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Photo: Bill Morris

GARY'S COMEBACK

Wounded PCSO plans his return to the streets

By Derek Hornby

SURROUNDED by cards from well-wishers, Gary Etchells is looking forward to returning to the job he loves.

The Police Community Support Officer who was stabbed on duty in December hopes to be back at work by the end of April.

"Despite what happened to me, I enjoy the job and I'll

carry on doing it for as long as I can," he said.

Gary, 47, was attacked while assisting bailiffs and housing association officials with an eviction in Stalybridge.

He spent 10 days in Tameside General Hospital where he had two emergency operations and was given five litres of blood.

The attack was the most serious involving a PCSO

since they went on patrol in England and Wales four years ago.

Gary, who was one of GMP's first PCSOs, said the response of people in Stalybridge to the incident that left him clinging to life had been 'staggering.'

He has had more than 200 cards with hand-written messages of sympathy and encouragement, 23

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Hundreds run in memory of schoolboy murder victim Joe

THIRTY GMP officers and staff were among 350 participants in a charity run in memory of 11-year-old murder victim Joe Geeling last month.

They included Det Supt Martin Bottomley, who led the investigation into the killing of Joe at his home in Bury by a fellow school pupil last year.

The 5km (3 miles) run at Hollingworth Lake, Littleborough, was expected to raise more than £10,000 for the Joe Geeling Trust.

It will go to help cystic fibrosis sufferers and Booth Hall Children's Hospital, where Joe was treated for the condition.

Det Supt Bottomley said: "Joe's death affected a lot of people and

they all wanted to show their support for his family and raise money for cystic fibrosis."

Joe's father, Tom, who joined the run, said he was particularly touched that so many supporters from GMP had taken part.

The overall response had been so good, he said, that he believed the run, organised by Rochdale

Harriers, would become an annual event.

Michael Hamer, 14, lured Joe to his home, battered him with a frying pan, stabbed him repeatedly and then took his body in a wheelie bin to a nearby park, where he buried it in a shallow grave.

Hamer was ordered to be

detained for a minimum of 12 years after pleading guilty at Manchester Crown Court last October to Joe's murder.

Last month, the penalty was increased to 15 years following an appeal against the leniency of the original sentence.

The appeal was supported by GMP.

ACC HONOURLED IN NEW YEAR LIST



VINCENT SWEENEY, the UK's longest serving Assistant Chief Constable, was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in the New Year Honours.

Mr Sweeney, who joined GMP as an ACC in 1994, was among almost 50 police officers, police staff and police authority members throughout the country whose services were recognised in last month's list.

"As is so often the case with such awards, it is really a reflection of the outstanding support and assistance I have had from so many others over the years," he said.

Mr Sweeney began his police career with the Northumbria force in 1977 after a five-year commission with the Royal Navy in which he rose to the rank of lieutenant.

He served in ships in European waters and in the Far East and on specialist diving operations in Northern Ireland.

During his time with GMP, he has held most of the chief officer portfolios.

As ACC Operational Support, he moved the Force on to a new communications footing, overseeing the building and commissioning of the four present Operational Communications Rooms.

SHIPMAN CASE

As ACC Crime, he oversaw the latter stages of the Shipman inquiry, including the eventual trial and conviction of the serial killer family doctor.



Vincent Sweeney: QPM

As ACC Human Resources, he modernised HR practices and headed GMP's largest-ever recruitment campaign.

As one of two ACCs now responsible for Territorial Policing across GMP, he oversees policing in six divisions that make up the southern half of the Force.

He also retains policy responsibility for the volume crime sectors of robbery and violent crime, as well as regional police responsibility for immigration and asylum issues.

Mr Sweeney, who has an honours degree in Criminal Justice Studies, has been a member of all key national ACPO committees dealing with information technology, crime, terrorism and personnel management.

He represents all ACCs and deputy chief constables on the national ACPO Cabinet and Board of Directors.

Last year, he was seconded to ACPO's central office in London to carry out a review of the organisation.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: ACC Ian Seabridge and Director of Learning and Development Cathy Butterworth were presented with some paper handiwork in GMP colours on a visit to Starting Point at Bolton, one of the venues where PCSOs are trained.

The former school is run by

Bolton Council for children from asylum and refugee families to prepare them for mainstream schooling. Around 120 children attend the school.

Two paper models made by the children, who also danced and sang during the visit, have been put on display at Sedgley Park Centre.

OBITUARIES

Former PC **George Brown**, 80, of Formby, Merseyside, died on January 5, leaving a widow. He joined Stockport Borough Police in 1956 and retired from GMP in 1977.

Former Ch Insp **Brian Coop**, 71, of Wallasey, Merseyside, died on January 6, leaving a widow. He joined Manchester City Police in 1956 and retired from GMP in 1988.

Former PC **Terence Driver**, 60, of Lyme Regis, Dorset, died on Christmas Day, leaving a widow, Anna. He served with GMP from 1978 to 1982.

Former PC **Linda Ryan**, 50, of Middleton, died on January 6, leaving a widower, Kevin. She joined GMP in 1975 and retired on health grounds in 1987.

Former Sgt **Geoffrey Tonge**, 81, of Bolton, died on January 3, leaving a widow, Hilda. He joined Salford City Police in 1950 and retired from GMP in 1975.

brief

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From the Brief files

20 years ago

Chief Constable James Anderton issued a grim statement at a Police Authority meeting about the lack of resources for policing Greater Manchester.

10 years ago

PC Mike Allen, based at Heywood, was one of 27 British sergeants and constables who joined the International Police Task Force in Bosnia as part of UN peacekeeping operations.



BLIND DRUNK: Police in New Zealand arrested a blind man who had taken over the wheel of a car from a drunken man. He was being guided by the drunk when he crashed into a wall.

TIGHT SPOT: Police in Berlin rescued a motorist who became wedged upside down in a street drain while trying to recover his car keys. He had removed a manhole cover to look for the keys and fell in head first. The keys weren't found.

ROLL CALL: A police station in Hagfors, Sweden, has just ordered its first batch of lavatory paper for 20 years. In 1986, it took delivery of 20 pallets rather than 20 packets and staff have been working their way through the rolls ever since.

SNAKE BITE: A mother and son who stole a snake from a pet store in Cleveland, Ohio, were arrested when they returned to ask for books on how to care for it. The boy, 15, was seen on CCTV wrapping the baby boa round his neck and hiding it with his jacket while his mother stood guard.

RUN IN: After snatching a bag of money in Bucharest, Romania, a thief was arrested half a mile away when his getaway car ran out of petrol.

LEGLESS: A police officer had his trousers torn off when he tried to apprehend a giant emu that had been pestering passers-by in a park in Kaarst, Germany.

And nearer home.....

NAME DROPPER: A burglar used a child's trampoline to escape over a 6ft garden fence when he was disturbed after breaking into a police inspector's garage in Harrogate. But he was soon caught. He dropped a rucksack which had a tag giving his name and address.

BAGGED: A man on the run from police in Worcester was stopped by three women armed only with handbags. Officers were pursuing the suspect, who was wanted for possessing an offensive weapon, when the shoppers blocked his way, attacking him with their bags.

FAST TRACK: A taxi driver in Newport, South Wales, was issued with a fixed penalty speeding notice that claimed he drove at 420mph in a 30mph zone in his 12-year-old diesel Vauxhall Cavalier.



KEY MOVE: PC Elaine Walker and John McNerney, head of St Peter's High School, Gorton, with one of the four cars supplied to the school-based officers on Manchester Metropolitan Division.

Photo Bill Morris

by Tom Bassford

SCHOOL RUN

HEAD teachers in parts of inner-city Manchester are helping to drive down youth crime by supplying cars for school-based police officers.

Two Skoda Fabias, a Nissan Micra and a Vauxhall Corsa are on loan to the Manchester Metropolitan Division, thanks to support from seven high schools.

"These extra vehicles help us to provide a better policing service to local schools," said Insp John Egerton, of the Community and

Partnership Unit.

"Our four school-based officers can now conduct more home visits, parental interviews and truancy sweeps to make our schools and communities safer."

While all the schools are located in and around the Manchester Metropolitan Division, officers also use the vehicles to visit pupils and

parents across the city and in neighbouring towns.

The schools have also provided the four officers with mobile phones to help communication and discuss ongoing issues.

Head teachers have provided the funding as part of the Government's Safer Schools Partnership.

John McNerney, head of St

Peter's RC High School, Gorton, said: "School-based police officers play an important role in helping to keep young people on the straight and narrow.

"The decision to provide the officers with cars and mobile phones reflects the strong partnership that exists between schools and police in the area."

Sponsors line up for Chief's new awards

Sponsors for the Chief Constable's first Excellence Awards next month have been agreed.

They are the Manchester Evening News, PCP Media, Microsoft, the Forensic Science Service, John Laing, Sungard Vivista, Key 103 radio station, the Tribal Group, Greater Manchester Police Federation and Greater Manchester Police Authority.

The presentation ceremony is to be held at the Midland Hotel in Manchester on Friday, March 2. Seven new awards are to be presented.

They are for Partnership Working, Outstanding Team Performance, Communications Officer of the Year, Outstanding Communication, Outstanding Leadership, Individual Achievement and Employee of the Year.

In addition, four awards which until now have been given at the Chief Constable's divisional ceremonies are being incorporated into the event.

They are for Community Police Officer of the Year, the Brave Officer of the Year (previously the John Egerton Trophy), the Student Officer of the Year and the team award for Diversity in Action.

Jessie James murder appeal

CCTV footage shown on the BBC's Crimewatch of two men sought in connection with the Moss Side murder of 15-year-old Jessie James in September has been posted on the GMP internet site.

Investigation leaders are urging all officers to view the footage and contact the major incident room on extensions 64343 or 68751 if they have any information that can help the inquiry team.

Letters of Appreciation

A selection of letters of thanks and appreciation received recently at police stations in Greater Manchester

WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT GMP'S SUPPORT

WHEN I first decided to do the last Botham Walk, many people said the red tape would get in the way, but I was pleasantly overwhelmed by the high standard, professionalism and generosity of Greater Manchester Police.

All your officers were not only extremely efficient but an absolute pleasure to work with on the day.

To date, we have raised more than half a million pounds, and I can honestly say that this walk would

not have been nearly as successful without your vital support, both in the lead up to and during my walk around Manchester.

It was great to see so many people cheering us on throughout the city. It really does restore your faith in modern-day society when you see so many people coming together to support the two worthwhile charities, Leukaemia Research and the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Thank you to all the officers who helped make the Botham Walk the great success it was. The

charities and I really can't thank you enough.

*Ian Botham,
President,
Leukaemia Research.*

Officers who helped with the event were PC Mike Lord, PC Vaughan Kershaw and PC Andrew Marren (North Manchester) and Sgt Richard French, PC Kate Toole and PC Janet Lowery (South Manchester).

CO-OPERATION

THE police assisted with a difficult Mental Health Act assessment in Oldham. I consulted **Insp Peter England** the previous day and he passed all information to the local police station to ensure good communication and working practice.

On the day, **Sgt Niall Hayden-Pawson** contacted me in the evening and left a mobile number that I could use when the client entered the property. When I rang requesting assistance, two officers attended quickly to assist the process.

The warrant was executed at 11.30pm by **PC Paul Gilham** and **Special Constable Carl Priestley**. Everything went smoothly, thanks to the wonderful support of all police officers involved, and the client was taken to the Royal Oldham Hospital for admission.

*Jennifer Pitt,
Crisis Resolution Service,
Oldham Social Services.*

ACCOMPLISHED

THANKS from the Police Information Technology Organisation for the presentation **PC Laura Lewis** and **PC Ged Read** (Operational Communications Branch) gave to 190 delegates at the Airwave Learning Forum at Manchester Conference Centre.

They were well prepared and delivered an accomplished presentation on Operation Protector and how GMP planned for the use of Airwave during the Labour Party Conference.

Feedback from delegates shows it was a well thought out and worthwhile sharing of experiences.

*Andy Clark,
National Airwave Training Officer.*

DEDICATED

OUR area police officer, **PC Andy Devine**, was the first person to take our situation seriously and saw our case through to the end.

He was very understanding and supportive, made us feel at ease and always took time to listen, explain things and keep us informed.

He put in a lot of time and effort to bring our case together, and clearly showed he is dedicated to his job.

*Mr & Mrs M. B. Patel,
Bolton.*

IMPRESSED

I RECEIVED excellent service from **PC Trevor Bulman** at Manchester Airport after my car was broken into.

He was courteous and thorough. He told me he would keep me up to date with the investigation and kept his promise.

Even though the case was not solved, I feel that at least something has been done and that I am not just another statistic.

As an ex-police officer in South Africa, I am very impressed with the level of service I received from GMP and specifically PC Bulman.

Bernard Paice, by e-mail.

ALL SPEED

THANKS to Salford officers **PC Andrew Pilkington**, **PC Lee Gregory** and **PC Rachel Drinnan** for their speed and care after I was assaulted.

I called the police and within a few minutes they were with me and arranged an ambulance to take me to hospital. They went out of their way to make sure I was OK.

With all the abuse that the police get, I am glad that I can write to say thank you.

*Kevin Sperrin,
General Manager,
MLS Business Centres,
Exchange Square,
Manchester.*

INSTANT RESPONSE (1)

AT around 5am, my 79-year-old mother was burgled and her handbag taken from beside her bed while I was staying with her. The police response was immediate.

My mother was traumatised, but the situation was vastly mitigated by the professionalism and demeanour of **PC Peter Hallam** and **PC Joseph Trippett**.

PC Hallam took a statement from my mother, and even though it took a while to elicit, he had endless patience and excellent communication skills.

He also liaised with Victim Support, and that same morning, a representative visited and fitted an alarm system and security light.

*S. Dowse (daughter),
Stockport.*

INSTANT RESPONSE (2)

I RETURNED to my house at 7.55pm with my young grandson to find a burglar was inside. I phoned the police and they arrived within five minutes and arrested the intruder.

I was very impressed with the speed with which **PC Andy Quinn** and **PC Paul Manivannan**, from Swinton Police Station, attended. They also took time to reassure my grandson, who was very distressed by the situation.

*Mrs Margaret Grattan,
Eccles.*

ALL-ROUND PERFORMER

INFORMATION was received that required the immediate assistance of GMP, and **Det Con Steve Foran** (Tameside) volunteered to assist Merseyside Police in the investigation of a high-value deception. He completed an urgent reconnaissance of a building which was believed to be housing £250,000 worth of stolen property.

He varied his working times,

prioritised his workload and made himself available as a point of contact. He applied for a warrant to enter the property and assisted in securing it, utilising uniformed officers and taking control of the scene.

*Det Sgt Griffith,
Merseyside Police.*

APPROACHABLE

ON behalf of Manchester Chinatown Lions Club, may I thank **PC Michael Lord** (Events Office, Bootle Street) for his help at our successful mid-autumn festival celebrations.

We appreciated his input at the planning meetings, and thanks to his advice, we were able to pinpoint any potential problems and deal with them before the festival.

Thanks also to **PC Richard Grace** and **PC Vaughan Kershaw**, whose presence on the day was much appreciated. In all the years of organising the Chinese mid-autumn festival, we have always found the Events Officers approachable, knowledgeable and efficient in the way they operate.

*Robert Barrie,
Vice President-Secretary.*

ANGELS

MY heartfelt thanks go to **PC Anna Kelly** and **PC Alison MacEachran** (Tameside) for their wise words and their ability to listen to a drunken idiot.

They were like two angels who came to help a foolish old man who felt sorry for himself.

If that's the way all police officers are trained, then you are doing something right.

*J.H.,
Haughton Green,
Manchester.*

BEYOND THE CALL

I WAS driving from Manchester Airport home to Leeds when I mistakenly

took the M66 exit and then my front nearside tyre became deflated. I called the police on my mobile phone and while talking to your control room, a police car pulled up behind me and **PC Peter Haddock**, from Birch Motorway Post, spoke to me.

It started to rain heavily, but despite this, the officer took control and arranged to escort me off the motorway to safety.

He then helped me change the defective tyre and fit the spare.

As I am 69 and my wife is 67, we were overwhelmed by the officer's conduct. He was kind, courteous and cheerful despite the ghastly weather.

As a former sergeant in Leeds City Police and West Yorkshire Police from 1966 to 1989 before retirement with ill health, I doubly appreciate that the officer was not obliged to assist me to the extent he did.

*Ralph Nutter,
Beeston,
Leeds.*

PRAISE FOR PCSOs

MY son was involved in a robbery in Heaton Moor and the quick response of **PCSO Martin Heys** resulted in the arrest of one of the two perpetrators. He dealt with the situation in a very professional manner, but I do feel he should have had some sort of restraints and self-protection, such as anti-stab vest and cuffs.

The situation became quite uncomfortable as the youth involved got quite violent towards the PCSO, who was half his size.

I would also like to thank PCSO Heys for his follow-up visit two days later to see how my son was coping.

*Mrs S. H.,
Heaton Norris,
Stockport.*

AT Reddish Police Station, I discussed concerns regarding the whereabouts of a vulnerable young person and **PCSO Amy Barker** was

NQSC
People Count

asked to follow up these concerns.

She was very helpful and has assisted in resolving the matter.

As the senior officer with responsibility for the Heatons, Brinnington and Reddish, I have also found the support of various members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team invaluable in safeguarding young people.

*Julia George,
Senior Education Welfare Officer,
Stockport.*

A MEETING of Shevington and District Community Association at Wigan was attended by **PCSO Andrew Furnival**, who spoke very positively on behalf of GMP. He also listened carefully to residents' concerns.

*John Whiteley,
Secretary.*

CREDIT

AFTER the theft of my car, Enquiry Counter Assistant **Sue Ruffley** went to great lengths to assist me. She's a credit to the force.

*Simon Galley,
Droylsden.*

HE GAVE ME COURAGE

FOLLOWING my ex-husband's arrest, **Det Con Peter Rosenbloom** (West Didsbury) treated me with concern and respect.

He helped me receive counselling from Victim Support, who took an active role in helping me come to terms with my ordeal.

He took time to listen to me and was supportive, and it was because of this that I was able to find the courage to follow through with criminal charges and attend court.

*M.C.
West Didsbury.*

WIGAN SUPPORTER

FOR a Major Sporting Events course, **Insp Robert Pell** (Wigan) learned at short notice that I and my colleagues were to shadow him.

It was to his credit and that of GMP that he took so much time to explain his role, show us the area around the JJB Stadium and answer our questions.

*Insp Alexander Brodie,
Tayside Police,
Dundee.*

HIGH CLASS

Andrew wins trophy dedicated to memory of role model officer

OUT of a class of 60 student officers, Andrew Doran was assessed as the best.

The 23-year-old is the first winner of a new trophy dedicated to the memory of an officer who died last year.

Sgt Carl Pilling died at the age of 49, a month before he was due to retire.

He was based in the custody unit at Wigan Divisional HQ – and by coincidence, winner Andrew is also a Wigan officer, based at Pemberton.

Now that out-of-force regional training has ended, GMP has intakes of student officers every 10 weeks under the Initial Police Learning Development Programme.

The trophy is to be presented five times a year to the best student from each intake.

Andrew joined GMP and Class B05, the first full intake, last March.

He was not only the best in his class – at 6ft 6in, he was also the tallest.

WIDOW

At a ceremony at Sedgley Park Centre in front of fellow student officers and trainers, Andrew was presented with the Carl Pilling Trophy by the officer's widow, Carole.

With Carole were her daughter Cheryl, 26, and son-in-law Sgt Mark Hepplestone, who is also based at Wigan.

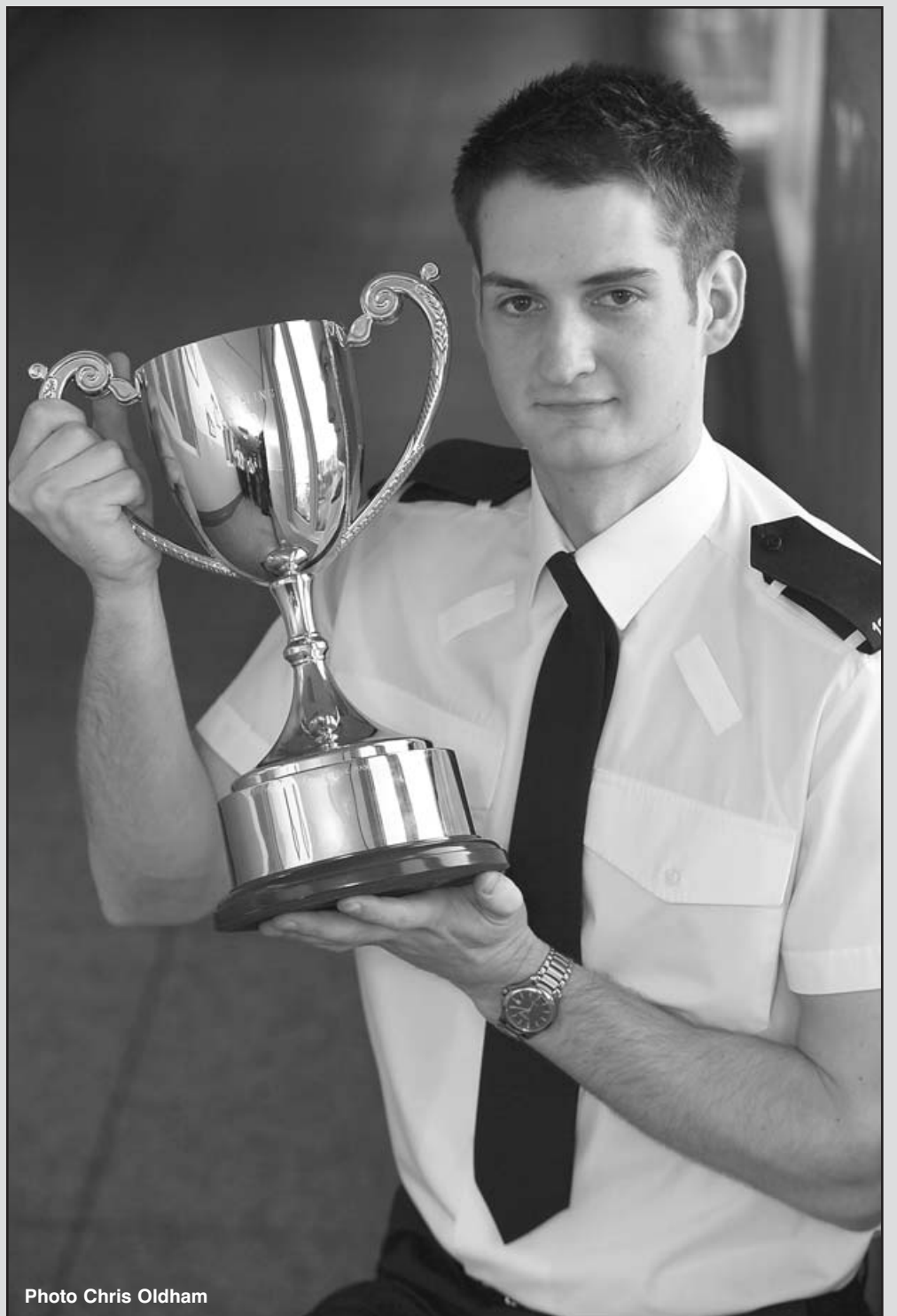


Photo Chris Oldham

Ch Insp David Wilkinson, head of Continuous Professional Development Section, said the trophy had been named in memory of Carl Pilling because he had been a role model.

"He stood for all the qualities we are looking for in the best student officers," he said.

Twenty-five years ago, Carl was Ch Insp Wilkinson's tutor constable and they had remained in touch up to his death.

Three inspector trainers independently assessed PC Doran as the best student based on various competencies, attitude and approach.

Putting the National Quality of Service Commitment into practice...

Why everyone has a part to play

THROUGHOUT 2007, everyone in GMP will have a part to play in improving how the Force meets the needs of the people of Greater Manchester, such as making it easy for the public to contact us and dealing with complaints, **writes ACC Vincent Sweeney.**

The National Quality of Service Commitment sets out in 46 standards (grouped under eight headings) how police forces should work towards enhancing the way they interact with the public.

These standards are published on the Intranet.

Much work is taking place across

the Force to drive improved performance in these areas, such as enhancing Command and Control, introducing the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime and developments in neighbourhood policing.

To oversee and evaluate how GMP implements these standards, a steering group, which I am chairing, has been established.

Central to its work is the creation of an action plan which shows current compliance levels for each of the standards.

While many of the standards relate to systems and processes, there is a very practical way in which officers and police

staff can make an impact in delivering a better service to the public.

It is about being polite, professional and courteous in all our dealings.

I regularly meet members of the Force who have displayed these behaviours to best effect.

For me, the two words People Count are central to communicating why the effective implementation of NQSC within GMP is so important to providing a police service we can justifiably be proud of.

NQSC
People Count

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

COLD CASE TEAM'S WORLD FIRST



DET INSP JEFF ARNOLD:
Paid tribute to the
courage of victims.

A form of familial DNA testing
leads to a life sentence
for 'stranger rape' attacker

By Rachel Smyth



JAILED FOR LIFE:
Rapist Graham Darbyshire.

GMP's Cold Case Review Unit has become the first team in the world to use a revolutionary new DNA technique to secure a conviction in a criminal investigation.

A lorry driver is serving life for sex attacks in Greater Manchester and Lancashire more than a decade ago thanks to the work of the unit.

In 2004, the team began to re-investigate an indecent assault that occurred in Boothstown in 1993.

The 22-year-old victim had been walking her dog in fields just off the East Lancs Road when she was attacked. Her attacker threatened to strangle her and used tape to bind her T-shirt round her face during her ordeal.

In the re-investigation, officers managed to get an upgraded DNA profile from semen staining on the woman's T-shirt.

When it was loaded on to the national database, it did not match any individual. But it did match a partial DNA profile found at the

scene of an unsolved rape in Witton Park, Blackburn, in 1995.

The attacks bore similarities. The victim in Blackburn was also a 22-year-old woman who was walking her dog when she was attacked.

She was grabbed by the neck and forced into undergrowth where she was raped and indecently assaulted.

FEET WERE TIED

Her attacker tied her feet together with shoelaces and put her jeans over her face before running off.

Despite the attacks taking place more than two years apart, both women described the offender as wearing a distinctive pink T-shirt.

After the 1995 attack, Blackburn CID received several envelopes containing black binbags.

Letters cut from newspaper headlines and stuck to the bags described the victim's underwear, which was missing from the scene.

"By the time you get this, I'll be long gone," one of the messages

said.

Lancashire officers featured the case on the BBC's Crimewatch, but despite the publicity, the case remained unsolved.

Knowing that the same man was responsible for both crimes, GMP's Cold Case Review Unit began the task of identifying the offender.

Using a revolutionary new DNA technique, officers identified 52-year-old Graham Darbyshire, a lorry driver from Leyland.

The technique, a form of familial DNA testing combined with other investigative tools, led police to Darbyshire's door 13 years after the Boothstown attack.

SENTENCE FOR RAPE

Background checks showed he had a history of committing similar offences dating back to 1970.

His record included a five-year sentence for 'stranger rape' in Leyland in 1984.

In interview, he denied everything and claimed he'd never had a pink T-shirt.

But officers had by now already seized a holiday snap of Darbyshire wearing one.

When confronted with the photo, he claimed it had been 'salmon-coloured.'

Despite his initial denials, Darbyshire pleaded guilty to two counts of rape and two counts of indecent assault at Manchester Crown Court and was jailed for life.

Det Insp Jeff Arnold, who heads the Cold Case Unit, said the case had been difficult to investigate.

He praised the commitment of the officers involved and the support they received from the Home Office, the Forensic Science Service and the National Centre for Policing Excellence.

He said: "It is only thanks to all of the support from other agencies that we were able to use innovative, cutting-edge forensic science to identify Darbyshire.

PERPETUAL OFFENDER

"He was a perpetual offender,

an extremely dangerous individual who clearly continues to pose a substantial risk to women.

"I also want to acknowledge the courage of both the victims in supporting this prosecution, which ultimately meant them revisiting a very traumatic time in their past."

In statements issued through the GMP Press Office, the women praised the work of the Cold Case Review Unit in obtaining the forensic evidence that helped to convict Darbyshire.

The victim of the Boothstown attack said after the court hearing: "I couldn't believe that 13 years on, I was there to see the man who attacked me jailed.

"I truly believed he would never be caught.

"The advances in DNA technology have been incredible, and if this case proves anything, it is that no victim of a sexual offence should ever give up hope.

"No matter how much time has passed, there is always the chance the offender will be caught and brought to justice."

£50,000
improvement
in public
assistance

STAFF on GMP's Public Assistance Desk (PAD) have received a boost with the completion of £50,000 worth of refurbishment in Trafford Operational Communications Room.

The team deals with around a third of GMP's reported crime.

The refurbishment includes new lighting, new workstations and a new floor, as well as other enhancements.

Assistant Chief Officer Lynne Potts said when she ceremonially opened the new room:

"This investment is a mark of the increasing importance of the role of PAD officers.

"Their role is central to dealing with volume crime and supporting the process of assessing crimes for forensic examination."

PAD work was crucial, she said, to the developing process of resolving calls at the point of first contact.

Supt Graeme Openshaw, who is responsible for developing call handling, said:

"The investment in the room and the plans for the future underline the Force's commitment to PAD and the significant contribution the staff make."

PCSO's comeback (from Page 1)

bouquets of flowers and dozens of letters addressed to him on the PCSO internet website.

In return, he has arranged a church service of thanks for which he is issuing an open invitation.

'The hospital team saved my life'

The service is to be held at St George's Church, Church Walk, Stalybridge – 200 yards from where he was attacked – on Sunday, February 25, at 3pm.

"I will give a reading and various dignitaries will be attending," Gary said.

"I am not a great churchgoer, but I couldn't think of any other way of expressing my thanks publicly for all the support I have received.

"I have found the community response very humbling.

"All I have ever done is to go out and do a day's work.

"It is because of the local community that I want to get back to work as soon as I can.

"When my inspector, Vinnie Greener, came to see me, he said normally when an incident like this happens, the police carry out a community impact assessment.

"But they didn't need to do one this time because the community came to them."

CARD

Gary said he had been particularly moved by a giant card with the messages 'Thinking of you' and 'Get well soon' from pupils aged six and seven at Staly Hill Junior School.

The card is made up of



RECOVERING: PCSO Gary Etchells with a get-well card made by pupils at Staly Hill Junior School.

pictures drawn by the children and some of them portray Gary on his bicycle.

"That's how they see me, riding around on my bike," he said.

Recuperating at his home in Glossop, Gary said he will return to hospital this month for a scan 'to see if everything has knitted together.'

Though he can talk without discomfort, his voice has changed because one of his two vocal cords is not working, but it

may make a partial return in due course. He will also need cosmetic surgery.

Gary was in GMP's first intake of 32 PCSOs who went on patrol in January 2003.

All his duties so far have been in Stalybridge, which is where he grew up. Until last September, he was Stalybridge's only PCSO.

He joined GMP after an RAF career and a job in theatre management.

He served 20 years in the

RAF, joining when he was 17 and leaving 10 years ago as a flight sergeant.

During his days as an airman, he served in the Falklands, the Gulf and Northern Ireland, among other places, and also gained a BSc in personnel management and business studies from the Open University.

After leaving, he entered the theatre world with Bradford City Council as assistant head of services for Bradford Theatres.

That involved managing four council-owned theatres, the Alhambra and St George's Hall in Bradford and smaller theatres in Bingley and Ilkely.

PROUD OF THE JOB

He gave up life in the theatre for life on the streets after responding to a GMP recruitment advert in the Manchester Evening News in 2002 for potential PCSOs.

"From the day I started, I have believed strongly in the role of PCSOs," he said.

"Policing has changed over the years and it has become a multi-agency organisation.

"I'm proud of the job, proud of the part we play and proud of what we have achieved

so far."

He and his wife Andie, who have four sons aged nine, 19 and twins aged 15, have been overwhelmed by the support they have had since the incident.

"The care I received at the hospital was beyond what I could ever have hoped for," said Gary.

To show how much the family appreciated that care, Andie went shopping and bought 40 presents for the staff.

"The hospital team saved my life," said Gary.

"The moment I was injured I knew it was bad and that it was an arterial wound when I saw how my blood spurted out.

"If I hadn't been given first-aid at the scene by the people from New Charter (the housing association involved in the eviction), I don't think I would have survived."

* Retired gas fitter Albert Williams, 63, of Elizabeth Avenue, Ridge Hill, Stalybridge, has been charged with the attempted murder of PCSO Etchells. He is due to appear at a preliminary hearing at Manchester Crown Court on February 21.

MORE BREATH TESTED AND ARRESTED

MORE breath tests than ever before were carried by GMP officers in the Christmas drink-drive campaign.

Figures released last month showed 12,587 drivers were breathalysed in December compared with 7,132 the previous year.

Some 434 drivers were arrested, an increase of 19 per cent.

There were 689 injury collisions, out of which 28 drivers failed or refused breath tests.

This was a reduction on 2005 when 78 drivers in 712 collisions failed or refused tests.

Officers also carried out Preliminary Impairment Tests during December.

In these, drivers were tested at the roadside for being under the

influence of drugs.

Thirty-eight tests were done and nine people were arrested following failure.

"Unfortunately, there remains a significant minority who believe they can get away with driving while impaired through drink or drugs," Ch Insp Haydn Roberts, of Traffic Network Section, said.

1960s detectives used a vacuum cleaner to find bottle fragments after woman's savage murder

The sweetshop



MURDER WEAPONS: The soft drinks bottles smashed during the attack were put back together.



EXECUTED: James Smith murdered for £6. He was earning £15 a week.

THE murder of Sarah Cross in her sweets and tobacco shop one Friday afternoon was quick and brutal.

Equally speedy was the arrest of the killer. His fingerprint was found on a newly-painted door frame.

But what made the case historic – and has recently earned it a place in the Crime Room at the GMP Museum – was that it was the first recorded occasion when police in Manchester used a vacuum cleaner to gather evidence.

The evidence in question consisted of fragments of glass from five large soft drinks bottles.

On that Friday afternoon in May 1962, there were no other customers when James Smith, 26, walked into the shop at

the corner of Hulme Hall Lane and Iron Street, Miles Platting.

No one knows if he spoke to 58-year-old Mrs Cross or demanded money. But whatever happened between them, minutes later she was dead.

So savagely did Smith batter her about the head with the heavy bottles he snatched from behind the counter that he broke them one by one.

Then he forced the till, taking about £6 and leaving coins scattered on the floor.

He made his escape through the rear door.

On the way out, he left a fingerprint on the door frame. It had been painted two days before by Mrs Cross's husband, a factory worker, and was still slightly tacky.

Smith's prints were on file (he had a previous conviction) and in due course he was arrested at his home by Det Ch Supt Eric Cunningham and Det Insp Tommy Butcher.

The broken bottles were sent to the North West Forensic Science Laboratory at Preston and painstakingly reassembled by Det Ch Insp Albert Allen

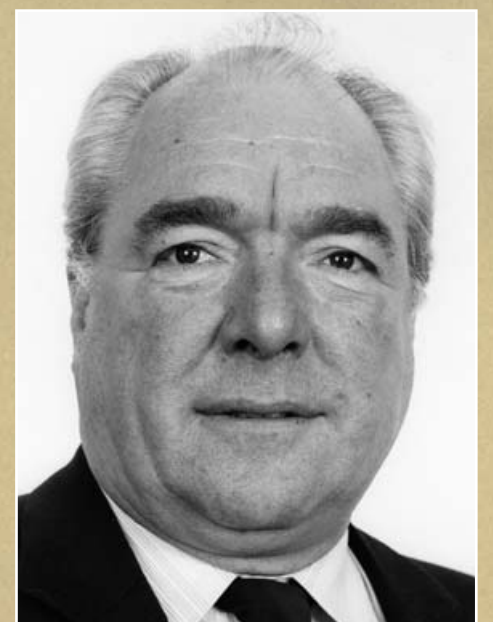
with a tube of glue.

Some fragments, however, were missing.

In a search and forensic examination of Smith's home in Corfe Street, Beswick, a 15-minute walk from Mrs Cross's shop, a vacuum cleaner was used to recover particles of glass from down the sides of a settee.



DET CH SUPT ERIC CUNNINGHAM: He led the murder investigation.



DET INSP TOMMY BUTCHER: Killer had a bet with him.

Display at the
GMP Museum

Order in Manchester

killer

by Derek Hornby



week at the time.



PHOTOGRAPHED IN 1962: The corner shop where Sarah Cross was battered to death

The machine also picked up fragments from Smith's clothing. They were so tiny that they could barely be seen without a microscope.

The pieces fitted perfectly into the rebuilt bottles, and it was as a result of Albert

Allen's work that the case became known as the Jigsaw Murder.

No one had seen Smith enter or leave the shop. But the evidence against him – the fingerprint and the bottle glass – was enough.

The father of two, who worked as a £15-a-week rubber moulder at Failsworth, went on trial for Mrs Cross's murder on October 15, 1962.

The hearing lasted three days and it took the jury only 20 minutes to find him guilty.

I WON'T HANG

He was automatically sentenced to death because under the 1957 Homicide Act, killing in the course or furtherance of theft or robbery was a capital offence.

A confident Smith had boasted to Det Insp Butcher: "Bet you a fiver I don't hang."

He lost his bet.

At 8am on November 28, 1962, the door of the condemned cell at the end of 'B' wing in Strangeways Prison swung open and Smith was led to the gallows in the next-door cell.

He was the fifth last person to be hanged in the UK.

Thirteen months later, two joint murderers were hanged simultaneously at Bristol and Winchester, and the final executions – again of two joint killers who murdered in the course of theft – were carried out at Strangeways and Liverpool on August 13, 1964.

* Files, photographs and newspaper cuttings relating to the Sarah Cross murder have been donated to the GMP Museum by ex-Det Ch Insp Tony Fletcher, a retired fingerprint officer.



CRIME SCENE: Sarah Cross's body was found behind the counter.



Sharing investigative know-how

ADVICE and suggestions on investigating crime are being shared across GMP thanks to a specially-created intranet site.

The Solve It site, launched last October and receiving around 3,000 visits a month, enables officers and staff to submit under their name crime investigative know-how which they think would help other members of the Force.

The received information is checked to ensure compliance with Force policy and then published.

Recent submissions have included tackling domestic abuse, the appropriate steps to take when seizing computer-based equipment and making the most of divisional intelligence analysts.

The aim is to produce a series of aides memoire for staff based on the most useful submitted information.

Also included on the site are news releases and links to other useful intranet sites, such as electronic learning packages.

A web chat, which will enable staff to go online to ask questions about crime investigation processes, is planned for later in the year.

Internal Communications Manager Michael Smith said: "The site was launched after extensive consultation with officers involved in the investigation of crime.

"Responses from the Force's Staff Consultation Panel revealed that around 20 per cent of operational staff said they didn't know how to readily gain advice should they have difficulty in solving a particular crime.

"More than 30 per cent believed more could be done to share best practice on investigating crime within their team or unit."

Fake charity warning

BOGUS charity collectors are conning people out of money in Manchester city centre by claiming to be from the non-existent Regional Association for Poor Children.

Officers recently arrested eight people in two weeks for deception.

More than £200 recovered from them has been given to legitimate charities in the Manchester area, PC Judith Walmsley, of the city centre Homeless and Begging Unit, said.



IN CONFERENCE: Ch Supt Phil Hollowood and Acting IT Director Chris Edge are in GMP headquarters as they talk to Ch Insp Chris Ullah at Manchester Airport during a recent exercise.

HOW VIDEO CONFERENCING IS SAVING GMP TIME AND MONEY

by Ali Eastham

FOLLOWING a successful pilot last summer, video conferencing is now playing a major role in improving the efficiency of meetings across GMP.

By being able to see and hear one another by video, the system is reducing costs and the amount of time officers and staff spend travelling between meetings.

With divisions and departments keeping detailed daily logs of their video conferencing activities, efficiency savings are to be calculated shortly.

The potential for savings across the Force is substantial.

One recent example of the benefit of VC was an emergency exercise involving officers at Manchester Airport.

Ch Supt Phil Hollowood, head of Specialist Operations Branch, which encompasses policing at the airport, was in contact throughout the exercise without leaving his office at Force Headquarters.

"It worked really well," he said. "It was easy to operate and I will be using it a lot more in the future.

"With Specialist Operations Branch police officers and staff based in 28 different places, video conferencing is a brilliant facility for me."

Acting IT Director Chris Edge said: "Every division now has a VC unit.

"It means that video meetings can be held not only with colleagues from other areas of GMP but with public bodies and other organisations that already have the facilities."

• Ali Eastham, of IT Services Branch, has project managed the video conferencing infrastructure across GMP.

There are now 28 VC units in use across GMP

CHESTER HOUSE:

Chief Constable's office
11th floor conference room No 2
ACC Dave Jones's office
6th floor conference room

BRADFORD PARK:

Conference room
FIB conference room
Det Ch Supt Steve Heywood's office
Det Supt Mike Whiting's office
Det Supt Tony Brett's office

AROUND THE FORCE:

Fiddes Building, near Chester House
Bootle Street
Grey Mare Lane
Longsight
Elizabeth Slinger Road
Swinton
Ashton-under-Lyne
Stockport
Cheadle Heath
Bolton

Wigan
Trafford
Bury
Rochdale
Oldham
Airport
Openshaw
Sedgley Park
Claytonbrook



GETAWAY GANG THAT GOT NO FURTHER THAN THE NEXT STREET (Thanks to GMP Robbery Unit)

by Melissa Gill

FOLLOWING a long investigation and intelligence gathering by GMP's Robbery Unit, this was the moment when four bank robbers were held by officers from Lancashire's Armed Response Unit.

Last month, the men and two others were jailed at Preston Crown Court for a total of 58 years.

Based on information from GMP, Lancashire officers were able to intercept the Salford gang's getaway car soon after the robbery.

Det Ch Insp Graeme Swan, of the Robbery Unit, said: "Taking these six dangerous men off the streets is a fantastic result."

Wearing balaclavas and armed with handguns, Aaron McClenan, 21, and his twin brother Bradley burst through the front door of Lloyds TSB on Blackpool

Road, Ashton-on-Ribble, at 11.30am.

At the same time, Peter Anderson, 27, climbed through a side window after smashing it with a sledgehammer.

GUNPOINT

The gang threatened customers and staff, forcing them to the floor at gunpoint and then ordering staff to open a safe and cash machines.

They ran out with more than £100,000 and left the scene in a stolen Seat Ibiza, with accomplice David Cullen, 26, at the wheel.

But they didn't get far. Having received intelligence from GMP detectives, Lancashire firearms officers were able to intercept the car a short distance away in an alley.

Bradley McClenan fired at officers

from inside the car, hitting the windscreen of a police vehicle, before he and the three others were arrested. Two loaded handguns were found in their car.

The Seat had been stolen from Didsbury, Manchester, three weeks before. GMP officers had been tracking its movements and those of the occupants, along with several other stolen cars they believed to be involved in the job, enabling them to build up the intelligence to uncover the robbery plans.

SENTENCES

Anderson and Bradley McClenan were both jailed for 12 years and Aaron McClenan and Cullen for 10 years.

Two other men charged with conspiracy to commit armed robbery were also jailed,

David Murphy, 22, for eight years and Jason Baker, also 22, for six years eight months.

They were arrested a few hours after the other four had been detained.

Det Ch Insp Swan said: "Many armed robberies are carefully planned by criminals, and thanks to the close work and surveillance carried out by officers from the Robbery Unit, with the assistance of Lancashire Constabulary, we have been able to successfully target this gang, who we suspected of being involved in serious crime.

"We are increasingly successful at targeting these gangs and they must realise that the chances of being caught are now significantly higher".

Making it easier to fight fraud

THE complex process of investigating and prosecuting cases of deception and fraud has been made simpler.

The new Fraud Act 2006, which came into effect last month, introduces three new key offences.

Many of the previous deception offences under the Theft Act have been replaced by offences of:

- Fraud by false representation
- Fraud by failing to disclose information
- Fraud by abusing a position of trust.

Det Insp Alan Sheppard (Economic Crime Section) said: "The Act has been a long time in the making, but it is a welcome piece of legislation.

"For the first time, we now have a legal definition of fraud.

"The Act modernises the law on fraud and removes the deficiencies in some of the existing legislation."

One change is that it is now necessary only to target fraudulent behaviour rather than the consequences of that behaviour.

This means officers are equipped with greater powers to investigate and prosecute would-be fraudsters before any significant loss to a potential victim.

The Act also establishes a number of specific offences to assist in the fight against fraud.

These include possessing articles for use in fraud (this offences can be committed anywhere, including the defendant's home address), making or supplying articles for use in frauds, participating in fraudulent business carried on by a sole trader and obtaining services dishonestly.

The new legislation is also regarded as being more easily understood by juries.

Conditional cautions will speed justice for victims

by Hayley Caulfield

CONDITIONAL cautioning, a new scheme that sees offenders of low-level crimes accept a caution with conditions attached, was launched on Salford and South Manchester Divisions last month.

The scheme is being rolled out across the country as part of a national push to speed up the delivery of justice for victims, as well as free up court time.

Offenders who 'plead' guilty to an offence such as criminal damage or a minor assault have the option of accepting terms agreed by the Crown Prosecution Service such as paying the victim

compensation, writing a letter of apology to the victim or accepting a substance misuse order.

In future, there is also the potential to introduce some elements of counselling and mediation between the offender and victim.

By accepting the conditional caution, the offender does not have to attend court and avoids a formal criminal record, although the caution will still appear under any criminal records check by an employer.

The victim also stands to receive compensation much quicker.

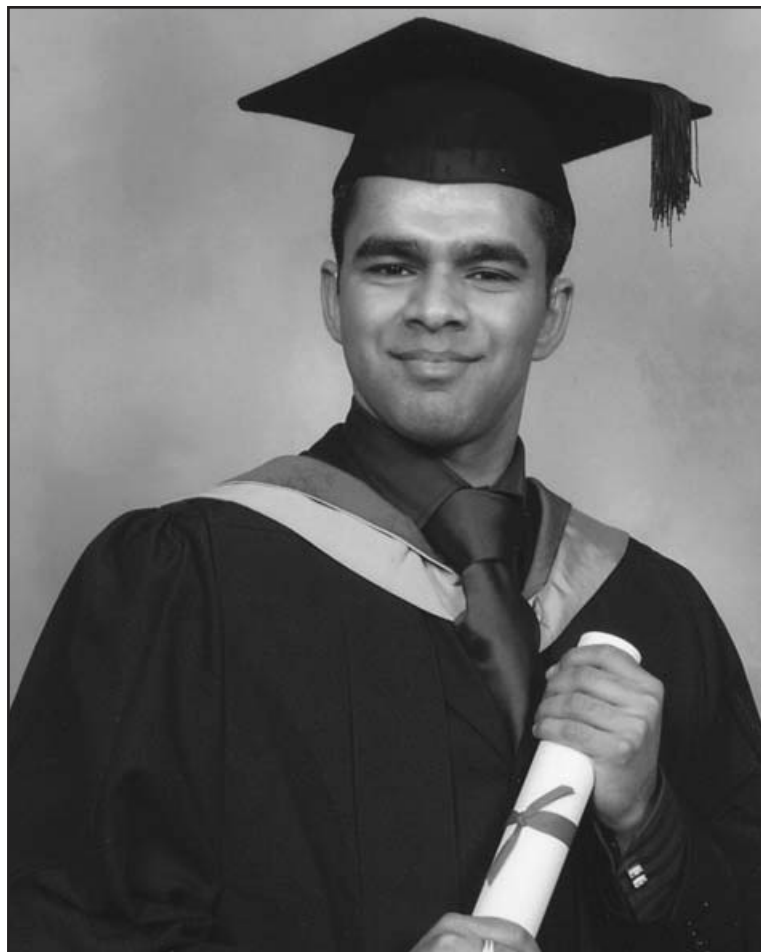
If the offender breaks the terms of the caution, they will be summoned to court to face prosecution for the original offence.

Sgt Mike Booth, project lead for the scheme, said: "The aim of conditional cautioning is to ensure that victims of crime receive the justice they deserve quicker without the need for lengthy and sometimes costly court cases.

"Not only does this type of sanction help victims, but it also aims to help offenders by addressing criminal behaviour, which will ultimately benefit everyone living in the local community."

Posters and leaflets about the new cautioning scheme are on display to staff in custody suites on Salford and South Manchester Divisions.

A rollout of conditional cautioning across GMP is expected by the end of the year.



DOUBLE DEGREE: Esmail Patel, a word processor operator and data input clerk at Longsight, graduated from the University of Central Lancashire recently with a combined BA/BSc honours degree.

Esmail, who is deaf and communicates through lip reading and sign language, graduated in business information systems, career management and criminology.

His success, he said, was

partly due to his experience working for GMP.

While studying full time, he worked part time with the Traffic Network Section at Eccles from October 2004 to May 2005 and then throughout the summer of 2005 as a judicial support assistant at Collyhurst.

He took up his present part-time post at Longsight last September on finishing his university studies.

RAISING STANDARDS

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION

Det Supt Mike Freeman, Internal Affairs Branch, gives some tips on how to resolve locally complaints from the public.

THE local resolution process helps us to deal with complaints quickly, fairly and effectively for the good of the complainant, our staff and GMP as a whole.

By successfully resolving complaints in this way, we also ensure that GMP complies with the National Quality of Service Commitment.

Here are five tips on how to deal with the local resolution process successfully:

- 1 Introduce yourself in a friendly manner and treat the complainant as they would wish to be treated.
- 2 Try to build a rapport with them and allow them to let off steam, but try not to take it personally.
- 3 Listen carefully and put yourself in the complainant's shoes in order to understand and acknowledge their point of view.

- 4 Explain the local resolution process fully to the complainant and allow them time to consider the options. Help them to understand the options available to them for having their concerns addressed.

- 5 If the complainant agrees to local resolution, make sure that you record their consent in writing, either by obtaining their signature on the Complaint Resolution Form 1010A or by confirming the agreed course of action in a letter or email. This is extremely important if the complainant subsequently appeals against the process and we need to demonstrate to the Independent Police Complaints Commission that informed consent was obtained.

* For more tips, including practical advice and guidance on how to deal with local resolution, conduct and policy complaints, see the GMP complaints guides published on the Internal Affairs Branch intranet pages. Guidance is also available on the Complaint Resolution Form 1010A and from colleagues in Internal Affairs Branch on extension 62910.

DO THE RIGHT THING!
FREEPHONE
0800 91 77 999

HELP AND ADVICE

Integrity issues

Internal Investigations Unit: 62923 or 0800 111 444

Conduct matters, general enquiries

Internal Affairs Branch: 62910
Human Resources Branch: 62355 or 61325

Policy complaints and other issues relating to standards

Strategic Planning & Services Standard Unit: 62671 or 61168

ARTICLES in this column are sponsored by GMP's Professional Standards Committee, which ensures that the highest standards are maintained across the Force.

Meetings are chaired by Deputy Chief Constable Dave Whatton and attended by ACC Stephen Thomas (Specialist Operations), Temporary ACC David Jones (Crime), Acting Assistant Chief Officer Andrew Marston (Human Resources) and Acting Ch Supt Vincent Petrykowski (Internal Affairs).

If you have any ideas for future editions of this column, or issues you would like to refer to the committee, contact the Strategic Planning and Service Standards Unit on extension 62671

Flight to Hungary cuts £8,000 off John's dental bill

GOING to the dentist for ex-PC John Thompson was a matter of walking 50 yards down the street from his home.

But instead he chose to fly 1,000 miles to Hungary for treatment – and saved himself almost £8,000.

John, 57, who retired from GMP in 1994, had a palate and a bridge which he damaged taking the top off a plastic bottle in 2005.

"I went to my local dentist to see what could be done and was shocked when I was told a replacement bridge alone would cost £900," he said.

"I asked what it would cost to replace my plastic palate with implants and 20 minutes later, the dentist presented me with an estimate for £13,000.

"There was no way I could afford that. I felt numb and resigned myself to wearing the dreaded palate forever."

Then a friend told John how he'd had some dentistry done in Budapest at half what it would have cost in Britain and was delighted with the result.

John did some research and found that now Hungary was in the European Union, many Britons were going there to take advantage of affordable prices.

After contacting a practice called Prime Dental Budapest, he made two trips, each a week long, to the Hungarian capital.

"My total bill for three implants, several bridges and 14 crowns came to £4,298," he said.

"Cut-price air fares, accommodation, which was arranged by the dental practice at a discount, and spending money came to less than £800, making a total of just over £5,000.

"That was a saving of £7,900 and on top of that, I had two enjoyable holidays."

John, of Eccles, said his wife is pleased with the outcome – "she says I've got my smile back."

John, who joined Salford City Police in 1968, spent most of his service as a Salford DC and also served four years with the former Regional Crime Squad based at Bolton.

For anyone who wants to know more about his Hungarian treatment, he can be e-mailed on tommo2@sky.com

GUIDANCE: A guide to assist managers in planning the communication of a new policy to staff has been revised and updated.

Winning Moves, a short document detailing the processes that should be followed to plan the simple and effective communication of messages, is published on the Corporate Communications Branch intranet site.

On the site can also be found guides to writing, using communication to improve a manager's visibility and communicating information through team briefings.

Further guides are planned on publishing on the intranet and communicating change.



HMIC Robin Field-Smith with student officer PC Eleanor Campbell and trainer PC Lindsay Collins.

STREET CLASS

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary's lead on training, Sir Robin Field-Smith, spent a day with GMP last month.

Part of his visit was taken up observing student officers handling various scenarios on the streets of Blackley, North Manchester.

Sir Robin's speciality is the Initial Police Learning Development Programme, in which new recruits undergo part of their training away from police facilities at various outside venues.

When GMP started the programme in October 2005, it was among the first forces in the country to do so.

Sir Robin visited Learning and

Development Branch so that he could see for himself the extent of GMP's training provision.

Among other topics, he discussed structures, costs and community relations with Director of Learning and Development Cathy Butterworth and her colleagues during his six-hour visit.

Sex abuse father jailed after daughters waive anonymity

by Patricia Keville

REASSURED by officers from Trafford Division's Public Protection Investigation Unit, two sisters who were sexually abused as children by their father waived their right to anonymity last month.

Kelly and Emma Barton, aged 22 and 21, spoke out after their father was jailed for 10 years at Manchester's Minshall Street Crown Court.

They said they wanted to encourage other victims of sexual abuse that happened years ago to report the offences to police.

Philip Tilston, 42, a former bus driver, was found guilty of 15 charges of indecent assault between 1988 and 1992.

He was also convicted of indecently assaulting a 13-year-old girl who had babysat his daughters.

The jury was told that the sisters were aged three and four when the abuse began. They chose to give evidence in person in court rather than by video link.

LANDMARK CASE

Officers said it was a 'landmark' case that could prompt other victims of historic abuse to come forward.

Judge Adrian Smith told Tilston: "These were depraved and serious sexual offences against your two daughters.

"It represented a terrible breach of trust because you were their father and supposed to be caring for them when their mother was working."

In 1992, the sisters' parents split up and Tilston left the family home.

Last year, Kelly and Emma finally told their mother about the abuse. As a family, they told police and Tilston was arrested at his home in Stretford.

Det Sgt Ben Ewart, of the Altrincham-based Public Protection Investigation Unit, was the officer in charge of the case, assisted by Det Con Tracey London, who video interviewed the sisters.

"They were incredibly brave coming forward and telling police about what their father did to them at such a young and vulnerable age," Det Sgt Ewart said.

INSPIRING OTHERS

"I hope they are an inspiration to other people who have been through similar experiences to report the offences, even if they happened a long time ago.

"We can and will fully investigate reports of this kind.

"It is not too late to bring offenders to justice and ensure that they do not get away with crimes of this nature, no matter how long ago they happened."



DAY OUT: School trip organiser PC Allan Dean and pupils at GMP's helicopter base.



INSIDE INFO: PC Philip Turley (Road Policing Unit, Stretford) and guest.

Allan's school away day gets top marks

WHEN a teacher asked if her pupils could pay a visit to their local police station, PC Allan Dean decided to make a special day of it.

First he organised a morning trip for the children, with teacher Helen Tildsley, to see the GMP helicopter and meet Air Support Unit officers at their Barton Aerodrome base.

Then he contacted Ch Supt Phil Hollowood, head of Specialist Operations Branch, who arranged

for a traffic car and motorbike to be present.

Allan, who is based at Chorlton Police Station, also called Irlam Fire Station and arranged for a crew to turn up at the helicopter base with a fire engine.

And having organised all that, he got in touch with the Mounted Unit at Hough End and booked an afternoon visit by the children to see the horses.

The 12 pupils, aged eight to 12,

attend Lancastrian School, West Didsbury, which provides education for children with medical conditions that prevent them attending their local mainstream school.

"They had a terrific day," said Allan.

"The request for the visit came about because they were learning about people and organisations that help them, such as the police."

Greater Manchester High Sheriff's Police Trust



By Janet Wilcox

THE New Year started well with a kick-off at Stockport County Football Club.

A project to steer young people away from anti-social behaviour, called Shoot for your Goal, recently received a grant of £4,000, and the launch of the scheme last month took the form of a half-time presentation at the Stockport County-Boston Utd match at at Edgeley Park.

Included in the photo line-up above (starting second from left) the project applicant, PC Paul Slamon, of Stockport Youth Offending Team, High Sheriff's Trustee Len Howarth, the Stockport County mascot Harry the Hatter, the High Sheriff, Dame Alexandra Burslem, me in a Stockport County scarf and Football in the Community Officer Mike Smith.

The project focuses on the Woodley and Bredbury areas of Stockport, identified by crime statistics as having high levels

of nuisance behaviour from young people as well as a lack of youth provision. It runs on Friday evenings at Werneth High School and is aimed at about 40 local young people.

A CURRENT dramatic success for the Trust is a theatre production highlighting the bogus caller problem and showing how to deal with doorstep callers.

Evaluation of crime figures has shown that this campaign is having a beneficial impact on the incidence of bogus official burglaries. Moreover, audience feedback has voted it highly enjoyable.

The Halliwell Theatre Company is made up of talented actors who accurately show the usual scenarios where bogus burglars, posing as officials, builders, tradesmen, and



generally plausible people, are clever and persuasive enough to get into the houses of those seen as vulnerable.

Once the technique of the bogus burglar is exposed, the drama focuses on the easy-to-follow method of dealing with unknown visitors in the right way to avoid becoming a victim.

The success of this production is that it does not

frighten the audience, usually made up of members of established community groups for those aged over 50.

After the performance, the audience can arrange for safety gadgets to be fitted such as spyholes and doorchains from Age Concern and advice from their local PCSO and crime reduction adviser.

Got a crime busting idea that needs funding? Then think about applying for a grant from the High Sheriff's Police Trust by contacting Janet Wilcox on extension 61144.

GMP AND CHESHIRE SWEEP THE BOARD

GMP and Cheshire shared the honours in the North West regional police darts championships last month.

In all the events, players from the two forces were either the winners or the runners-up.

The ladies' singles title was won by Angela Hase (Cheshire) and runner-up was GMP's Natalie Smith (Bradford Park).

The Cheshire pairing of Jane Stubbs and Angela Hase won the ladies' doubles, with GMP players Laura Coull and Amy

Blick (both Bradford Park) runners-up.

Winners of the mixed doubles were Russ Arpino (Trafford) and Amy Blick and runners-up were Alan Wilson (Chester House) and Natalie Smith.

The men's singles was won by Harry Kearney (Oldham), who defeated the defending North West champion, Karl Ellis (Cheshire) 3-0 in the final.

The men's doubles at the championships, hosted by Cheshire Constabulary at

Rudheath, turned out to be an exclusively GMP affair.

The winners were Harry Kearney and Russ Arpino, with Alan Wilson and Rick Darby (Chester House) runners-up.

All the finalists will be representing the North West at the national finals being hosted by Norfolk Constabulary in May.

* Mark Astbury (Trafford) is the North West regional pool champion after defeating Cheshire's Kurt Frobisher in the final.

BOLTON 10K ROAD RACE

This year's race is on Sunday, April 22, at 9.30am from the Athletics Stadium, Leverhulme Park, Long Lane, Bolton.

Entry is £6 (athletics club / GMP), £8.00 if not.

All entries on the day £10. Open to all standards.

Every 10K finisher receives a Race T-Shirt

There is a 2K Fun Run at 9am. £2.50 (50p extra on the day).

All entrants receive a medal.

Fill in the entry form below or call Det Insp Nick Howarth, Abusive Images Investigation Unit, Grey Mare Lane, on ext 63361 for more information.

RACE ENTRY FORM

Surname

First Name M/F

Age on date of race D.O.B.

Address/Dept

..... Postcode

Telephone (H) (W)

Email

Club Name

Competitors must be over 16 yrs. A signed entry form will be considered as acceptance of UK Athletics Rules and a declaration that you will run entirely at your own risk.

Signed Date

(s.a.e. 9" x 6" or internal for race no. and details)

Cheques payable to 'Bolton United Harriers * A.C.'

No 1 CopperPot Credit Union Lottery Winners

DECEMBER DRAW

£2,000 - Philip Muirhead, Lincolnshire. £1,000 -

Geoffrey Parker, GMP. £500 - David McManus, GMP.

£250 - Paul Matthews, North Wales. Jack Norgate, retired.

£100 - Joanne Kirkman, GMP. Ann Stott, retired.

Yvonne Broadbent, GMP. Tracey Rogerson, GMP. Carla Murrell, Leics.

£50 - Barry Hibbert, GMP. Marcia Phillibert, SOCA. John Tinker, GMP. Stephen Finnigan, retired. Anthony Kelly, GMP.

Andrew Pegg, GMP. Alan Davenport, North Wales. Philip Laing, North Wales. Timothy Buswell, Northants. Karl Hayden, GMP.

Neil Edney, North Wales. Philip Gilliver retired. Paul McKinder, Leics. Raymond Siddall, retired. Peter Keen, Gwent.

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DRESS CODE: Simon Taylor's fundraising outfit raised £200 in Scientific Services.

Dress up not down, Simon said

THEY are used to having dress-down days at Scientific Services to raise money for charities.

Now they've also started dress-up days.

When Fingerprint Expert Rose Kershaw suggested a 'cultural' dress day, one person saw it as another opportunity to raise money for a good cause.

Simon Taylor, a clerk in the Forensic Information Service database team, agreed to wear full traditional Bavarian costume - lederhosen, long socks, braces, shirt and a hat with a feather - if his colleagues would sponsor him.

They did, and after Simon had worn the green outfit around Bradford Park for the day, sponsorship and a

collection came to more than £200.

To decide which charity to support, colleagues were invited to nominate one as they made their donations and a list was compiled to be drawn from Simon's hat.

The selected charity was WaterAid, which works in 17 countries providing water, sanitation and hygiene education to some of the world's poorest people.

Among other recent fundraising activities by Scientific Services staff was a pink-themed day that brought in almost £100 for breast cancer charities.

And money that would have gone on Christmas cards for colleagues (an estimated £90) went instead to the Royal National Institute for Deaf People.

And finally...

A driver who waited 11 months for a £19,000 2.5 litre turbo-charged Ford Focus ST got to drive it for just 15 minutes, Hampshire Police

reported last month. The car was written off when a BMW overtaking a lorry hit it on the M3 near Basingstoke as the owner was driving to work.

Stage Squad
Present:

EXTRA SHOW!!
Saturday 10th FEB
MATINEE
doors open 2pm
curtains up 2.30pm

Snow White
and the 7 dwarves

A fun-packed family pantomime!

Friday 9th & Saturday 10th February 2007 only!
@ Hough End - Starts 7pm

Adults £6 - Children £4
For Tickets ring Sean NOW! on:
07720 537733
(Or email collar no: 61821)