living for a maximum of 24 hours outside the body, vigilance and hygiene are particularly important - but on the other hand, we don't want people to be too worried, because for many people it's a mild illness and normal hygiene procedures work."

AS: "That's why we're providing hygienic hand gels for staff."

DM: "Yes, there's more chance of catching the virus through hand contact than by sneezing. The more people improve hand hygiene, the more it protects them against the virus."

CAN THE FORCE LEARN FROM OTHER FORCES?

AS: "We're working with other police forces and have been involved in organising a national police pandemic flu conference which brought together key personnel from around 30 forces. We're sharing best practice around issues such as flexible working and identifying the skills staff have, in case we need to move them around to address staff absences."

DM: "It was reassuring to know from other forces that there wasn't anything we had missed."

AS: "We're also working with local authorities and local primary care trusts to deal with any pandemic outbreak in the community. ACC Thompson chairs a multi-agency meeting on this."

WILL THE FORCE INTRODUCE VACCINATIONS FOR STAFF?

DM: "It's unknown how much vaccine will be available. We're being guided by what health authorities are doing, but hygiene is the main defence at this stage. However, a vaccine may play a part later in the autumn for those that want it."

WHAT DOES THE FORCE WANT STAFF TO DO?

DM: "We want them to come to work, not to worry too much about catching swine flu from someone who is feeling ill, but to be wary more generally about catching swine flu from people inside or outside of the workplace. That is why preventative hygiene steps are the best defence."

AS: "Be reassured that the Force is doing all it can to protect its staff and that we have robust plans in place to ensure continuity of service - and read the health and other advice available on the Intranet home page."

Policing with pride

By Darren Haslam



AROUND 200 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual police officers, police staff, family and friends put on an award-winning display when they walked proudly through the streets of Manchester.

In what was the largest Manchester Pride parade ever held, the Police With Pride contingent saw 18 police forces represented, including a Hungarian police officer on a workplace exchange program with Merseyside Police.

Police With Pride is coordinated by GMP's Lesbian and Gay Staff Affiliation and is made up of the North West regional police forces. Those that took part cheered and clapped as the thousands of people watching joined

in the applause.

That support played a part in the contingent winning an award for the Best Public Sector Parade Entry – beating entries from other emergency services, the NHS, and local councils.

“The award goes to all those that had the confidence to take part in the parade. Seeing so many people taking part shows that confidence levels are slowly increasing amongst LGB & T staff in the police service. It gives a positive message to all colleagues and especially the community that you can be LGB & T and have a career in the police.”

Darren Haslam is GMP's Lesbian and Gay Staff Affiliation Coordinator.



TEMPERATURE-CONTROLLED: Heat, humidity and light sensors have been installed in the GMP Museum to ensure exhibits and archives are kept in tip-top condition.

The walkie-talkie-like sensors at the museum in Newton Street, Manchester, can be moved around to check the environment in any part of the building.

Museum Curator Duncan Broady (pictured) said: “The museum gained the equivalent of a charter mark for museums and galleries, which allows us access to various pots of money to support the work of the museum, but which also requires us to maintain a series of standards for the care, documentation and display of exhibits.

“We have been checking conditions by wandering around with

thermometers, but this equipment is far more sophisticated, allowing us to gather data every two minutes to ensure we are maintaining the right conditions for exhibits and archives most susceptible to high humidity, such as fabric, paper and card.

“When we first used a sensor in the museum's Charge Office we did see a temperature drop of 10 degrees in the space of half an hour during the night. We thought it might be ghosts at first (it's said to be haunted) – but think it's more likely it was an error in calibrating the sensor.”

The museum attracts several hundred visitors each month, of which around 100 people a month use a newly-equipped archive room for crime and family history research.



Holiday PCSO tackles gunman

TENERIFE'S Costa Del Silencio was far from quiet for a Westhoughton PCSO who disarmed a man brandishing a gun on the holiday island.

PCSO Andy Hawkeswood (pictured) was on holiday and waiting for a taxi with his partner, Karen, and their four-year-old son Lucas, when a man entered a Tenerife bar and pulled out a gun.

He said: “There was this Moroccan guy walking down the street. Someone inside the bar said something or shouted something and then Karen said, ‘he's got a gun’.

“As I turned around he pulled out a

handgun and pointed it towards where we were sat.

“I got up and walked straight in front of him and he put his hand up towards my face,” said PCSO Hawkeswood, a former court security guard.

“As soon as he did that I just grabbed his arm and pushed it up his back. I took him outside and put him over a car bonnet and restrained him. I don't think he was expecting it and he dropped the gun on the floor. It was just a quick reaction and it worked.”

Local police later told PCSO Hawkeswood the man was a known criminal.



FOR SALE

TV & stand Sony KF42SX300U Grand Wega 42" Flat Screen Rear Projection LCD colour TV. 2 level quality thick glass stand. Silver, 3 scart points, wall mountable, split screen option (can view 2 channels at same time). Cable tidy within stand. Photo available on request. Plus 2 x GTV376VCR Goodmans 14" Colour TV/VCR Combi (silver). Please call Jeanette - 07952 784005 for further details. £500 ono

TWO green leather sofas, 3 seater - £125 ono, 2 seater - £125 ono. Both in very good condition. Tel 0161 976 2411. Buyer to collect.

KITCHEN for sale. White kitchen units (carcass & door) & appliances for sale. Good condition, all appliances working. Photo available. Buyer to Collect. 500mm x 6, 600mm, 300mm, 900mm corner, 1000mm x 2, 400mm, 800mm, 600mm extractor housing (plus ext fan) 600mm oven housing, 600mm fridge housing (plus fridge), 600mm freezer housing (plus freezer). Please contact Jeanette on 07952 784 005. Open to offers. Stockport area.

KAWASAKI ER5, 04, 8,000 miles, excellent condition, no faults, long tax/mot, Datatool alarm. Givi rack and box. £1,595 ono. Call Martin - 0161 357 0123.

HOLIDAYS

ISLE of Mull - 3 bed house, comfortably sleeps 6, 3 miles from Craignure Ferry Terminal. Visit www.brookecottageofmull.co.uk or contact Sue Royle 01680 812028

LUXURY Florida villa 10 mins to Disney, 5 bed, 3 bath, games room, south facing pool and hot tub. Special GMP rate exclusive location. Visit www.greenviewsvilla.com or call 0161 973 1822

NORTH Wales popular holiday park chalet to let. Three bed detached chalet on the river. Sleeps 8. TV/DVD/Freeview, outdoor pool/bar/Sky TV & TC from £250 per week. Louise 0161 905 1928.

LOS Alcazares, south Spain, 2 bed luxury apartment on secure gated complex. Sat TV/DVD, pool. Ideal for families/couples from £150 per week. Call Andy Curzon 079668 27775 for details.

TURKEY near Bodrum, 2 bed apartment on Flamingo Country Club, 10 mins from airport, super views, large sun terrace, communal pool. From £250 per week. Ring Steve on 07785 593843

CYPRUS - Polis/Latchi 2 bed apartment, sleeps 4, on complex with pool, close to local amenities and beach from £200 per week. Tel 00357 999 55937 email ctparr@cytanet.com.cy - car hire available

CYPRUS Peyia 3 bedroom villa 2 bathrooms communal pools air con beach 10 min, Pathos 20 mins. Sleeps 4 adults 4 children from £300pw Gordon Maxwell 0161 339 4749 www.villa-jacaranda.co.uk

MADEIRA Funchal Studio Appt, sleeps 2. 1wk or 2wk May 18th and May 25th. Superb accom, daily cleaning service, all amenities, sea view - £150 per week. Call Medina 07768 593110 (ret GMP)

CYPRUS. Skarinou - Luxury furnished 6 double bedroom villa set in gated 2.5 acres, large pool, Sky TV (sports/movies), ideal for extended or two families sharing. Quiet, half way between Larnaca and Limassol, easy access to beaches, golfing and all resorts. Call David Williams 0161 491 5910 or visit www.exclusivevillacyprus.com. Discounts for GMP personnel.

COSTA Del Sol, 2 Bed appt, sleeps 6, lge balcony, in complex with pool. 10 mins walk to beach/shops/bars 20 mins drive to airport. £175 - £250 per week. Email Bellasol@hotmail.co.uk

BEAT the Euro! Come to Turkey. Ovacik Oludeniz. Large apt on 2 floors, air con, TV/DVD/PS2, 2 balconies, full sized kitchen, microwave, lovely pool area and bar £300 per week. Tel Mike Craig on 01745 590649. Email MikeCraig@yahoo.co.uk

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ORLANDO, Florida, 5 bedroom, games room, pool, spa, free calls to UK, WIFI net. Close to theme parks. 10% off for GMP staff, 07799061730, www.windwood-dreamvilla.com

DISNEY Florida. Fabulous Villa 5 beds 3 baths, private pool & games room. 10 mins Disney, just off the 192 in Kissimmee, discounts GMP. Anne Cannon 0161 613 5844 www.seasonssunshinevilla.com a.cannon3@ntlworld.com

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LANZAROTE Costa Teguis 2 bed 1 bath apartment on new gated complex, 3 swimming pools. Contact Karen or Chris 01625 431373 or 07881 614045 www.lanzarotesun.net

CYPRUS off-plan property investment. Fantastic returns, just 15% deposit needed For more info and presentation, call Michelle Hall 07977 297148 email michellemhall@btinternet.com

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FLORIDA luxury villa 10 mins from Disney. Sleeps up to 10, own pool & spa games room, prestigious location. Discount for GMP www.greenviewsvilla.com or call 0161 973 1822.

IRELAND in stunning Connemara. Holiday cottage to let, child-friendly house sleeps up to 9, area great for walking, fishing and sightseeing. www.diamondviewcottage.com

MJAS Golf, Costa Del Sol, 2 bed 2 bath apt. Sleeps 6, pools, tennis park for kids. 20 min to airport. 10 min to beach by car. Bars, restaurants nearby. Call Joanne 01204 598702/07947 008540 from £275pw.

BULGARIAN coast, quiet 2 bed apt sleeps 6, small complex with pools 5min to beaches & cheap restaurants. From £100pw, contact Dave 0784 953879 or DKBulgaria@hotmail.co.uk

WELLS-Next-The-Sea, Norfolk. Warm, stylish Victorian cottage. Near Quayside shops and beautiful sandy beach. Courtyard garden, parking. Visit www.norfolkdreams.com or ring 07976 720022.

TUSCANY, Italy. Rustic mediaeval village house, stunning views. Near Pisa, Florence & Riviera. Visit www.tuscanlife.co.uk or 07976 720022.

FLORIDA Lily Pad. Lux 4 bed 3 bath villa with private pool & games room. Only 10 mins from Disney, see website for previous guest comments. www.thefloridalilypad.com. Warren & Gwen 0161 682 7819.

GRAN Canaria, Puerto Rico. Modern 1 bed apt, sleeps 4, large sun terrace, communal pool. Close to beaches, restaurants, bars, etc. Margaret 07946 415721 for brochure.

LANZAROTE, Puerto del Carmen, 1 & 2 bed apts overlooking main beach, quiet complex with pool, fully equipped kitchen, all mod cons, sat TV, CD, video, etc, own sunbeds, from 3250 pw. Steve 01503 272018.

ISLE of Whithorn. Dumfries and Galloway. Quiet fishing village. Two bedroomed bungalow. Max 4 occupants, fully equipped, comfortably furnished. Small front garden with sea view. Large back garden with small patio and BBQ. No pets. No smokers. Kathryn Norgate 0161 794 1107

PUERTO Banus, Marbella spa in luxury 2 bed 2 bath apt. Beaches, marina, golf, excellent bars, restaurants. Discounted rates, call Aidy Olleront 07768555091

CYPRUS, Pissouri. Lux 3 bed 2 bath villa. Prvt pool, Sky tv, fitted kitchen, in stunning village. Sleeps 8, air con. Call 07770 283161 www.villarproteus-cprus.com

BEAUTIFUL Nerja, Costa Del Sol, Spain. Superb accommodation to suit all tastes and budgets. Villas/apartments/studios. To view, visit www.ij.nerjarentals.com or contact Joe Chadwick 01706 715178 or email joe@chadys.freeserve.co.uk

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DOUBLE room available to rent for £250 each month in Buxton, Derbyshire. Close to train station. Contact Angela Taylor on 07745 745719.

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CHRISTMAS 2010 in Australia: Family of 4 wishes to swap 5 bed, 3 bathroom house with pool in Karlong just 1 hour from centre of Sydney for 2 or 3 bedroomed house near Streford/Urmston or Sale. For more info please contact Karen Johnson mobile 07981 090018.

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MISCELLANEOUS

WINDOWS, doors, conservatories, facias and soffits all UPVC fitted with 10 yrs guarantee. 25 yrs exp, call Andy Gould 079761 09880 for a free quote. Andygould200@hotmail.co.uk

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All sections should be written clearly in black ink and in block letters (one letter or space per box). An electronic version of this form is also published on the Force intranet.

Name:.....

Warrant/ID/pension number (enclose photo copy).....

Contact number:.....

I have read and understood the terms and conditions for advertising in Brief (available on the intranet, GMP website, or by telephoning 0161 856 2224)

Signed:..... Date:.....

Please tick appropriate section:

'For sale' items (one issue of Brief): no charge

Commercial-related (holidays, property, services):

One issue: £8 Five consecutive issues: £35 10 consecutive issues: £69

Cheques should be made payable to 'Greater Manchester Police' and sent to BRIEF ADVERTISING, CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH, GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE, CHESTER HOUSE, BOYER STREET, MANCHESTER, M16 0RE.

All adverts must be accompanied by a copy of the advertiser's warrant/ID card or pension number.

Although all reasonable steps have been taken to check the authenticity of advertisers, it must be stressed that acceptance for publication does not imply the acceptance of any responsibility or liability to GMP in respect of any advertisement. Publication does not imply any endorsement of the companies, individuals or products.

DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR NEXT EDITION IS: MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2009

Large empty grid for submitting advertisement details.

ADVERTS ARE PUBLISHED ON THE INTERNET AT: WWW.GMP.POLICE.UK

PAST TIMES



DENNIS WOOD, A RETIRED SERGEANT AND AUTHOR, TELLS THE STORY OF ONE COUPLE'S NAKED AMBITION.

ON one of those warm summer nights during the 1960s, I was the charge office sergeant at Mill Street Police Station, later to be replaced by the building of Grey Mare Lane.

Adjacent to that office was a public kiosk with access from the street, where persons making use of it were out of the general view, and therefore able to discuss matters, as it were, in private.

I had been on duty for some half an hour when the bell was activated in the kiosk. The constable who was my clerk went off to answer it, and returned closing the door behind him. He was in a fit of uncontrollable laughter to the extent that he was incapable of answering me. He staggered out of the office and into the cell corridor where he really became hysterical, and I went into the kiosk to see what had amused him.

There I saw a middle aged man and a much younger female. Both were completely naked and were consumed with embarrassment. The reserve man, alerted by the screams of the clerk, had followed me into the kiosk and I ordered him to fetch a couple of capes, which were used to cover the couple.

The man said that he and the woman had been in his car, which he had parked in the yard of a derelict building in the Clayton area. He went on to say that as it was a particularly hot and humid evening, they had both removed all their clothing in preparation for a cuddle and so on.

They were, he explained, both married to other people, and that the clandestine association had been going on for some time. All the items of apparel, together with the woman's handbag, had been left on the front seat, whilst the couple occupied the more appropriate rear bench seat. Unbeknown to them, someone had witnessed all this behaviour, and had hidden until the violent rocking of the vehicle told him that they were oblivious to him, then he opened the door and made off with all the garments and the handbag. "There was nothing for it other than to drive straight here," said the male adulterer.

"Then you wish to report a crime," I said. Both participants begged me not to reveal the incident to their nearest and dearest and declined to report the theft. I told them that I would have to inform somebody, as they could hardly go home in their present state. After some deliberation between them, the pair provided the telephone numbers of respective friends and at about one in the morning they attended with a set of clothes from their own wardrobes. A red dress had been handed to the female, who grumbled, that as she had red hair it was not suitable, though after some persuasion from myself, she climbed into it and they all left the station. My only regret in relation to the matter is that I couldn't be there when they arrived home, and that I shall never know what explanation was attempted.

Nicknames nicked

NICKNAMES bestowed on police officers over the course of decades have been tracked down and compiled in a booklet on sale at the Force Museum.

The 84-page digest has been produced by museum volunteer and retired inspector Ian Tootell MBE, who sadly died aged 62 in June.

Drawing on personal reminiscences and a trawl through the policing archives, he provides an A to Z of names descriptive, kindly or just plain cruel: Bongo (Booked On and Never Goes Out), Snowman (a Scottish-born officer who was very clear about his duties, beginning most sentences "It's no my job to..."), and the Editor (not for his journalistic skills, but rather a tendency for over-use of his truncheon).

In a foreword to the booklet, Ian wrote: "It was most unusual for these nicknames to change, or ever be forgotten, and they stayed with the officer throughout his or her service – many of them even continued into the officer's retirement."

The booklet is on sale at the Force Museum for £3.99. Brief has five copies to give away – simply send a police nickname you've heard, with a description of why it was used, to: Brief, 2nd Floor, Chester House. The winning entry (which must be printable) will appear in the December edition of Brief.

Museum Curator Duncan Broady remembers Ian Tootell:

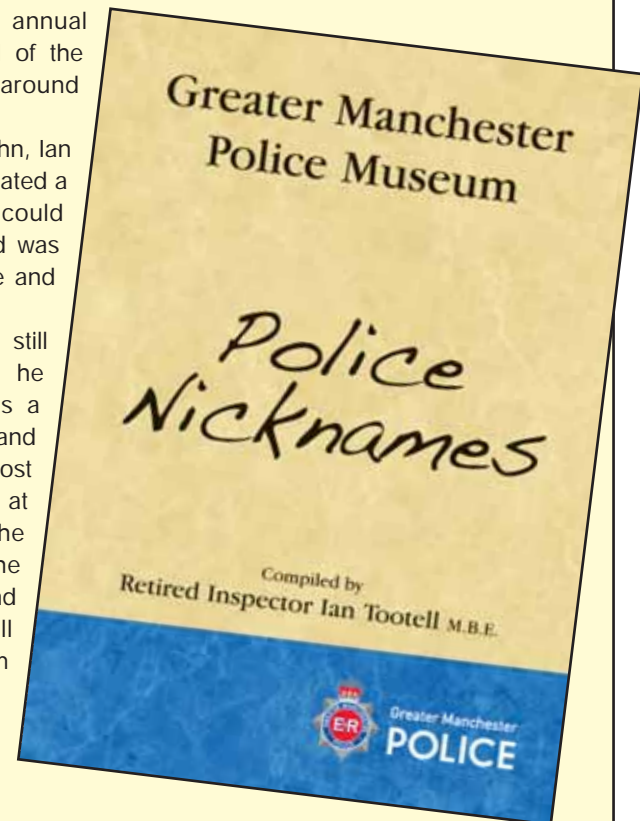
Inspector Ian Tootell MBE, or "Toots" to fellow officers, joined the Manchester City Police Cadets on 30 October 1963 and became a regular officer on 13 March 1966. He retired from GMP on 10 October 1999.

He was based on the Rochdale Division for the majority of his service, but became better known across the Force for his key role in the 999 Romanian Childline Appeal. Officers and staff on the Rochdale and Bolton divisions raised funds and organised donations of medical equipment and supplies for children's hospitals and orphanages in Romania. The first convoy set out in 1990, shortly after the fall of the communist government in Romania, revealed the full horror of the country's neglected and malnourished children. Ian took part in several convoys and in between time continued to fundraise. The annual convoys continued until the end of the 1990s, each one delivering around £750,000 of equipment.

An Officer of the Order of St. John, Ian was a First Aid trainer and also created a police "paramedic" team that could attend public order situations and was equipped and trained to evacuate and treat the injured.

In retirement, his energy was still devoted to fundraising, which he combined with his other roles as a toastmaster, after dinner speaker and school governor. He was also a most valued and enthusiastic volunteer at the GMP Museum, where he researched and created the museum Roll of Honour board and database, commemorating all officers who have died on duty from GMP and all constituent forces.

He was awarded the MBE for his work in Romania shortly after he retired.



LIVE AUDIENCE FOR TEAM GOING BEYOND THE GRAVE

VOLUNTEER ghost-hunters will be investigating all things spooky next month – in front of television cameras and a crowd of 200 people.

Further On Paranormal, which includes Chris Steadman-Byrne and Todd Hand from the Operational Communications Branch, and Ashton-based enquiry officer Julian Sobczak, will be seeking out paranormal activity at Hyde Town Hall on Saturday 21 November in front of a live audience of 200. It will also be filmed by Channel M.

The work of the group was featured in the February 2009 edition of Brief and can also be found at www.furtheronparanormal.com.

IAG Conference

THE Independent Advisory Group National Conference is coming to Manchester this year, to be hosted jointly by GMP and the Greater Manchester Police Authority.

The conference, which is in its ninth year, is open to anyone involved with IAGs and will feature speakers from a wide range of fields, including Chief Superintendent Janette McCormick of Trafford Division.

Donna Bell from GMPA said: "This is an excellent opportunity to network, share ideas and gather information. Each division at GMP has its own Independent Advisory Group and this is a great chance for them to meet up with representatives from across the country."

The conference takes place from 30 November to 1 December at the Palace Hotel on Oxford Road. More information can be found at: www.thejourney2009.co.uk

An intelligent approach to mental health

By Claire Smith

A FORWARD-thinking approach to dealing with mental health issues among Oldham's communities is paying dividends.

In the year since its formation, Oldham's Mental Health Unit - led by Inspector Karen Taylor and mental health officer Leanne Hayes (pictured centre) has helped Neighbourhood Policing teams connect with hard to reach communities.

Officers have been trained to contact the unit about any people in their community they have concerns for - such as an elderly resident, a persistent caller or issues resulting from attending a neighbour dispute.

"This way of working ensures that actions are put in place to make sure these individuals get the appropriate help if they need it. It has had an enormous impact on the way vulnerable people are dealt with in the community," said Inspector Karen Taylor.

"Improving community confidence is key to Neighbourhood Policing, and the work of the Mental Health Unit helps

neighbourhood officers make essential links with often hard to reach communities."

In June last year, they heard of a Failsworth resident who was calling the police up to 30 times a month. The woman had mental health issues and, following the referral, Leanne was able to find out who her care worker was and arrange a meeting to discuss the issue. The lady is now part of a unique living support network and is housed in close proximity to other vulnerable or excluded people, supported by a volunteer worker.

In its work, the unit has developed strong links with a number of agencies, including Royal Oldham Hospital's psychiatric unit, Oldham Mental Health Services, All Saints Hospital for the Deaf and Oldham Mind. In June, a mental health nurse and an approved mental health practitioner, who specialises in working with offenders with mental health problems, started work in Oldham's custody office to provide support and advice to officers.

Leanne said: "The relationships with the mental health service providers

and the education of our own officers have proved key in making sure individuals get much needed help. By identifying those who may

offend due to their mental illness, we can help prevent them from committing crime and ending up in the criminal justice system."



Tackling fraud and corruption

By Donna Bell

GREATER Manchester Police Authority launched a campaign 10 years ago to raise awareness of the Authority's stance in relation to financial-related fraud and corruption in GMP and GMPA.

Mugs, posters and leaflets emblazoned with a No Excuses logo were just some of the items produced back then to remind all at the Force and police authority of the commitment to a culture of honesty and opposition to fraud and corruption.

Now 10 years on, the commitment remains the same. There is still an Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy in place and over the coming months, the No Excuses logo will be used to promote the strategy both inside and outside the Force and police authority.

So what does it mean to you? The strategy applies to everyone in the GMP and GMPA families. It particularly concerns those who work in areas which involve finances of any type including the securing of contracts.

The main areas discussed in the strategy include what constitutes fraud and corruption, how it can be prevented, what people can do if they suspect it, how allegations are dealt with and the dedicated hotline reporting number.

One of the most important things to remember is that although the strategy applies to everyone at GMP and GMPA, it is designed to stamp out fraud and corruption for the benefit of everyone.

That means if a member of the public suspects there's a problem, they can use the anti-fraud and anti-corruption hotline (0808 100 1235) in the same way as a GMP officer or member of police staff.

A range of No Excuses leaflets have been produced to raise awareness of the hotline number among members of the public and they are available in locations such as police stations, libraries and council offices. These leaflets, as well as the strategy, are available on the GMPA website.

Donna Bell is Strategic Communications Officer for GMPA.

Praise for high-calibre campaign

A CAMPAIGN against gun crime has won praise from Greater Manchester Police Authority.

The authority arranged a special event at Manchester Town Hall in August to thank officers from Xcalibre - 12 months on from a £6.5 million investment boost to support the Xcalibre unit's work in 'aiming for gun free streets.'

The investment means that more than 120 police officers and staff are now dedicated to combating gun crime.

Following presentations by officers from the team, GMPA Chair Paul Murphy presented a plaque to Assistant Chief Constable Ian Seabridge to thank the team for

their problem-solving approach, which he said had won wide recognition.

Detective Superintendent Darren Shenton, head of Xcalibre, said: "It was pleasing that the police authority brought this event together not only to recognise the work of Xcalibre officers, but importantly all the other departments and partners that are essential in the fight against gun and gang crime.

"It's particularly heartening to hear the recognition expressed in relation to the sacrifices the officers make in their private lives on a day-to-day basis to make the communities in Manchester a safer place."

A CLUB dedicated to the preservation of classic police vehicles has been clocking up the miles around Greater Manchester.

Police Car UK is run by both serving and retired officers and had cars on display at the ACPO/APA International Policing Exhibition in Manchester in July and at a festival in Ramsbottom to mark 180 years of policing in the town.

It is a national club for individuals who own classic police vehicles, photographers of police vehicles and collectors/makers of model police vehicles. For further information, email: gs.taylor@btinternet.com



IN THE PINK: PCSO Dominique Grimes gets to grips with organising a fun cycle safety training day for children in Alkington - showing four-year-old Lilly-Mae Milroy the rules of the road.

OBITUARIES

FORMER PC **Janet Hayden**, 50, died 30 July, leaving a widower, James. She joined GMP in 1980 and retired in 1989.

FORMER Sergeant, **Bernard Carroll**, 70, died 26 July, leaving partner, Ann. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1957 and retired from GMP in 1985.

FORMER Inspector **Raymond Farrington**, 83, died 26 August, leaving a widow, Winifred. He joined Cheshire Constabulary in 1953 and retired from GMP in 1979. FORMER Chief Inspector **Arthur Renshaw**, 69, died 27 August, leaving a widow, Shielah. He joined Manchester City Police in 1961 and retired from GMP in 1996.

FORMER Superintendent **Sylvester Barstow**, 81, died 19 August, leaving a widow, Joan. He joined Salford City Police in 1953 and retired from GMP in 1985.

FORMER PC **Kenneth Hurst**, 74, died 3 August, leaving a widow, Joyce. He joined Manchester City Police in 1956 and retired from GMP in 1978.

FORMER PC **Alan Faulkner**, 72, died 13 August, leaving a widow, Alwyn. He joined Manchester City Police in 1955 and retired from GMP in 1984.

FORMER PC **Donald Pollitt**, 83, died 2 September, leaving a widow, Winifred. He retired from GMP in 1974.

FORMER PC **Graham Taylor**, 60, died 5 September, leaving a widow, Francis. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1967 and retired from GMP in 1990.

FORMER Chief Inspector, **Barrie Morton**, 79, died 7 September, leaving a widow, Mavis. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1950 and retired from GMP in 1979.

FORMER Chief Inspector **Roy Parkinson**, 80, died 8 September, leaving a widow, Dorothy. He joined Cheshire Constabulary in 1951 and retired from GMP in 1981. FORMER PC **John Murray**, 88, died 9 September, leaving a daughter as next of kin. He joined Wigan Borough in 1946 and retired from GMP in 1976.

FORMER PC **William Scott**, 71, died 17 September, leaving a widow, Doris. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1960 and retired from GMP in 1992.

FORMER Sergeant **Eric Roberts**, 83, died 2 September, leaving a widow, Marjorie. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1950 and retired from GMP in 1980.

FORMER PC **Thomas Hewitt**, 68, died 13 August, leaving a widow, Anne. He joined Oldham Borough in 1967 and retired from GMP in 1982.

PC **Mark Bridges**, 52, died 28 September, leaving a widow, Wendy. He joined GMP in 1982.

From Ben Nevis to Ben-evolent Fund

TEN officers from the South Manchester Division raised £1,800 for the North West Police Benevolent Fund after completing the three peaks challenge.

Battling with boiling hot weather and busy traffic, the team managed to complete the challenge of Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon within 27 hours.

Sergeant Liam Wareing said: "The Police Benevolent Fund is a fantastic charity and one that we are all keen to support in whatever way we can. In the current economic climate charities are struggling so I hope that by raising this money we have

helped raise awareness to a very worthwhile cause. The team was made up of Sergeants and Police Constables.

Chief Constable Peter Fahy said: "The Benevolent Fund is a fantastic organisation that provides care and support in a variety of ways for its members and this achievement by the 10 officers in support of the Ben Fund is a great credit to them. The Benevolent Fund is a registered charity and is often forgotten about when people look to doing fundraising events, but thanks to these officers I hope this will raise the profile of the Fund."

GMP officers in the awards spotlight

By Lucy Kramers

PROUD GMP officers and staff will be parading down the red carpet at a glitzy awards bash in London later this month.

Jane's Police Review Gala Awards 2009 recognises the best of policing, with nearly all forces in the UK nominating officers and staff for each of the five award categories. A total of 168 finalists will be competing for the trophy prize, and all winners and runners-up will be announced by the Police Review judges at the Hilton Hotel on Wednesday 28 October.

ACC Ian Seabridge has selected a star-studded line-up of nominees to act as GMP representatives in each of the following 5 categories.

PC Bob Varley from the Bolton Neighbourhood Policing Team has been nominated for Community Police Officer of the Year.

PCSO John Slattery from the North Manchester Division has been nominated for Community Support Officer of the Year.

PC Katherine Murray from the Oldham Division will be representing GMP in the Student Officer of the Year category.

Sergeant Richard Craig Johnson, also from the Oldham Division, has been nominated for the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The North Manchester Division will be representing GMP in the Diversity in Action group category. The Neighbourhood Engagement Team is comprised of nine officers who are all stationed at Cheetham Hill.

Neighbourhood PC Sobia Yasin said: "I feel tremendously proud to be nominated for this category. My colleagues and I feel that all our hard work and dedication over the past year towards increasing trust and public confidence and promoting change into the minority communities has all been worth it. The quality of life for local residents in the area has vastly improved and this award recognises these achievements. I am really excited about attending the upcoming event and the team are all rooting for first prize on the night!"

All nominees automatically go on to be the winners in their respective categories at the Chief Constable's Excellence Awards 2009, which is taking place at Manchester Town Hall on Friday 26 February.

Advice on bogus callers

HOT dinners and advice about cold-callers were served up by officers from Northenden Neighbourhood Policing Team

The team worked with food delivery company BCM to distribute crime prevention booklets about bogus callers along with the meals to around 1,000 elderly people in South Manchester.

PCSO Julian Whitehead said: "We are always looking for new ways to contact isolated or vulnerable members of the community, and this partnership with BCM is an excellent way of getting important safety messages across."



PCs Altaf Hussain and David Fenton are tackling anti-social behaviour through the medium of football.

The officers have set up an after school club at Plant Hill Arts College in Blackley, that aims to connect with young people by involving them in team sports. The youth club runs each Friday between 3.30pm and 8pm – a time period when incidents of anti-social behaviour tend to be high.

South Manchester cops star on screen

TWO police officers from South Manchester Division have swapped the beat for the silver screen as part of a campaign tackling anti-social behaviour.

PC Kirsty Malcolm and PC Matt Spencer enjoyed their 15 minutes of fame after appearing in a television advert produced by safe4summer.com, a joint initiative that aims to provide young people with enough interests and activities to keep them safe and out of trouble, as well as offering advice about personal safety and promoting social responsibility.

The 60-second advert, which was filmed in Wythenshawe Park, shows the officers dealing with anti-social behaviour and offers a stark warning to young people about the consequences such behaviour can have, both for themselves and for other people.

The advert was aired throughout the summer holidays, a period in which anti-social behaviour traditionally reaches a peak.

SPORTS · BRIEF · SPORTS · BRIEF · SPORTS

Squash double

By James Williamson



Photo: Chris Oldham

five times a week.

She said: "I've always said that there are two types of squash players: naturally talented players who can work wonders with a racquet and conserve their energy and grafters. I'm a typical grafter and my forte is running around the court like a headless chicken, even when my legs and lungs are screaming out that they have had enough."

As the only entrant from the United Kingdom, a nervous Christine saw off challengers from Canada and Hong Kong to repeat the success she experienced two years previously.

"I felt such a sense of achievement when I won. I thought that winning the gold in Quebec in 2005 would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience, but to enter the tournament for a second time four years later and bring home the gold medal again was amazing."

PRACTICE really does make perfect according to GMP's latest World Champion.

Despite claiming her second gold medal in just four years at the 2009 World Police and Fire Games in Vancouver, Christine Smylie of Trafford Division insists she is not a naturally talented squash player.

Instead she attributes her success to hard work, enjoyment and a hectic schedule of playing and training up to

Second wind needed for sailboard club

By Kavita Comar

IT'S an exhilarating water sport that's been established at GMP for over 25 years. But with the Club Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer all retiring within the next six months, the GMP Sailboard Club could be facing a stormy end if no-one comes forward to continue running it.

Club Chairman Paul Cross said: "It would be a sad loss if we saw the end of the club after 25 long years, particularly when we've been so well supported in the past - we've organised club days, barbecues and weekend camps to Wales and the Lakes that were really popular.

"We also have a lot of excellent kit, which we'd have to sell off if we closed. I would encourage anyone who can give up a little time and has an interest in watersports to volunteer to keep the club going. Sailboarding is a great sport that can be enjoyed by both the young and old. And with today's wider and shorter boards, it's never been easier to learn."

The Sailboard Club is based between Bolton and Bury at the Elton Reservoir, but has also recently been using Watergrove Reservoir in the South Pennines.

Anyone interested in joining should contact Paul Cross or Mike Lyons by email.

COMBINED LANCS WIN THROUGH TO RUGBY FINAL

Combined Lancs 30

Metropolitan Police 27

By Damieon Pickles

COMBINED Lancashire pulled out all their reserves to complete the double over a determined Metropolitan Police team.

With only nine regular Combined Lancs players, several late withdrawals and a couple of new faces, this was not going to be as easy as the crushing 78-24 win of the early season.

The Met struck early, but Combined Lancs hit back immediately with a superb effort from Oldham's Alex Clemie, weaving through some poor tackles to score under the posts.

A further try from Clemie, one from Wigan's Adam Fogarty, and three goals from Damieon Pickles, gave Combined Lancs an 18-4 lead. A repeat of the early season victory seemed on the cards.

Unable to breach the Combined Lancs defence, the Met soon started to run out of ideas, but a consolation drop goal from Steve Ashby reduced the lead to 18-5.

Combined Lancs' Darrell Rotherham retaliated by bursting through the Met's 30 yard defence, bringing the half time score to 24-5.

Injuries however, were taking their toll on the under-strength Combined Lancs side and with Geener and Edmondson unable to continue, only 11 Combined Lancs players returned to the field for the second half.

Taking this as their cue, the Met came blasting back, putting the score at 24-23.

With the pressure on, Combined Lancs held off several challenges from a resurgent Met pack. Kieron Maddocks and debutants, Mike Lawrence and Matt Jackson, tackled like demons to hold back the Met's stride.

With 10 minutes remaining and just one point in it, Kieron Maddocks managed to force his way out to push the score back up to 30-23.

In a final rally, Huy Le scored for the Met, bringing them within three points of the winning side.

But it was too little, too late for the Met, and Combined Lancs held on for a 30-27 win, setting them up for a date with West Yorkshire in a repeat of last year's final.

Global role for martial artist

BLACKBELT holder Damien McLaughlin has been named a World Karate Referee after undergoing an assessment in the Ukraine.

Damien, who works in the Crime Training section at Sedgley Park and holds a blackbelt seventh Dan in the Shukokai Karate Union, travelled to Odessa to referee and judge at the Senior World Karate Championships.

The three-day competition saw around 250 competitors

from all over the world take to the competition mats.

He said: "I found it strange to involve interpreters when speaking to my co-officials about an issue on the mat, but it was an amazing experience and one I will never forget.

"My best experience was when I was the lead referee in a team match between Brazil and Russia. It was a case of flamboyance and speed from Brazil against power and strength from Russia - flamboyance and speed won."



The World Union of Karate Federations medal Damien received at the end of the event.



Damian with Ukrainian women in traditional dress (submitted photo)