



Geoff is the bravest officer in the country

PC Geoff Hince, of GMP's Tactical Aid Unit, is the country's bravest police officer.

He scooped the top prize last month at the 12th annual Police Federation Bravery Awards sponsored by The Sun.

Out of 72 nominees from forces in England and Wales, Geoff was honoured as the bravest of the brave.

He had already received three awards – the Queen's

Commendation for Bravery, a Chief Constable's Commendation and the John Edgerton Trophy for Valour.

The 32-year-old officer was on his way home when he saw two masked men run into a Salford post office.

One armed with a pick-axe handle was wrestling with a staff member when Geoff tackled him and forced him to the floor.

The robber's accomplice then

slashed at Geoff with an 18-inch machete, slicing his arms and hands to the bone.

Despite being kicked by the other robber, Geoff overpowered the machete thug, who later got six-and-a-half-years' youth custody.

Geoff and the other nominees and partners were guests at a 10 Downing Street reception before the awards ceremony at the Dorchester Hotel in the presence of the Prince of Wales.

BACK ON HIS BEAT

Scarred and with his voice changed, stabbed PCSO returns to duty and gets a warm welcome on the streets

by Derek Hornby

THE support he has received, he says, has been 'an inspiration.'

From police colleagues, from the people of Stalybridge, from well-wishers he has never met – all have helped PCSO Gary Etchells recover from the knife attack that nearly took his life.

But what touched him more than anything when he went back on patrol was the welcome shown by children and teenagers.

They kept going up to him in the street, shaking his hand, telling him how they'd miss seeing him around and giving him 'high fives.'

As his attacker awaits sentence next month, Gary has returned to the front line in the town where he grew up.

He is as active as ever. His voice, however, has been permanently altered because one of his two vocal cords is paralysed beyond repair and the left side of his neck remains numb.

"I have a bit of a rasp when I talk now and it takes a lot of effort to raise my voice," he said.

His carotid artery and jugular vein were both damaged and there are scars from the attack and from two life-saving operations at Tameside General Hospital after a vein suddenly ruptured while he was in intensive care.

Gary, 48, was off duty for six months after Albert Williams, 63, stabbed him last December.

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Picture by Bill Morris



THE VIEW FROM THE TOP

NEIGHBOURHOOD Policing is spearheading a major change in the way we are responding to the needs of the people of Greater Manchester.

It is making a real difference to people's lives and is using intelligence – the lifeblood of policing – to drive down burglary, to drive down car crime and drive down anti-social behaviour which makes so many people's lives an absolute misery.

I am convinced it is central to our successful performance in fighting crime, protecting people. And by putting the right people in the right place in hopefully

the right numbers, we are seeing significant progress in improving the quality of the service we provide.

Comments from the public, local councillors and, of course, the members of the Force responsible for implementing Neighbourhood Policing on the ground, show this to be the case.

But Neighbourhood Policing is not just about the softer side of policing. With teams of police officers, PCSOs and special constables taking ownership of their areas, engaging with their communities and providing a visible lead to enable people to feel reassured, feel

safe and be safe, we are getting to grips with a broad spectrum of criminal activity – from anti-social behaviour right through to terrorism.

Our effective response to such incidents will depend on the intelligence that the Neighbourhood Teams, working closely with our communities, continue to provide.

Neighbourhood Policing is fundamental to the work of GMP. It is our future.

Michael J. Todd

Video produced - Page 6

Under attack fire crews get police training

Public order trainers are helping firefighters deal with violence and abuse on a course that could be a model for the rest of the country

FIRE crews in Greater Manchester were attacked, abused, harassed and intimidated 248 times last year, an average of five incidents a week.

Police expertise is at hand, however, to help them cope with this extra hazard.

The firefighters are being given 'hostility training' by officers from GMP's Public Order Training Unit.

"We are the only police force in the UK providing this type of training and it is creating a lot of interest in the fire service nationally," says Insp Allan Binks, who heads the unit.

Over two years, more than 1,900 firefighters in Greater Manchester will receive training at the unit's Claytonbrook base involving realistic scenarios and classroom sessions.



Picture: Chris Oldham

It is not self-defence or riot training, but covers role play, legal awareness, evidence gathering, conflict management and the correct sequence of relaying messages from an incident scene to control.

Machete attacks

The training is based on research among firefighters by Tony Bryan, manager of Blackley fire station.

He said it would boost confidence while improving the safety of firefighters and the public.

"Some of the attacks and abuse we face are very violent," he said. "I've even seen attacks with machetes."

Firefighters who had experienced the training so far had been 'very positive and extremely complimentary.'

"It gives crews confidence and an understanding of how the police work and the type of information and evidence they require," said Mr Bryan.

Chief Fire Officer Barry Dixon said: "Ambulance services and A&E departments are interested in what we are doing. They are looking at whether it could be adapted for them."

SALFORD THE WORST: Of last year's 248 reported attacks on fire crews in the GMP area, a quarter of them (62) occurred in Salford.

Divisions with the least number of reported attacks were Bury and South Manchester, which had six each.

brief

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OBITUARIES

PCSO Mark Porter, 34, of Walkden, died of cancer on June 8, leaving a widow, Valerie, and two daughters, Siobhan and Olivia. He joined GMP in September 2005 and was based at Sale.

PC Susan Smith, 34, of Bolton, died of cancer on July 4, leaving a widow, Richard, and a daughter, Bethany. She joined GMP in 1996 and was based in the Criminal Justice Unit at Longsight.

Former Insp John Barlow, 73, of Hazel Grove, died on May 31, leaving a widow, Margaret. He joined Manchester City Police in 1947 and retired from GMP in 1977.

Former Sgt Ian Brown, 64, of Millom, Cumbria, died on May 19, leaving a widow, Ann. He joined Manchester & Salford Police in 1971 and retired from GMP in 1997.

Former Sgt Colin Carter, 69, of Stoke, died on June 30, leaving a widow. He joined Cheshire Constabulary in 1961 and retired from GMP in 1979.

Former Sgt Ted Fairclough, 79, of Lytham St Annes, died on May 31, leaving a widow, Betty. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1947 and retired from GMP in 1975. The couple's son, Sgt Barry Fairclough, is Operational Support

Unit supervisor in the GMP Traffic Network Section.

Former PC Michael Halliwell, 46, of Leigh, died on June 26, leaving a daughter as next of kin. He joined GMP in 1979, retiring on health grounds eight years later.

Former PC George Hetherington, 61, of Hyde, died on June 4, leaving a widow, Janice. He joined Cheshire Constabulary in 1967 and retired from GMP in 1997.

Former Supt Norman Mattin MBE, 79, of Bournemouth, died on June 8, leaving a widow. He joined Manchester City Police in 1947 and retired from GMP in 1976.

Former Sgt John Richardson, 77, of Heald Green, died on June 1, leaving a widow, Elizabeth. He joined Manchester City Police in 1954 and retired from GMP in 1984.

Former PC Thomas Smith, 77, of Audenshaw, died on May 18, leaving a son as next of kin. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1956 and retired from GMP in 1982.

Former Sgt Stanley Waddell, of Ashton-under-Lyne, died on his 72nd birthday on June 13, leaving a daughter as next of kin. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1958 and retired from GMP in 1988.



EMPTY NEST: Hyde Police Station building supervisor John Mercer and his notice to staff after the birds had left.



CLEAR FOR TAKE-OFF: One of the baby blue tits prepares to fly away.

Smoked out!

How the flying squad made their home in a cigarette stub box for two months

SMOKING ban? A different kind of cigarette curb faced staff outside Hyde Police Station.

The stubbing-out receptacle was taken over by blue tits as a temporary nesting home.

And it meant that for nearly two months, the box was out of bounds to smokers.

Building supervisor John Mercer put up a 'Do not use' notice pointing out that the box was occupied.

He also surrounded it with traffic cones to reinforce the message.

When the birds finally took flight (at least 10 chicks were seen emerging from the box), he put up another notice:

All birds have now flown the nest!

John was the first to spot that the box was inhabited while on his rounds.

It is near the station's dog kennels and he saw that the birds had used dog hairs, among other material, to build the nest.

Enquiry counter assistant Paul Bradley said: "Our car park backs

on to Hyde woods and we often see all types of birds and squirrels. But this was the first time we'd had birds nesting on station property.

"At the start, some people thought the notice was a joke or that it had something to do with PCSOs being trained here.

"But when they realised it was true, everyone took an interest and the progress of the chicks became a topic of conversation around the station.

"John was forever being stopped and quizzed on the latest news.

"When the chicks were leaving the box, some members of staff who happened to be passing took photos.

"Most of the chicks took to flying quite easily, but some were struggling.

"One in particular hid under a car and was in danger of being run over or taken by predators hovering nearby.

"But we are glad to say that in the end, they all made it safely to the woods."



DUMMY RUN: A robber who tried to hold up a bank with a doll and a blood pressure pump was arrested in Karachi. He had said the doll was a bomb and the pump a grenade when he demanded 2.5 million rupees (£20,000).

UNDERCOVER: An identity parade with a difference was held by police in Colorado. They asked women if they could pick out their underwear from 1,300 pairs stolen from laundries near the state university of Denver.

CRASH COURSE: A drunk driver, his car and his pet dog ended up in a police cell after crashing through the wall of a police station in Spiez-Gesigen, Switzerland.

BOTTOM LINE: A law banning low-slung trousers as obscene has been passed by the town council in Delcambre, Louisiana, with fines of up to £255 or six months in jail for anyone caught in garments that reveal their underwear.

BARE FACTS: A petrol station manager called police in Chemnitz, Germany, after a naked woman pulled in and asked him to fill up her tank. She was found to be seven times over the drink-drive limit.

FRIENDS REUNITED: An escaped convict returned to his old jail in Bulgaria after two years on the run and asked to be let back in because he was missing his prison pals.

WUFF JUSTICE: Two airport sniffer dogs at Chiang Rai airport in Thailand have been sacked for sexually harassing female passengers.

COUNTER ATTACK: Police in Hamburg caught a woman who had been stealing from luxury delicatessens and giving the food to charities for poor and homeless people. She was fined £500.

AND NEARER HOME.....

EXTRA police are being deployed in Brighton and Hove during full moons this summer after officers found a link between violent crime and the lunar cycle. A study into external factors influencing behaviour found there was a rise in unruly incidents in pubs and clubs during full moons.

TWO officers commandeered a bicycle rickshaw in Hereford to respond to a report of a suspect resisting arrest. PCs Ann-Marie Rosier and Sue Beament said it would have taken too long to run to the scene.

Tactical Aid officers find lethal weapons in car boot

A CAR key led Tactical Aid Unit officers to a 'terrifying' arsenal of weapons.

After a series of shootings, the officers searched a Ford Focus belonging to Mohammed Malik outside his home in Victoria Park, Rusholme.

Inside the car they discovered a vehicle key.

They checked the area and found that the key fitted a Rover parked round the corner from Malik's home but within sight of his bedroom window.

When the officers opened the Rover boot, they uncovered:

- * A fully-automatic Uzi sub-machine gun with 18 rounds in the magazine
- * A loaded Russian Tokarev pistol capable of firing through body armour
- * A Kimer revolver converted to fire bullets
- * An Italian Fabarm self-loading shotgun
- * A Belgian Browning pump-action rifle fitted with a silencer and telescopic site.

Malik, 21, was jailed for seven years at Manchester Crown Court. He pleaded guilty to seven charges of unlawful possession of firearms and ammunition.

Judge Anthony Ensor said: "A more terrifying situation in the city I could not contemplate if they had fallen into the wrong hands."

Det Sgt Nick Haigh, of Longsight CID, said:

"These were top-tier weapons, fully automatic military issue in the case of the Uzi.

"There was also a vast quantity of ammunition recovered.

"I feel confident that if these weapons had not been recovered, they would have been used on the streets of Manchester."

The court was told that Malik had attended Stockport College, gained seven GCSEs and gone to Salford University.

He said nothing to officers, but his DNA was found on the trigger guard of the Uzi.

His defence counsel said Malik had been used as a 'stooge' to mind the weapons for others.



OMAR ALTIMIMI:
He applied for a job with GMP.

THE TERRORIST 'SLEEPER' WHO WAS CAUGHT BEFORE HE HAD A CHANCE TO ACT

Success for Counter Terrorism Unit after computer files are uncovered by money laundering investigators

A MAN who hoarded terrorist material on his computer and had links with terrorists across the world, including Al Qaeda, was jailed for nine years at Manchester Crown Court last month.

In the first conviction to be secured by GMP's new Counter Terrorism Unit.

Omar Altimimi, 37, was found guilty of six offences under the Terrorism Act and two under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Yet remarkably, it was not suspected terrorism but a money laundering investigation by Bolton fraud detectives that led Altimimi to jail.

He and an associate, Yusuf Abdullah, came to the attention of GMP when the Nationwide Building Society contacted police in Bolton to report a fraudulent transaction of more than £30,000 from the Yemen into Abdullah's account.

The Nationwide's special investigations branch found £3,000 of the money had been transferred into an account held by Altimimi.

Altimimi and Abdullah were arrested on suspicion of money laundering.

Two computers belonging to Altimimi were seized at addresses in Bolton and it was then that the case took a dramatic twist.

On the computers, officers found a vast library of terrorist material, much of it downloaded from an Al Qaeda internet site protected by a secret password.

It included instructions for making bombs, detonators, suicide belts, poison gases and charts showing how to set up a British-based terror cell.

BENEFITS

Altimimi, a father of three, came to live in Britain as an asylum seeker either in 2002 or 2004 and had claimed £120,000 in state benefits.

In an effort to blend in, he had applied for jobs with Bolton Council, as a cleaner with GMP and as a trainee teacher at Bolton College.

Det Ch Supt Tony Porter, head of the Counter Terrorism Unit, said:

"We will never know who Altimimi really is. He developed a range of identities which would have allowed him to expand his terrorist activities.

"He used his wife and children in a bid to appear as an ordinary family. "But behind closed doors, he was downloading shocking videos of

executions, bomb-making recipes and information on how to establish a terrorist cell.

"He appears to have been a 'sleeper,' remaining in the shadows waiting and preparing for action.

"It was clear he had support and links with terrorists across the world."

SUPPORT

Det Ch Supt Porter added: "The support and assistance of businesses and communities in Bolton has been vital to the outcome of this case.

"It started with a fraud investigation at the Nationwide Building Society, and the society's vigilance, together with the work of local Bolton officers, laid the foundations for a successful CTU investigation.

"We are also grateful for the considerable international support we received for this investigation, particularly from the police in Holland.

"This case demonstrates how important it is for people to report any concerns about suspicious activity to us.

"When people provide information to the police, they could be giving us the final piece of a complex jigsaw."

Eight bank accounts

THE investigation involved inquiries in 14 countries from Scandinavia and Europe to North America and South East Asia.

By the end, at least three different identities and eight bank accounts were linked to Altimimi.

While he was in custody, a police search led to several documents being found, including a forged Immigration and Nationality Directorate card in the name of Abou Hawas, which was found in his shoe. This was one of his aliases.

Altimimi also had access to a price list of forged documents and how they could be sourced, including British passports.

Of the computer evidence seized, if all the documents were printed, they would have filled more than 900 filing cabinets and stood as high as Blackpool Tower.

During the investigation, officers:

TOOK 440 statements
INTERVIEWED 236 witnesses
COMPILED 1,936 exhibits ranging from diaries to receipts
COMPLETED 1,927 actions
INVESTIGATED 2,194 phone numbers.

Officers rescue scalded toddler

THE life of a two-year-old boy who was scalded under a shower and left without medical help for a week was saved by officers from Trafford Public Protection Investigation Unit.

The toddler's burns were so severe that he will need treatment for the rest of his childhood.

James Wilson, 20, of Sale, was jailed for eight years at Manchester Crown Court for assault and child cruelty reflecting neglect.

Charlotte Clinton, 21, was jailed for 30 months for child cruelty reflecting neglect.

The court was told that the child could have died if he had not been rescued by the GMP team.

SHAKING AND PALE

Following a report of a domestic incident, officers made repeated attempts to rouse the occupants of the house before Clinton finally answered the door.

Officers found the child in the living room. He was shaking violently, his face was pale and he looked distressed.

He also had a bruise on the left side of his head and cheek.

When officers picked up the toddler,

they saw that burns covered most of his body.

He was taken by ambulance to Wythenshawe Hospital, where he was given intravenous fluids and regular pain relief, before being transferred to the burns unit at Booth Hall Children's Hospital.

The court was told that the boy was found by police seven days after the shower incident.

At no point during that time did Wilson or Clinton seek any medical treatment for him.

APPLIED COLD CREAM

On being arrested, Wilson claimed he

had applied cold water and cream to the boy's back.

Det Con Nicola Graham, of Trafford Public Protection Investigation Unit, said: "This was a very distressing case for all concerned.

"The boy might well have died without the officers' persistence.

"Their swift and dramatic intervention prevented a very serious case becoming a fatality.

"The baby has thankfully made a good recovery and is now living with relatives.

"But his ordeal is far from over. He will have to undergo frequent and painful treatment for the rest of his childhood."

Back on patrol

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A total of eight people were outside Williams's rented flat in Elizabeth Avenue, Stalybridge, for his pre-arranged eviction.

There were two county court bailiffs, officials from New Charter Housing, a joiner to drill the front door lock and Gary.

Williams shouted abuse through the window, then appeared at the door with kitchen knives in each hand.

He put the knives down and picked up a pan of boiling water that he threw at a bailiff and the joiner.

Gary was backing away from the door when Williams lunged at him with one of the knives, a carving knife he'd bought at Tesco three weeks before.

In June at Minshull Street Crown Court in Manchester, Williams was found not guilty of attempted murder after a five-day trial, but guilty of wounding with intent.

Judge Jonathan Geake, adjourning

sentence for psychiatric reports, told him:

"This was pre-planned and premeditated. You armed yourself with a fearsome knife and remorselessly plunged it into his neck."

The judge said there was 'a very real chance' that Williams would be classed as a danger to the public.

After returning to duty, Gary said: "There are so many people I want to thank, far too many to mention.

"The support from Stalybridge has been immense and continues to be an inspiration to me and my wife Andie."

He said he hoped the case would make people more aware of the role of PCSOs out in the community day by day.

Gary is GMP's nominee for PCSO of the Year in the annual Police Review Awards in November.



RETURN: PCSO Gary Etchells has rejoined colleagues in Stalybridge Neighbourhood Policing Team.



PREMEDITATED: Albert Williams knifed Gary Etchells as housing officials tried to evict him.

THE ATTACKER

FAR from being an 'endearing eccentric' who was well known around Stalybridge, Albert Williams was 'an arrogant and opinionated bully,' the court was told.

Owing more than £3,000 in rent, he had stopped paying when his benefits were suspended by the Department for Work and Pensions amid suspicions that he had substantial undeclared savings.

In fact, the former gas fitter, who hadn't worked for the past 30 years, had amassed £60,000.

David Turner QC, prosecuting, said every effort had been made to resolve Williams's rent arrears problem, and eviction had been a last resort.

RESILIENT

Det Insp Jon Chadwick, who led the investigation into the stabbing of Gary Etchells, said: "He has shown tremendous resilience in coming back to work and getting on with his job so professionally.

"He is a credit to GMP and to the work of PCSOs in general.

"Albert Williams almost took Gary's life and prevented him from doing a job he enjoys so much - and it's great to see him back as enthusiastic and as hard-working as ever."

ACTIVE

IMPATIENTLY waiting to return to duty, Gary remained active during his enforced lay-off.

In between hospital visits, including speech therapy, he presented regional blood donor awards for the NHS Blood and Transplant Service and was guest of honour with his wife Andie at a dinner-dance marking the fourth anniversary since GMP's first PCSOs went on duty.

Gary was invited to choose a good cause to benefit from a raffle and auction at the dinner.

The result: £500 was raised, including a donation from a friend of Gary's in Stalybridge, to buy a digital TV for a day room used by visitors to the men's surgical ward at Tameside General Hospital, where Gary's life was saved.

He also organised an open service at St George's Church in Stalybridge to thank everyone who had helped and supported him.

Mother convicted of child destruction in landmark case

by Clare Hunter

A MOTHER of three has been convicted on the rare charge of child destruction after an investigation by Longsight detectives.

It was the first case of its kind - and what made it even more unusual is that legal proceedings went ahead without a body.

Maisha Mohamed, 22, is believed to be the first expectant mother to be convicted under the 78-year-old law.

She was given a suspended 12-month sentence at Manchester Crown Court.

Det Insp Brian King, who investigated the crime with Det Sgt Emma Phillips, described the conviction as 'a landmark.'

The investigation included exploring drains at Mohamed's home in Gorton and sifting the contents of wheelie bins, but no trace of the baby was found.

Somalia-born Mohamed arrived in Manchester four years ago, leaving her husband behind. She already had two children and had had an abortion when she became pregnant by a Manchester taxi driver, who is also from Somalia.

In January last year, when she was some 28 weeks pregnant - too late for a legal termination - a foetal heartbeat was detected in a routine scan.

A check two weeks later

showed no sign of any abnormality.

When she should have been 34 weeks pregnant, she went to Levenshulme Health Centre for another check.

She told medical staff she had suffered a bleed the week before and had not felt the baby move since.

Further examination found she was no longer pregnant.

Two days later, she was visited by a midwife who asked her about the disappearance of her foetus.

Mohamed claimed the baby boy had been born in Liverpool, but had not been breathing.

Police were contacted, and when they questioned Mohamed about the whereabouts of the baby, she said she had 'put it in the bin.'

Mohamed's three children are aged six, five and six months. She had the third child while awaiting trial on the destruction charge after being rejoined in Manchester by her husband.

The Crown Prosecution Service said it was unaware of any similar convictions for child destruction.

It said the charge could not be murder or manslaughter because the baby 'had not taken an independent breath.'

Det Insp Brian King, who led the child destruction investigation, said: "Maisha Mohamed gave various accounts of how and when she lost the baby and what happened to the remains.

"Throughout the course of the investigation, she consistently lied and changed her story and showed little remorse for what she had done.

"It was an extremely distressing case for everyone involved.

"We may never know what happened to this child or her real reasons for doing what she did."

Joint approach roots out nuisance callers

by Sgt Steve Croft

SEVEN hundred calls a month to GMP waste the time and expertise of communications officers, police officers and PCSOs who are forced to respond to the spurious, the malicious or the bizarre.

Using the latest problem-profiling techniques, Insp Anne Buckley and analyst Michele Crerar, of the Operational Communications Branch, are co-ordinating a joint approach to root out nuisance callers and ensure that, where appropriate, they are put in contact with the right services.

Case conferences involving divisional

representatives, OCB staff and health and social workers are used in tackling a range of behaviour that results in abuse of GMP's services.

In a significant number of cases, alcohol abuse or mental illness feature as contributory factors, so joint working ensures that people who need help get it.

Equally, Insp Buckley is keen to stress that GMP will consider all the tools at our disposal, including prosecution and the use of ASBOs.

One case in the headlines recently was that of Jill Walton, who phoned GMP 3,000 times.

She reached the end of the line last month when a

nine-month prison sentence was handed down at Manchester Crown Court following a catalogue of abusive and false calls she made, despite an existing ASBO and a suspended jail sentence.

Insp Buckley said: "Thanks to our ability to analyse call data accurately, we are in an excellent position to tackle time-wasting callers.

"We are keen to work with divisional officers to deal with these people whose needs are often beyond the scope of the police. By identifying them in this way, we can start the process of getting them the help they need.

"Prosecution is often the

last resort but, as the Walton case shows, we will not flinch from firm action where necessary."

In another case, the joint approach paid off when James Banks, of Hyde, received an ASBO for plaguing officers with false calls that resulted in them making repeated unnecessary visits to his home.

PC Neil Laurent, of the Tameside Community Safety Team, said: "Banks was a real problem to both the police and ambulance service.

"With the OCB team acting as liaison, I was able to tackle the whole problem in conjunction with ambulance service contacts.

"The quality and format of the information enabled me to put the case against Banks in a way that left even his own solicitor in no doubt of the weight of evidence against him."

Banks was ultimately jailed for 28 days after breaching an earlier ASBO.

Every three months, the OCB analysis team produces a problem profile that details repeat callers, giving divisional officers enough information to start to tackle local time wasters.

If you would like information about time-wasting callers in your area, you can contact Insp Buckley on extension 68304 or analyst Michele Crerar on extension 68302.

Examples of some recent inappropriate calls:

"Can you get me the number for Drinkline..." was a request from one 999 caller.

A woman contacted the police to complain that her neighbours were feeding foxes.

A man was locked out of his house and asked for emergency services to get his cigarettes off the kitchen table.

"Can you come and pick up my tablets from the floor" was one man's request to GMP.

And getting the message across early...

'SMART kids don't make hoax calls' is the theme of a new campaign to help reduce the number of malicious and mischievous calls to GMP.

To start it off, 35 Brownies were invited to visit Tameside Operational Communications Room.

They spent two hours on the complex meeting staff and watching what happens when calls come in.

The Brownies, from St Andrew's, Rushcroft, and St Mary's, High Crompton, also met fire and ambulance officers, as well as a dog handler and traffic officers.

The trip was arranged by Helen Haigh, Training and Development Co-ordinator for Tameside OCR, who also organised for a fire engine on the site.

She said there would be more visits by groups of youngsters to control rooms across the Force with the purpose of getting the message across to them at an early age.

Helen presented the Brownies with certificates recording their visit and afterwards she received letters of thanks from the girls.



BROWNIE POINTS: Young visitors to Tameside OCR with Communications Officer James Gregory and Training and Development Co-ordinator Helen Haigh, who arranged the visit.



A VIDEO showing how Neighbourhood Policing is making a difference in Greater Manchester has been produced.

The 10-minute programme – the third in the Infocus series – has comments from officers, PCSOs, councillors and members of the public who describe in detail the impact this style of policing is having on tackling crime

and improving the quality of life.

The Audio Visual Unit spent two days with the Neighbourhood Team at Hyde to produce the video, which can be viewed on the Intranet as well as in VHS format.

ACC Justine Curran, Force lead on Neighbourhood Policing, said: "Everything we do,

whether it is dealing with a prolific offender or responding to a 999 call, should actually be building towards addressing the things that those communities think are important and actually making them feel safer and better."

Insp Terry Finn, based at Hyde Police Station, said: "Neighbourhood Policing is having a huge impact in terms of overall crime reduction in Tameside.

"Certainly in Hyde, comparing the figures with this year and last year, we are down by a significant margin."

On August 1, ACC Curran took part in an Intranet webchat answering questions about Neighbourhood Policing.

After Soham, online course brings better information handling

INNOVATIVE online training courses are being used to improve the way GMP collects and processes information and intelligence.

Hundreds of officers and staff have already completed the first two lessons of an interactive training pack available on the National Centre of Applied Learning Technologies (n.calt) website.

The training, which includes simple self-assessment tests, is a key element in the response of UK police forces to address the failings identified in the way police handled

information about Soham murderer Ian Huntley.

Jen Mulcahy, who is leading GMP's approach to Information Management, said: "There is a clear need to improve the way the Force creates, reviews, retains, deletes and shares information – and officers and staff need to complete the training modules to ensure that information is submitted and processed to a high standard.

"Understanding what constitutes a complete and accurate set of information plays a major role in fighting crime and protecting the people of Greater Manchester.

"This ensures that up-to-the-minute and accurate intelligence is at our fingertips and enables us to be better informed in responding to and investigating incidents.

"Everyone has a duty to provide high-quality information, challenge the submission of poor-quality information and ensure that the right information is getting to the right people at the right time for the right purpose."

Details of police officers and police staff who are required to complete the training modules by the end of September are on the Force Intranet.



VOLUME CRIME IS FALLING

SIGNIFICANT progress is being made by GMP in reducing crime and catching more criminals, according to ACC Dave Thompson, the Force's lead on volume crime.

He said figures for the first three months of the current financial year clearly show how GMP is improving – and he stressed that officers and staff have to focus on the actions they need to take to deliver an even better service.

“It was an excellent first quarter,” Mr Thompson said.

“Compared with the same time last year, the Force saw an 8.4 per cent reduction in total recorded crime.

“Domestic burglary fell by 7.5 per cent, robbery by 8.7 per cent, vehicle crime by 17.2 per cent and violent crime by 11 per cent, meaning 7,132 fewer victims.

“Just as importantly, we have made great strides in catching more offenders. Burglary detection is up more than four per cent to 16.9 per cent, robbery detections up to 20.2 per cent, violent crime up to 36.8 per cent, vehicle crime detections up to 8.4 per cent and detections for all crime are up to 25.4 per cent.

“This is a tribute to the commitment and hard work of officers and staff, working in conjunction with our partner agencies.”

Tactics

ACC Thompson said developments in the coming months, such as a manual of volume crime tactics (see Page 9), standards set in accordance with the Volume Crime Management Model and a crime investigation aide memoire for frontline officers, would further improve the way crimes were tackled to support the work already making an impact through Neighbourhood Policing.

He added: “Just as critical as our progress in reducing crime and increasing detections is the level of satisfaction the people of Greater Manchester have in the service we provide.

“In surveys, most victims have told us they are happy with the ease with which they can contact us and the actions we take to deal with their crime.

“But as many as one in three victims are not satisfied with our ability to keep them informed about progress in a crime investigation.

“The biggest impact we can have on improving public confidence is to get right the things that we do day in and day out.”

Mr Thompson said everyone should be providing a high quality of service and strengthening public support by:

- Being polite, professional and courteous
- Acting with integrity and treating everyone fairly and openly
- Being approachable in manner and taking a genuine interest in improving the quality of life in the areas we work
- Responding to people's needs and addressing issues in a considered, sustainable way, rather than looking at short-term fixes
- Updating victims in accordance with the Victims' Code of Practice

A FINE team member, a consistently high detection rate, always ready to help colleagues, a good attendance record.....

It all added up to the title of Salford's Officer of the Year and the John Armstrong Welch Award for Pendleton-based PC John Prendergast.

The award is presented in memory of a former deputy chief constable of Salford City Police, which combined with Manchester City Police 39 years ago.

The Divisional Commander, Ch Supt Kevin Mulligan (pictured with the officer), said

PC Prendergast had shown outstanding qualities over the past 12 months.

In addition to the trophy, PC Prendergast received a £150 voucher for a meal for two and a bottle of champagne.

The annual award fulfils a dying wish by John Armstrong Welch's late daughter, which her husband, Ken Taylor, promised to perpetuate.

Runners-up for the accolade this year were PC Penny Barnaby, PC Andrew Benson, PC Pat McCormack and Det Con Anne Smith.



Project manager PC Steve Hodgson, community beat manager for Hurst Ward at Ashton-under-Lyne, and PC Wendy Marshall, community beat manager for St Michael's Ward.

Post opening

IN line with the GMP policy of exploring locations away from police stations where officers can be based, a police post has opened inside Broadoak Community Centre at Ashton-under-Lyne.

It is the first time on Tameside Division that officers have been based somewhere other than a police station.

Two officers and five PCSOs are working from the centre.

The aim is to have officers based at the heart of local communities to help improve links, reduce crime and provide a reassuring presence, the project manager, PC Steve Hodgson, said.

The move has been funded by the Safer Stronger Communities Fund, which allocates cash for 'community cohesion' projects.

The post is the largest of its kind in a community venue in Greater Manchester.

On the record, the work of Victim Support & Witness Service

THE article 'The making of a good family liaison officer' (June Brief) made no mention of the work done by Victim Support & Witness Service in Greater Manchester in support of families bereaved by homicide.

Since 1998, we have worked with the Family Liaison Officers in GMP to an agreed protocol in providing a collaborative service to the families bereaved through homicide.

This has allowed FLOs to remain part of the investigative team for murders and we ensure that the families receive the long-term care and support that they need and deserve.

By doing this, police officers have an early exit strategy that allows GMP to save vital resources while ensuring support is available to all families.

The principle by which we work together is referred to in the new ACPD manual which sets out the roles and responsibilities of FLOs and also refers to working with Victim Support in this way as good practice.

The FLOs have, for the past nine years, received their training jointly with our volunteers, which both supports and promotes the agreed protocol.

During the Shipman inquiry, the trial and later the public inquiry, more than 90 of our volunteers were involved in providing support to around 500 family members.

This included escorting those who were witnesses on pre-trial visits to Preston Crown Court and later to and from court.

We remained involved and again supported the families throughout the public inquiry.

As a result, the then Chief Constable, Sir David Wilmot, commended this organisation for its work. Throughout this time, GMP appointed only two FLOs to the public inquiry.

Even though the Brief article had a section on 'networking,' not once is Victim Support mentioned. Brief is read by many people within Victim Support and Witness

Service, many of whom are retired police officers, and the article has greatly angered them.

In 2006/07, we supported almost 200 family members and had almost 1,800 contacts with those families. For us, the involvement sometimes goes on for several years and, with that in mind, I really struggle to understand why we didn't even receive a mention.

I would be appreciative if the record could be put straight.

Glyn Morgan,
Chief Executive,
Victim Support & Witness Service
 - Greater Manchester

Making city parks safer



TEAMWORK: Police officers, PCSOs, leisure officials, park security officers and Manchester City Council's executive member for arts and leisure, Councillor Mike Kane.

METROPOLITAN Division officers and Manchester City Council have joined forces to provide special security patrols in city parks throughout the summer.

They are operating in and around Platt Fields Park, Whitworth Park, Birchfields Park, Alexandra Park, Crowcroft Park and King George V Park.

Insp Dave Gilbride, of Fallowfield, Rusholme and Whalley Range Neighbourhood Policing Team, said: "Joint patrols are just one of the ways we are helping to make local parks safer and more attractive to visit.

"Our PCSOs are talking to park users to find out more about how we can improve their area as well as offering tips on home and personal security."

Throughout the operation, park security officers are teaming up with PCSOs to provide high-profile patrols to advise and reassure park users.

GMP officers and Manchester Leisure staff are based at Platt Fields, Crowcroft Park and Alexandra Park, sharing resources to provide a high level of security.

Police boost CCTV network

By Tom Bassford

CRIMINALS in Manchester are being watched more closely than ever.

Four police officers and a member of police staff are now working with Manchester City Council's CCTV control centre team to monitor the 55 cameras on the Metropolitan Division..

GMP officers who provide specialist observation are in direct radio contact with colleagues on the ground.

Details of any incident caught on camera are passed to the nearest available officers.

Two days after starting the extra support, officers arrested a drug dealer in Ardwick thanks to information from the CCTV control room.

The man had been filmed exchanging drugs with another man and was detained within minutes.

The five-person team works a rota system to ensure the cameras are monitored at all times by at least one of them.

Twenty-three cameras were installed at key locations across Moss Side earlier this year following consultation with local people.

New advice on dealing with hate crime

HATE crime guidance packs are being issued to all frontline officers.

They are designed to improve the way hate crimes and incidents are investigated by providing all relevant information in one place.

This is part of a substantial revision of GMP's Hate Crime Policy, which now puts an emphasis on involving supervisors in an earlier stage of the investigation and takes into account latest ACPO guidance.

The policy defines a hate crime as:

A hate incident which constitutes a criminal offence perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice or hate.

The guidance packs give practical advice on dealing with a hate incident or hate crime, as well as information on what should be included in statements and how paperwork should be submitted.

They detail how hate

crimes/incidents can be motivated by race, gender, disability, religion/belief or sexual orientation.

ACC Rob Taylor said: "GMP's response to hate crime needs to be effective and transparent. "Successfully prosecuting hate crime cases and bringing offenders to justice in partnerships with relevant agencies is a priority."

He said GMP had adopted the ACPO document, Hate Crime: Delivering a Quality Service - Good Practice and Tactical Guidance, as the

basis of the policy.

"All staff should follow its directions and good practice," he said.

"The delivery of a quality service to hate crime victims by the police and our partners creates improved confidence in all our communities."

Members of Diversity Command are carrying out a series of visits to divisions and branches to explain the new policy. Details of the visits are published on the Intranet.

Family friendly GMP

DID you know you are entitled to unpaid parental leave for each of your children under five (or under 18 if your child has a disability)?

THAT parents and carers can request paid time off to make arrangements for dependents in an emergency up to three times a year?

THAT paternity leave can be taken in the first 56 days of your child's birth?

THAT the Carers' Co-ordinator can help you find childcare if you are struggling?

THAT carers can join a carers' register and receive up-to-date

information on carers issues?

THAT GMP runs a tax benefit childcare scheme that could save you up to £90 per month?

These and a range of other information about leave, career breaks, flexible working, childcare, carers and more can be found on the HR Services and Equality Team pages of the intranet or by clicking on the Police Staff and Police Officer Handbook icon at the foot of the Human Resources Branch intranet page.

Or speak to your local HR Unit for more information.

Fare dodgers pay

A CRACKDOWN on bus fare dodgers in West Oldham resulted in 70 people being fined a total of nearly £1,500.

Operation Gateway ran for four months during which 435 buses and 8,000 passengers were checked by police officers and bus inspectors.

Officers also made six arrests, one of them for possession of a class A drug, conducted 91 stop-searches, identified scores of school truants and, in evening operations, dealt

with groups of youngsters causing trouble on buses and at bus stops.

Sgt Mark Davis, of the West Oldham Neighbourhood Policing Team said: "This was the first operation of its type to be carried out in Oldham and it was a fantastic success for the neighbourhood team."

Officers worked in collaboration with Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive and First Group, Britain's biggest bus company, on the operation.

The police vehicle you WON'T be seeing around Greater Manchester

(at least not just yet)



Picture by Chris Oldham

It is certainly highly visible. But though this bright yellow Hummer has taken on the appearance of a GMP vehicle, there are no immediate plans to buy one.

As part of this year's International Policing Exhibition, which was held in Manchester alongside the annual ACPO-Association of Police Authorities' conference, the Hummer was specially dressed in GMP livery by General Dynamics to show what police vehicles may one day look like.

Chief Constable Michael Todd said it was 'an interesting representation' of what was possible.

"But I can't see GMP having a fleet of Hummers quite yet," said Mr Todd, pictured with the six-litre vehicle.

The Hummer is based on the American military Humvee (high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle).

It was on display in a line-up of police vehicles past, present and future, including a 1980 Lotus Sunbeam, a 1981 Range Rover and a 1986 Ford Capri.

SCOOTER

Also unveiled at the exhibition was an electronic three-wheeled scooter known as the T3 personal mobility vehicle.

PC Colin Chamberlain, based at Collyhurst, became the first British police officer to test drive one.

He pronounced it 'smooth and pretty nippy' and said it could be particularly of benefit to officers around the city centre.

More than 600 T3s have been bought by police forces in the United States.

They have a top speed of 25mph and are typically used to patrol shopping centres and airports.

Old and new

Vehicles from the past that were on display at the International Policing Exhibition in Manchester were supplied by Police Car UK, which was launched two years ago.

Maurice Kime, a retired GMP officer, is a founder committee member and heads the organisation's photographic section.

"We promote what is new to the police service in the world of vehicles and try to preserve the past in relation to classic police vehicles," said Maurice, who took the picture on the right.

"Membership is open to serving and retired police officers and police staff.

"We cater for those who are interested in modern police vehicles, classic

police vehicles, models of police vehicles and the photographic side of police vehicles."

The organisation publishes a quarterly magazine, *On Patrol*, which carries road test reports on police vehicles, model news and members' photos.

The website - policecaruk.com - lists events and includes a members' forum. Membership costs £20 a year.



A wheel boost

THIRTEEN unclaimed, lost or stolen bikes have been donated to a young people's club by the Manchester Metropolitan Division following a suggestion by PCSO Stephanie Henaghan.

"I regularly visit different community groups and when I heard about the Whiz Project's bike club at Whalley Range, I was keen to provide support," said Stephanie.

"Many of the unclaimed bikes at Longsight Police Station need repairing and the young people are

keen to learn new skills, so this seemed the natural thing to do."

The cycles, which include mountain bikes, road bikes, children's bikes and BMXs, will be repaired by club members and then used in a sponsored bike ride and eventually sold.

All money raised will go back to the club to provide more activities for local young people.

"These bikes will make a big difference," project manager Katrina Garg said.

Tackling volume crime

SIX categories of volume crime were discussed - and successful police tactics shared - among a gathering of 60 GMP members at Sedgley Park.

Areas covered at the seminar were burglary, robbery, vehicle crime, criminal damage, offender management and victim/witness management.

Officers and staff heard what tactics and operations other divisions were employing, particularly in prevention, intelligence and enforcement.

Ch Supt Caroline Ball, head of Oldham Division, said:

"The seminar formed part of the much broader Volume Crime Project and aimed to capture what works, with the objective of producing a sustainable tactics manual."

Ch Supt Gerry Donnellan, head of North Manchester Division, said:

"It was an opportunity for people to come together to communicate face-to-face good ideas and views.

"It provided a real way forward in sharing successful tactics."



GMPA appoints a new chairman

COUNCILLOR Paul Murphy (pictured) is the new chairman of Greater Manchester Police Authority, succeeding Derek Osbaldestin, who has retired from the post.

Before his elevation, Councillor Murphy, who joined GMPA seven years ago, was vice-chairman and also chaired the finance committee.

After taking early retirement

from the aerospace industry, he became Assistant Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources on Manchester City Council and then Executive Member for Direct Services.

Councillor Murphy, 61, of Moston, North Manchester, said his immediate priorities included a review of estate management to see how the

assets could be best used for the good of GMP.

Independent member Mrs Gloria Oates OBE, of Ramsbottom, has succeeded Councillor Murphy as vice-chairman.

She is a former chief executive of Oldham and Rochdale NHS Trusts and was Lancashire's Woman of the Year in 2002.

VOTE FOR EXCELLENCE

Second year of Chief Constable's performance awards

NOMINATIONS for the Chief Constable's second Excellence Awards have opened.

Staff have until the end of October to choose from among seven categories.

And as before, everyone in GMP is eligible to propose anyone in the Force.

The accolades, sponsored by various businesses and organisations, will be announced and presented at a black-tie dinner at the Midland Hotel in Manchester on Friday, February 29.

The deadline for nominations, either by internal post or e-mail, is Friday, October 26.

Forms and full details, together with the criteria for each category, are on the Force Intranet.

Michael Todd introduced the Excellence Awards last year to 'recognise and reward good performance.'

He said at the time that GMP rightly rewarded acts of bravery, but had been slow to recognise outstanding work in other spheres, either individually or as a team.

The Excellence Awards were a way of correcting this imbalance and celebrating high qualities of commitment and leadership.

More than 100 nominations were received from all areas of GMP for the inaugural Excellence Awards.

They were presented at a gala dinner attended by 300 people, including sponsors, earlier this year.



The seven categories are:

- * *Individual Achievement*
- * *Outstanding Leadership*
- * *Outstanding Team Performance*
- * *Outstanding Communication*
- * *Police Staff Employee of the Year*
- * *Partnership Working*
- * *Communications Officer of the Year*

A judging panel will draw up a shortlist of three finalists in each category from which Mr Todd will select the winners.

In addition, six other awards will be presented for Brave Officer of the Year, Community Police Officer of the Year, Problem Solving Partnership, Student Officer of the Year and, Lifetime Achievement Award and PCSO of the Year.

Winners in the nominated categories at the first Excellence Awards were:

Individual Achievement - Det Supt Tony Brett, of the Major Incident Team.

Leadership - Det Sgt Andrew Greenhalgh, of Bolton Burglary Unit.

Team Performance - the Cold Case Review Unit.

Communication - the Tactical Vehicle Crime Unit.

Employee of the Year - PCSO Jane Gough (Eccles).

Partnership - Insp Stephen McFarlane and PCSO Karen Hopes with the Manchester Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership in East Manchester.

Communications Officer - Philip Bridgford, of Trafford Operational Communications Room.

The **Brave Officer** award went to Bolton dog handler PC Paul Lowden (the award was for saving a life in his previous posting at Stretford), PC Nathan Gulam (Stockport) was **Student Officer of the Year**, PC Krys Urbaniak (Swinton) won the **Community Police Officer** award and the **Diversity in Action** prize went to Wythenshawe and Northenden Area Policing Team.



Guests at the first "excellence" ceremony earlier this year

Month-long training course means.....

MORE DOGS CAN NOW FIND BODY PARTS

THERE are only 12 specialist police dogs in the UK trained to find buried human remains – and seven of them are in GMP.

Until this year, the Force had two, but the number has increased after five dogs and their handlers went through a four-week victim recovery course with the Dog Training Unit.

A New Zealand police officer, Sgt Colin Howard, was an observer for one of the weeks of the course at Hough End.

Knowing that GMP was at the forefront of this type of training in the UK, his force paid for him to make the trip.

Victim recovery dogs are no

longer trained simply to find whole bodies that have been buried.

A speck of blood or a scrap of bone or flesh is now enough for them to pinpoint a suspect spot.

They can even identify a place where a body WAS buried and has been removed.

Nor do they scuffle frantically when they have identified a burial place, but stand patiently looking directly at the spot.

Parts of pigs (the nearest match to human flesh) are used in the training.

The dogs on the course can be called on to help police forces that do not have

such specialist animals.

But they don't get involved in other police work - their handlers all have other general purpose dogs.

Officers and dogs who took part in the course were:

PC Ian McIlwraith with spaniel Mack, PC Sean O'Callaghan with labrador Samson, PC Mike Dermody with german shepherd Dusty, PC Paul Rogers with spaniel Murphy and PC Steve Greenough with spaniel Ninja.

Trainers were PCs Cliff Bond and Mark Tyson.

* Last year, the number of police dog handlers in GMP was reduced from 121 to 80.

Brief goes to the dogs



Force's favourite

THE expertise of PC Frank Swindles, of Bolton Division, has gained him Garry Mathieson Shield as GMP's best dog handler of the year.

He is pictured with Garry's widow, Estelle, and Ch Supt Phil Hollowood, Commander of Specialist Operations Branch.

Garry was a dog handler on Bury Division who died of cancer in 2005 at the age of 41.

The shield, which was suggested by his family, is

presented in his memory.

Also held in his memory is an annual golf tournament at Brightmet Golf Club which has raised more than £3,000 in three years for East Lancashire Hospice and Cancer Research UK.

In a letter to Brief, Garry's brother, Neil, writes:

The Mathieson family would like to say a big thank you to all the police officers who joined with family and friends to support

the Garry Mathieson Memorial Fund Golf Day.

Once again, it was a big success. We raised £965 to go to a grand total of £3,065 over the last three years.

We would also like to thank Sgt Russ Magnall (Oldham) who helps us each year by getting the police involved in the event.

This is our family tribute to Garry. We miss him greatly and would like people to remember him on this special day.

DOG WATCH: The Tactical Vehicle Crime Unit now has two dog response cars.

The liveried Vauxhall Vectras have been specially adapted for the purpose, with the back seats removed and air conditioning and grilles installed.

Under the new system, there is a day dog and a night dog.

The plan is for the animals and their handlers from the Tactical Dog Unit to spend nine weeks at a time with the TVCU, winners of the Outstanding Communication prize in the Chief Constable's Excellence Awards earlier this year.

"The dogs are a welcome addition and have quickly proved their worth," said Insp Mike Keegan, head of the TVCU.

Insp Vivienne Loder, head of the Tactical Dog Unit, said: "This is a good example of officers of Specialist Operations Branch combining skills against inter-divisional criminality."

Pictured: Handler PC Lee Partington (left) and his dog Marshall with PC Ian Bertenshaw of the TVCU and one of the special dog vehicles.



Finally remembered, four officers who died in the First World War

MORE than 90 years after they died, the names of four Manchester City Police officers have been added to the First World War memorial plaque at Bootle Street Police Station.

The names were missed off the original plaque, and it was only when Albert Leach, a former chief superintendent in GMP, visited war graves on the Western Front that the oversight came to light.

Deputy Chief Constable Dave Whatton led a memorial

ceremony beside the updated plaque in the foyer of the city centre station.

Mr Leach said: "I have spent a great deal of time researching and visiting the graves of all the Manchester City Police officers who died in the First World War.

"Through these inquiries, a researcher and I discovered the four missing names and I approached the Chief Constable to ask if the oversight could be corrected."



Picture: Bill Morris

Names are added to tribute plaque after retired officer's detective work

The four officers were:

PC Oswald Holt, who joined Manchester City Police in 1909, volunteered for military service in 1914, served as a private in the Lancashire Fusiliers and died in action in France in 1916.

Mr Holt married a widow, Mary Stewart, in 1911 and adopted her infant daughter, Edith. On the first

day of the Battle of the Somme, he was reported missing, believed killed.

He never knew that two days before his death, the funeral of his wife took place, leaving their daughter an orphan.

Mr Holt's grandson, Stephen, attended the plaque ceremony with his family.

PC Francis Calow joined Manchester City Police in 1913 and, as a reservist, was called for a military service in 1914.

Later that month, the lance corporal in the East Lancashire Regiment was taken prisoner at the battle of Mons and was killed in a street accident.

His widow received a communication from Germany that said: "He was one of the best prisoners of war staying with us and we very much deplore the sad and fatal accident."

PC John Arthur Holmes joined the city police in 1914 and volunteered for service in 1915.

He was a private in the Grenadier Guards and was killed in action in Belgium in 1916.

PC William Gibson joined the force in 1914, volunteered for service in 1915 and served as a gunner in the Royal Field Artillery before dying in action in Belgium in 1916.

When a police team got digging, this was the result

IT was not so much a thin blue line as a thin green one when the gardening skills of Altrincham's Neighbourhood Policing Team were put to the test.

In just two days, they turned a

neglected plot at Brentwood Special School into a sensory garden.

Working in shifts, they planted shrubs, bushes, flowers and fruit trees with a variety of stimulating

smells and textures.

They put in a 4ft-wide stainless steel water feature and a hippo statue and installed a wind-chime and various educational toys.

And since many of the pupils,

aged 11 to 19, have physical disabilities, there is also a path for wheelchair access.

"We enjoyed the challenge," Insp Simon Wright said.

The school council chose the garden design, which was the work of Scott Simpson, a student at South Trafford College in Altrincham.

Several local companies and partner agencies supported the project with plants, tools and equipment.

Among them were Battmans & Sons Nursery, Timperley; World of Water, Timperley; B & Q, Broadheath; Brandon Plant Hire, Altrincham; The Stables, Altrincham; Trafford Housing Trust and Trafford Environmental Services.

England cricket star Freddie Flintoff, who lives in the Altrincham area, joined ACC Rob Taylor for an official opening of the garden in June.



Sponsorship link

THE annual Problem Solving Partnership Awards in GMP are to be sponsored for the next three years by analysis software company i2.

The awards were introduced in 2004 to encourage and recognise excellence in crime reduction by overcoming various problems.

Paul Holroyd, general manager of i2 said: "Having worked with UK police

forces for 15 years, we know the ability to store and share community intelligence and develop problem-oriented partnership-driven solutions to crime and disorder is key to the success of neighbourhood policing."

Suggestion Scheme Manager Pat Garside said the event would be renamed the i2 GMP Problem Solving Partnership Awards from now on.

The moment we will never forget

Detectives identify young girl whose abuse by her father was shown on the internet

By Patricia Jones

STAYING with a separated parent is routine for many children these days, but it wasn't for one little girl.

During the week, she lived with mum and boyfriend and by all accounts it was a normal home life.

At weekends, she stayed with her father. And here, things were far from normal.

Unknown to her family, her father was sexually abusing her, recording the images and putting them on the internet.

This was, in essence, a crime scene, which led to inquiries by GMP's Abusive Images Investigation Unit.

To her friends, the little girl seemed to act normally, running around with them in the school playground.

But to the police officers, it was clear that things weren't normal. Her eyes told them all they needed to know - sad and wide looking.

In 2005, following the arrest of an offender in another part of the world who was found to have abused a child, some 83 images were recovered showing the

abuse of a young girl believed to be aged between six and eight.

The offender had photographed the abuse and distributed it via a peer-to-peer network. He concealed his identity on the images, but the child could clearly be seen.

From the images, it was possible that the abuse was carried out in the UK.

Working with the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre at the time was an officer from GMP.

EVIDENCE

Based on the evidence, he contacted the Force's Abusive Images Investigation Unit.

Investigative Support Officer Ian Addison said:

"A decision was made to investigate this case as it was clear that the abuse was 'hands on' and was taking place in the North West."

It was established that the images were probably recent, and considerations were then made as to how the girl could be traced in Greater Manchester if it

was accepted that the abuse was current and the likely location was local.

Statistically, children don't tend to travel far from home to primary school and so it was a reasonable leap of faith that the girl would go to school locally.

There was also a strong possibility that the child was close to the offender since she appeared comfortable in her surroundings.

To help trace the victim and ultimately the offender, the AIU began working with partner agencies to help identify schools.

A statistical analysis was made of the most likely area for the child to attend school.

There were 102 primary schools in the main target area and a similar number in a neighbouring area to visit.

LETTERS

Letters were sent to head teachers in both the main and neighbouring areas.

Five teams of two visited every primary school in the prioritised geographical target area.

On day one, some 60 schools were visited. By the end of day

two, all 102 schools had been visited without any positive results.

Other schools in the neighbouring area were then visited - and finally the victim was identified.

Det Insp Nick Howarth, head of the unit, said:

"The emotion felt personally and by all the team when that moment was realised is something which we will never forget and one which motivates you to find others."

ADDRESSES

Urgent inquiries then began to trace the home addresses of the mother's boyfriend and natural father.

One of the greatest risks at this stage was that the offender would become aware of the police activity and seek to destroy evidence or flee.

Ensuring that the right person was arrested and the right address visited was a tense period for the unit officers. They said it was 'like time standing still'.

Two addresses were identified

and one member of staff made an assessment of the outside to give an opinion as to which one fitted.

This was found to be the home address of the biological father.

Shortly afterwards, the house was entered after a warrant was obtained and the man was identified in the house.

PHOTOS

Examination of the bedrooms found they matched photographs already in police possession.

The man was arrested and mother, daughter and boyfriend were reunited.

The father admitted two counts of sexual assault against a child, one of inciting a child to take part in sexual activity and taking indecent photographs of children.

He received an indefinite sentence at Manchester Crown Court. He must serve a minimum of three years and will be released only when it is decided he no longer poses a risk.



Every three months, North Manchester Division holds a 'development day' focusing on a different topic or problem.

The most recent event was timely - concerned the division's response to major incidents.

The day at Hough End Centre included inputs from officers in the Emergency Planning Unit and from Manchester Airport, both of which come under Specialist Operations Branch.

Discussion ranged from the use of volunteers controlling cordons to CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) incidents.

Some 50 PCs, sergeants and inspectors attended the day-long event with the division's Senior Management Team.

Murder hunt

WHAT was the most memorable and complex murder investigation you ever worked on?

Is there a specific case that sticks in your mind, but somehow never made national headlines or got the media

attention you expected?

If there was a successful murder prosecution that you feel never got the exposure and recognition it deserved, but is the kind of story that has to be heard to be believed, then this could be your chance to

help highlight the remarkable work British police forces are doing in bringing murderers to justice.

Unique Factuals, a Manchester-based independent TV production company, is looking for UK murder cases that led to successful prosecutions to feature in a new documentary series highlighting the work done by British officers in resolving

complex investigations.

'Murder in Suburbia' is a new series for the cable channel Crime and Investigation Network. Each 60-minute episode will focus on a murder case that for one reason or another did not get a huge amount of publicity at the time.

Officers are solving the most bizarre and complicated murder cases every day, but only a few make it into the

national consciousness.

The series aims to showcase the combination of hard work, cutting-edge techniques and occasional sheer good fortune that has led to initially impenetrable cases resulting in a successful prosecution.

If you were involved in such a case, get in touch with David Arrowsmith at Unique Factuals on 0161 874 5733 or e-mail davida@uniquefactuals.com

New rules on generating income and profit

Trading places

UNDER a new GMP trading policy, divisions and branches can keep the first £50,000 of profit for each successful trading initiative they launch, it was announced last month.

The policy has been designed as an incentive to generate extra money and allow most decisions to be made locally.

"Trading applies to circumstances where we operate in the open market to get money in return for supplying a product, service or our expertise," says Joe-Ann Turner, of Corporate Review Section.

"The key element is that it is supplementary to core policing."

Joe-Ann says that if you have an idea for a trading activity, the first steps you need to take are to read the policy and guidelines and tell your divisional or branch finance and admin manager about your idea and confirm who will be doing what.

Your local commander will be accountable for any local trading decisions so you should make

sure that you understand how the process works on your division.

A risk assessment must be undertaken, and while charges for products or services can be set locally, they must cover at least the additional costs incurred, as well as generating some profit.

You also need to maintain an audit trail, including a costing template and, if needed, a booking template and/or terms and conditions.

Other documents designed to support people embarking on a new trading opportunity include a risk checklist, a table to help you distinguish between different types of income generation and templates for booking forms and the wording of common terms and conditions.

Training materials

A range of training materials is also available on the Force Intranet (under Force Information - Income Generation). For those who want detail, there is a presentation aimed at financial and admin staff. There are also some

simpler slides that explain the various types of income generation in a nutshell and explain how each might apply to you in your current role.

Contact

Responsibility for the trading policy has been transferred to the Finance Branch. New contact is Alan Davidson on extension 61207.

Managing risks

Don't let potential risks put you off, says Joe-Ann Turner.

"The ethos should be about managing risk rather than being risk averse," she says.

"Make a preliminary risk assessment at an early stage to see if the proposed activity is likely to have a negative impact on the reputation or integrity of the Force or its staff.

"Doing this saves you spending too much time on an idea that may be unsuitable.

"Use the risk checklist for the more detailed risk assessment. It gives advice on the best way to manage or mitigate risks."



EXPERTISE: Andrew Cragg (left) and Kevin Kershaw, of Forensic Identification Services, with Scientific Services Director Dr Peter Hall and their Operation Bracknell awards.

Awards for tsunami response leaders

SPECIAL awards have been presented by Dr Peter Hall, Director of Scientific Services, to three senior members of his staff in recognition of their expertise in co-ordinating the branch's response to the 2004 Asian tsunami disaster, Operation Bracknell.

Staff who flew out and helped identify victims had been recognised elsewhere, but not the efforts of those who worked behind the scenes and matched operational needs with scientific specialists, Dr Hall said.

He presented the award certificates to Andrew Cragg and Kevin Kershaw, of Forensic

Identification Services, and Jackie Newman-McCabe (Crime Scene Investigation).

Dr Hall said: "They put together teams of fingerprint experts, crime scene investigators and imaging experts to go to Thailand to be part of disaster victim identification groups.

"These teams either dealt directly with decomposing bodies in recovering fingerprints and DNA to establish the identities of the deceased or were part of groups processing items through facilities such as automatic fingerprint identification systems."

MYTHS...AND THE FACTS

IT is not appropriate for police forces to make a profit.

Fact: Legally, it is totally acceptable for police forces to make a profit and it is up to you to decide how much. You can also set different charges for different people. See the guidelines for more information.

ANY trading must be limited to selling 'spare capacity'.

Fact: This used to be the case, but the limitation no longer applies.

POLICE forces are limited in what they can sell.

Fact: The only limitation is that forces can't construct buildings or works purely for income generation. There are also some ethical limitations, such as making sure forces don't sell core services or let trading activity affect their ability to deliver core services. They also need to make sure the activity does not

have a negative impact on public perception.

POLICE forces are limited in who they can sell to.

Fact: The legislation says they can sell to 'any person'. So as well as including obvious customers such as other forces, crime reduction agencies and partners, they can also sell to members of the public and commercial organisations.

Lottery funding buys anti-crime book for Homewatchers

COPIES of GMP's crime reduction guide have gone to 5,000 Homewatch members in South Manchester.

A grant of nearly £10,000 from the National Lottery's Awards For All scheme, which helps fund community groups and projects, paid for the bulk purchase of *How to Avoid Becoming a Target for Crime*.

The book compiled by PC Chris MacKenzie, the Force Crime Reduction Adviser, was published this year after the Greater Manchester High

Sheriff's Police Trust gave a grant of £30,000.

"The money has allowed us to buy at a discount at least one copy of the guide for every Homewatch member," said Gillian Price, the divisional Watch Scheme Administrator.

The amount of funding requested and granted was £9,752 after Chorlton Homewatch's bid document gave a breakdown of proposed spending.

The most that any group can get from Awards For All is £10,000.

No 1 CopperPot CREDIT UNION JUNE LOTTERY WINNERS

£2,000 John Carlin, retired
 £1,000 Terrence Smith, Norfolk
 £500 Adrian Tew, Gwent
 £250 Andrea Wild, GMP,
 Christopher Flowerday, N. Wales
 £100 Peter Jackson, N. Wales
 Gareth Jones, SOCA
 Andrew Sharp, Leics

Herbert Fearn, retired
 Christopher Cremin, GMP
 £50 Chris Marriott, GMP
 Paul Blyth, GMP
 Raymond Jones, retired
 Michael Potts, GMP
 Joseph Frodsham, retired
 John Crook, retired

Robert Foulkes, retired
 Margaret Pimlott, GMP
 Arun Sharma, Leics
 Simon Stocker, Hants
 Andrew Walker, GMP
 Katharine Vandersteen, Thames Valley
 Neil Peacock, GMP
 Rosemarie Hodgkiss, member relative



PARTNERS: Ch Insp Mark Lee with Andrew Redgrave, the ambulance service's operations manager in central Manchester, and paramedic Paul O'Neill.

Rapid response

EVERY Friday and Saturday night in the centre of Manchester, a police officer and a paramedic set out on patrol until the early hours in a rapid response ambulance car.

Their mission: immediate attendance at scenes of assaults and accidents.

On average, they deal with eight incidents a night – and in one case, they were on the scene of a tram fatality in less than 90 seconds.

Sometimes, they will respond to incidents beyond the city centre, such as the night they arrived first after a stabbing at Newton Heath.

A year on since the joint working arrangement between GMP and the North West Ambulance Service began, there are suggestions that it could be extended to other city and town centres in the region.

"Interest in our evaluation of how well it is working has been coming from other areas

and expansion is certainly possible," said Andrew Redgrave, the ambulance service's central Manchester operations manager.

Ch Insp Mark Lee launched the pilot project from Bootle Street after negotiating with the ambulance service.

It had become clear that the ambulance and police response to incidents in the city centre could be improved by a linked approach.

A year on, says Ch Insp Lee, commanders and staff have been 'overwhelmingly positive.'

He said there had been no negative feedback from either GMP or the ambulance service.

And apart from saving time both when incidents occur and afterwards, there has been another benefit.

Assaults and intimidation of ambulance staff are down.

As video clips are shown on OPUS.....

How the camera cops are reaching a wider audience

UP to 400 video clips of known offenders, suspects and ex-prisoners can now be seen across GMP on the OPUS intelligence system.

They have been compiled and edited into 20-second segments by Trafford Division's Video Intelligence Unit officers, PC Elaine Garrigan and PC Rick Hadfield.

The two officers were looking at ways of making their bank of up-to-date images more widely available when project manager Christine Jones suggested OPUS would be the ideal vehicle.

Based on current intelligence, Elaine and Rick target suspects and those recently out of jail by videoing them, editing the footage and making the film available to fellow officers at electronic briefings, often the same day.

The move to OPUS means the images are no longer restricted to Trafford but can be seen right across the Force area.

HOME VISITS

The work of the two officers also leads to further intelligence gathering, either as a result of home visits or through the identification of associates.

Anyone who is to be videoed is given a letter telling them they are being placed under surveillance.

But they aren't told when or how often.....

The two 'camera cops' trained themselves in video editing from a 350-page manual.

At least six other police forces have been in touch with them since their work was first publicised in Brief last year.

* In the Chief Constable's Excellence Awards this year, Elaine and Rick were runners-up in the Outstanding Team Performance category.

Elaine and Rick have received congratulatory e-mails from across the Force since their moving images went on to OPUS. These are some of the messages.

FILMING offenders is a fantastic idea and the downloading of footage on to OPUS is brilliant. We at Bury are in the early stages of carrying out similar work and we hope to be able to meet with Trafford Division to discuss best practice and obtain further guidance. We have recently compiled footage of some of our prolific persistent offenders, which helped with a reported robbery. The offender was wearing the same clothes in the video footage as in the robbery!

PC Anthony Nicholls and PC Andrea Grady, Persistent Offender Liaison, Bury.

I CAN'T believe that GMP and ACPO haven't considered this form of intelligence gathering before. It not only allows current appearances to be highlighted to investigating officers who have had previous dealings, but will also provide officers who have not dealt with a particular person a good general appearance base for fresh investigations. It certainly beats still photography hands down. If someone was to re-offend soon after release, not only is a current appearance on record, there is also a record of clothing and possible fresh marks etc. It may even show what mobile phone an individual currently has. What a great intelligence tool.

Hope this great idea is developed Forcewide for all serious and persistent offenders.

Det Con Pete Fawcett, Armed Crime Unit.

IT is one of the most innovative additions to the offender profile. During our OPUS



EDITING FOOTAGE: Elaine Garrigan and Rick Hadfield.

training sessions, we always demonstrate the function, which is well received by all officers of all ranks.

Sgt Karen Wild, OPUS Development Trainer.

I HAVE used footage in a number of jobs and found it very useful, especially for identification packages for the Dedicated Surveillance Unit.

Det Con Simon Akker, Armed Crime Unit.

THE footage is a lot more useful than the still images in a number of ways. It shows mannerisms and habits of the subject that otherwise wouldn't be seen on a still image.

Det Con Paul Costello, Xcalibre Task Force.

THIS type of footage will definitely improve our research, planning and briefing of staff. The quicker we get an image on prolific offenders Forcewide the better.

Sgt Robert Barr Operational Tasking Group.

IT is without doubt far better to show a moving image of one of our potential customers than the standard still photograph. You can pick up so much more from the moving image and, as a result, the memory retains it better. The feedback from all the staff is as above and very positive.

Sgt Dave Lees, Tactical Vehicle Crime Unit

The main advantage of the briefings containing video footage is that the quality is immensely more detailed than photographs, which invariably are out of date, of a poor quality and usually taken shortly after the suspect comes into custody when they are at their most uncompliant.

PC Trevor Gardner, Performance Management Officer, Traffic Network Section.

Museum Matters



by
Curator
Duncan
Broady



IT is hard to credit that in the early 1920s, the headquarters of Manchester CID had only one telephone.

It was in the detective inspector's office and he communicated with other offices along the corridor by means of a series of speaking tubes so that he could 'whistle up' the relevant detective and tell him to come and take a phone call.

This was one of the details that formed part of an induction talk on the history of policing given to new staff in the Operational Communications Branch, with an emphasis on the development through the years of police communication systems

TWO special events were laid on for younger visitors during school holidays - the Museum Duck Hunt and the Fingerprint Challenge.

Ten police ducks (you can buy them in the museum shop) were hidden around the building, and lollipops were on hand for every child who found them all.

GMP fingerprint officers helped with the second event, taking children's fingerprints, helping them identify the type of print and discussing the role of prints and how they help in the fight against crime.

Both events were a huge success and were devised and organised by Museum Officer Claire Mayle.

THE courtroom has again been used by crime scene investigators for evidence-giving training, but this time the students faced extra pressure. Sitting in the public gallery were several retired police officers who were in a group visiting the museum.

FOR the first time, the courtroom has been used for training student police officers. Hyde Training Unit provided them with an imaginary case and then they each gave their evidence to the court, observed by one of our museum volunteers playing the part of a magistrate for the day.

A third booking for Dennis

THE old Mill Street Police Station in the Bradford area of Manchester was, to say the least, a depressing pile, its Victorian decoration being mainly tiled walls in olive green.

The main entrance was by stone steps giving rise to a spacious foyer, from which impressive double doors led to a vaulted, gloomy corridor.

The tiled foyer was said to closely resemble one of those gentlemen's public conveniences so abundantly sited around the streets of Manchester in those days,

and over the years it was taken to be exactly that by drunken men wending their merry way home along Mill Street.

Despite the daily efforts of the reserve men as they mopped the floor and tiles, there always pervaded the stench of those nefarious activities..

Every cloud, however, has a silver lining. Those officers permanently confined to office duties, upon hearing offenders in the foyer, would drop whatever they were doing in order to effect an arrest.

The subsequent appearance at court the following morning brought them time off in lieu, a privilege normally enjoyed only by those officers out in the rain-swept nights.

From 'A Few Coppers More,' a third book of reminiscences of policing in Manchester in the 1950s and 60s by retired Sgt Dennis Wood, published last month.

It can be ordered direct from the publishers, P. & D. Riley, 12 Bridgeway East, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 6LD, tel 01928 713900, by sending a



cheque payable to 'P. & D. Riley' for £5.99 or from bookshops Waterstones, Borders or the GMP Museum (tel: 0161 856 3287).



Great Manchester High Sheriff's Police Trust

By Janet Wilcox



THE first in a series of High Sheriff's lunches was held in June at Sedgley Park as a way of thanking a selection of members for their help and support.

Hosted by Chief Constable Michael Todd, who chairs the Trust and who was accompanied by the new High Sheriff, Michael Oglesby, it was an occasion to discuss future projects and listen to ideas and suggestions from some of our new supporters.

As the GMP Band played, the guests, representing a range of members, met the Chief Constable and the High Sheriff for an informal chat over lunch to see how well the Trust is doing in

helping to tackle crime and young people's drug and alcohol misuse.

Before lunch, everyone gathered in the Music Room of Sedgley House, where presentations were made to the following for their contributions:

Mr Ken Taylor, a long-time member and support of the Trust who financed the John Armstrong Welch memorial garden at Sedgley Park; Danish Consul Christian Wewer, on behalf of A.E.W. Architects; Barbara Nicholls, Community Development Officer with Warrington Housing Association; and Brian Leach, Operations Director of H.J.Heinz.

Other guests were Ch Supt Lilian King, Manchester Evening News editor Paul

Horrocks, Maria Mathieson, Corporate Social Responsibility Manager with the

Cheshire Building Society, Anne Neild, the Chief Constable's PA, retired Supt Frank Doyle, who

accompanied Ken Taylor, and Eamonn O'Neal, TV presenter and director of Centini.



LUNCH GUESTS: Supporters of the High Sheriff's Police Trust with Chief Constable Michael Todd and High Sheriff Michael Oglesby.

RECENT RETIREMENTS

January to June

Police officers:

SUPERINTENDENTS: Michael Burke, Kevin Duffy, Gerald McGowan and Stephen Westcott.

CHIEF INSPECTORS: John Dineen, Mark Linnell, John Martin and Francis Raggett.

INSPECTORS: Stephen Barker, John Barnett, Kenneth Blore, John Guest, Ian Hamblett, Keith Hough, Stanley Lewin, April Martin, Zygmunt Olczyk, Gary Rowe, James Tierney and John Williams.

SERGEANTS: David Atkinson, Robert Berrington, Terence Costello, Frederick Edge, Michael Fleming, Paul Godling, Anthony Grimshaw,

Paul Hall, Shaun Kellett, Michael Keyworth, Christopher Lees, Joseph McGladdery, Wilfred Marshall, Stephen McGahey, Gary Mitchell, Ian Nicholls, Timothy O'Neil, Graham Platt, Janet Rimmer, Thomas Sweeney, John Taylor and John Wolstencroft.

CONSTABLES: Graham Ashton, Anthony Berry, Stefan Bidolak, Elizabeth Bisset, Keith Bond, Yvonne Broadbent, David Bullock, Joseph Byrne, Stephen Cannon, Stephen Carter, Stephen Chadderton, Steven Christey, Timothy Clarke, Yvonne Cowan, Andrew Coward, John Crook, Andrew Cullen, John Dawber, Paul Dearnley, Derek Dobinson, Malcolm Downs, Peter Dutton, Andrew

Eckersley, Mark Emmett, David Fielding, Peter Fisher, Martin Hague, Peter Harmer, Philip Hatton, Paul Higgins, Peter Hodgson, Mary Hough, Keith Hutchings, Paul Gerrick, David Kannenberg, David Lee, Bruce Loudon, Robert Macdonald, John Mason, Michael Mabey, Christopher Minshull, David Nutten, Glynn Olive, Peter O'Connell, Michael Oddy, Gareth Parry, Janet Pendlebury, Jill Peters, Robert Reid, Michael Ruscoe, David Russon, Timothy Sawford, Gary Scott, Stephen Skilton, Philip Smith, Michael Stanley, Steven Stubbs, Brian Sweeney, David Taylor, Lawrence Thurston, Peter Tracy, John Trwoga, Brian Urmson, Peter Winstanley, Andrew Wood

and Eric Woollams.

Police staff:

Sam Ashton, Carole Ashworth, Kathleen Beaven, Margaret Bowker, David Bradbury, Hilary Brown, Rose Buckley, Carol Burns, Lilian Bushell, Heather Cantrell, Kenneth Catlow, John Coulter, Joan Croll, Susan Davies, Austin Fletcher, Graham Flindle, Jean Gerrard, David Greenwood, Jennifer Hilton, Doreen Kay, Janice Lane, Lorraine Medley, Anthony McNally, Philip Oldroyd, John Potts, Jean Sayers, Keith Mottershead, Christine Myott, Winifred Power, Sandra Royle, Bernadette Steele, Mark Stewart, Brenda Tracy, Patricia Vagg, James Ward, Christine Wellings and Ann Wilkinson.

NQSC
People Count

Letters of Appreciation

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

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.

ABUSE VICTIM PRAISES THE DETECTIVE WHO HELPED HIM THROUGH

WRITE to thank GMP for the treatment I received after making a complaint about being abused as a child. It was with great trepidation that I rang the Child Protection Unit at Stockport and left a message about the abuse that occurred many years ago to me and members of my family.

I have dealt with **Det Con Christopher Pickup** throughout the case and he has been exceptionally patient, kind and understanding, not in any way sickly, but entirely professional.

I am pleased to say that it came to a successful conclusion and I feel that most of the reason for that can be laid at the door of Det Con Pickup. It has been a complex inquiry, completely denied by the then suspect all the way to a full trial.

Throughout that time, I felt entirely confident in the hands of the officer and his attention to detail. Thank you for excellent treatment by GMP.

Mr I.V.,
Birmingham.

OUR TRAUMA WAS EASED

WE suffered an aggravated burglary where three unknown males wearing balaclavas kicked open the front door and assaulted my partner with a 12-inch screwdriver up his nose. Thankfully, my partner confronted the offenders and

managed to force them back out of the door with a chair.

I would like to thank the officers who have been dealing with the case, **PC Sarah Wright** and **PC Gary Cave (Collyhurst)**, who were caring and understanding, **Det Con Mark Holbrook**, for being thoughtful and arranging to have a Home Link alarm fitted, the CSIs and the local PCSOs at Harpurhey for visiting us twice.

Thanks also to the Field Intelligence Officers at Grey Mare Lane, **Crime Reduction Adviser Dennis Brogan** and the staff and volunteers at Victim Support and Witness Service for helping to get us through this traumatic period.

Carole Gordon

QUICK SERVICE

I AM part of the Fraud Investigation Team at Oldham Metropolitan Council, and our team reported the theft of £1,200 worth of specialist equipment by a member of staff. We had made several attempts to retrieve this equipment without success.

Within an hour of the crime being reported, **PC Graham Turner** arrived at our offices and took a detailed report. He then found the offender and retrieved the full list of equipment.

In a matter of hours, the crime had been solved and all the equipment returned.

Emma Parker,
Corporate Counter Fraud
Officer, Oldham MBC.

HELP AT THE AIRPORT

WE arrived at Manchester Airport from Gran Canaria at 7.30pm, and due to the loss of our passports (found a day later), we

were held up for more than an hour and spent much time later looking for our pre-booked taxi.

We eventually spoke to **Traffic Warden Supervisor Ged Cross**. He kindly phoned our taxi driver on the outskirts of Preston, who then returned.

The driver wasn't in the best of moods, but cheered up when he was well paid for his extra journey.

We are grateful for the help and consideration shown by Mr Cross when we were in difficulty wandering around on a cold damp night.

Marcella & Richard Pilkington,
Fulwood, Preston.

CRUCIAL ROLE

MY 16-year-old Matthew was knocked down by a motorbike on the East Lancs Road and **Det Con Karen Brownlow** happened to be passing on her way back to Swinton Police Station. Matthew had suffered multiple fractures to his right leg and was also bleeding profusely.

Det Con Brownlow called for back-up and an ambulance before putting a tourniquet round his thigh, and she stayed with him until the paramedics arrived.

She has been modest about her part in helping Matthew, yet from what I have been told by eyewitnesses and medical staff, she played a crucial role. Without her quick thinking and immediate assistance, he would not be with us today.

Helen Blow, Worsley.

IF ONLY.....

THANK you for Respect Action Week in Hardy Lane, Chorlton.

For the first time in a long time, I left for work knowing my home would be safe. And that evening, with the police pod placed outside, my children were able to play freely in the garden.

My seven-year-old daughter summed it up: 'Mummy, I wish it could be like this all the time.'

A.B.,
Chorlton.

DEDICATION

MY daughter was raped 12 months ago and **Det Con Alison Barber** ran our case. She was just fantastic. Her attitude and dedication kept us all going and I don't think I could have got through without her. After the sentencing, she was there for us again.

H.M., Urmston.

REAL COMMUNITY POLICING

WE had an attempted burglary a few days before our daughter's wedding. **PC Matthew Pickles** assured me that over the weekend, when all the family would be staying away overnight, he would keep an eye on the property while he was on night shift.

We left feeling safe and secure, and after we returned, PC Pickles and **PC Edward Anderson** put a note through the letterbox after finishing their shift.

It said: 'As promised, we kept an eye on the house and everything seems in order.'

Now that really is 'community policing.'

Sheila Fox,
Alkington, Middleton.



GIFT BOXES: Manchester City Centre Crime Prevention Panel has funded three contingency boxes for use by officers on North Manchester Division.

They are available for major incidents and include features such as bomb tape, scene preservation tape, orange

tabards and log reports.

The Panel came up with the goods following an approach by Insp Mike Schofield (Events Planning Office) to secretary PC Stuart Pizzey.

Insp Schofield is pictured with Ian Kerr, who chairs the Panel.


Victim Support &
Witness Service
Greater Manchester

Working for victims of crime

Charity Dinner

15th September 2007
At the Radisson Edwardian Hotel
Tickets £50

Entertainment:

The Greater Manchester Police Band
Maxine Barrie as Shirley Bassey – 1st winner of
'Stars in Their Eyes'

Contact Kath Thomas: 0845 456 8800
Thomask@victimsupport-citymcr.co.uk

Speedy Salford

SALFORD was the first division in GMP to adopt the principles of simple, speedy, summary justice in magistrates' courts this month as part of a Forcewide roll-out, writes **Hayley Caulfield**.

CJSSS: MC, as featured in the June edition of Brief, will see each criminal justice agency changing or adapting the way they work to ensure that cases are processed through the criminal justice system quicker and without unnecessary delay.

For frontline officers, this means collating proportionate files and ensuring that where a guilty plea is anticipated, there is sufficient evidence for the file to be processed in the first instance to achieve one hearing for a guilty plea.

By improving the number of guilty pleas and ensuring that contested cases are dealt with swiftly, it is expected that 60 per cent of guilty pleas will be disposed of at first hearing, with 70 per cent of contested cases disposed of in two hearings.

The long-term impact of CJSSS:MC should be that officers will spend less time in court and more time working on the frontline, improving officer visibility to the public and allowing neighbourhood policing teams to be more responsive.

Supt Leor Giladi, who is overseeing local implementation on Salford Division, said:

"CJSSS:MC is not about changing the way we work, but working more efficiently, putting in resources where appropriate and improving the service we provide to victims of crime by making sure we channel our energy to best effect.

"Officers will be spending time on cases which matter and ensuring that time spent away from frontline policing is kept to a minimum, allowing us all to provide a better service to the public."

The timetable for other areas is:

Bolton – Oct (date tbc);
Bury – December;
Manchester A, B & C – Oct (date tbc);
Oldham – Oct (date tbc);
Rochdale – Sept 30;
Stockport – Oct 16;
Tameside – Nov;
Trafford – Nov;
Wigan – Dec.

Best yet, say airport police visitors



CZECH UP: from left, Sgt Dave Crompton-Guard, Ch Insp Chris Ullah and Supt Peter Turner with guests.

A DELEGATION of officials from the Czech Republic spent three days studying policing and aviation security at Manchester Airport.

They made the visit under the European Union Technical Assistance and Information

Exchange Programme, looking at security plans, patrolling and emergency response arrangements.

Bohdan Koverdinsky, of the Czech Transport Ministry, said that in the four years he'd been making such visits to airports across Europe, the Manchester trip was the most comprehensive

and informative by far.

His two colleagues were Olga Cervenakova, of the Czech Border Police, and Vitezslav Kulawiec, of the Interior Ministry.

Sgt Dave Crompton-Guard, who organised the visit and planned the programme, said: "It is satisfying to showcase what you do and find it so

well received.

"The Airport Section has always tried to uphold the highest possible standards in its security and planning arrangements.

"It is especially rewarding to receive plaudits from acknowledged experts in another country."

Road race marks Andy's long-running charity work

FOR the past 25 years, retired PC Andy O'Sullivan has been organising road and trail races and fun runs in the Rochdale area for charitable causes.

His efforts in putting together more than 300 races have twice been recognised at the highest level - first with a British Empire Medal and then with an MBE.

On Sunday, September 2, Andy's quarter century is to be marked - with the assistance of Rochdale Harriers - by a five-mile road and trail race, setting off from the Falcon Inn, Littleborough, at 11.15am.

All proceeds will again go to local charities, including Children of Chernobyl.

The entry fee is £5 for club runners, £7 for others and £1 extra if you sign up on the day of the race.

Postal entries need to be in by August 25.

Andy promises 'extensive' prizes, a commemorative tee shirt for all finishers and marshals throughout the hilly but scenic course.

The number of entries is limited to 400 and children are welcome.

* For further details, call 01706 750620 or e-mail andems.runners@btinternet.com.

Panto cheque

GMP's Stage Squad presented Elizabeth Fitzroy Support with a cheque for £121 raised by a raffle at the Saturday matinee of Snow White earlier this year.

The organisation is a national charity based in Sale since 1996 and provides daily support for 34 adults with learning and physical disabilities.

The donated money went towards buying a digital video camera to record theatre shows performed by the members.

Snow White was the Stage Squad's second pantomime and all three shows were a sell-out.

Producer Sean Kennedy

said: "It was well attended, even though it was the first time we had put on three consecutive performances.

"Last year, a lot of parents asked if we could include a

matinee, so we gave it a go and the tickets were sold out within weeks.

"We will certainly have a matinee performance in future."

And for our next presentation...

The group is now rehearsing its next adult cabaret show, to be performed at Hough End Centre on Friday and Saturday, September 28 and 29.

It is based on the

Oscars, and the £10 tickets are available from Sean on 07720 537733 or check out www.stagesquad.co.uk.

Sean is now writing the group's next pantomime, scheduled for February 22 and 23.



Stage Squad producer Sean Kennedy and Lorraine Roberts, who works for Elizabeth Fitzroy Support.

Barry and Andy score yet again

ALMOST 250 children from 20 Wigan junior schools took part in this year's John Heaton Schools Football Tournament at the JJB Soccerdome.

For the sixth year running, the event was organised by PC Barry White and PC Andy Finch.

"It was another tremendous success, with hundreds of spectators," said Barry.

"And once again, it helped in developing relationships between children and their local community officers."

The tournament was sponsored by Heinz, Asda Distribution, Co-op Late Shop and Wigan Council's Community Safety Partnership Unit.

The event is named after retired officer John Heaton, who used to be a community beat officer based at Pemberton.

He was there to watch the games and meet the teams.

Water polo cup returns

AFTER six years, the Police Sport UK water polo trophy has returned to GMP.

At this year's swimming and water polo championships in Middlesbrough, a North West team that included nine GMP players won the cup back from the Metropolitan Police with an 11-7 victory.

They defeated Scotland and the Midlands and then faced the Met in the final.

Representing GMP in the North West squad were Steve Davidson (Major Incident Team), Ian Wiggett (Rochdale), Andy Pearson (Rochdale), Graham Platt (Operational Communications Branch), Graham Ellery (Major Incident

Team), Mike Short (Public Order Training), Dave Broad (Serious Crime Division), Clem Jones (Rochdale) and Phil Anderson (Salford).

WINNING SMILE: Player-coach Mike Short and the PSUK water polo trophy. It was Mike's final PSUK championship as a serving officer.



BRIEF SPORT

Golden miles

WHEN four members of the Command Support Team at GMP Headquarters went to Blackpool for the day, it was far from a relaxing experience.

They ran 13 golden miles in the Blackpool Half-Marathon – and raised nearly £5,000 for two charities.

The runners, who entered the event separately rather than as a group, were Insp Catherine Pritchard, Sgt Sheila Mohammed, PC Ian Hill and Anne Powell.

Most of the money was raised by Catherine in

ongoing efforts involving her family and friends to help Tommy's, a charity that funds medical research into premature births, stillbirths and miscarriages.

"It helped my best friend recover after having a stillborn a few months ago," said Catherine, Staff Officer to ACC Rob Taylor.

Anne, PA to ACC Ian Seabridge, collected £700 for Myeloma UK, which raises awareness of multiple myeloma, a rare form of bone marrow cancer that killed her two brothers.



ON THE RUN: Anne Powell, Ian Hill, Sheila Mohammed and Catherine Pritchard.

A good start, but.....

AFTER some promising beginnings, there was disappointment for GMP in this year's two-day Police Sport UK indoor games championships.

In the women's darts doubles, the defending national champions, Lynne Smith (Wythenshawe) and her daughter Natalie (Bradford Park), played superbly on day one to top their group.

And in the mixed doubles,

Russ Arpino (Trafford) and Amy Blick (Bradford Park) also topped their group.

But it was a different story on day two.

After being ahead 2-0, Lynne and Natalie lost 3-2 to Scottish pair Tonya Cramphorn and Chrissie Mackenzie, who went on to win the doubles title.

Russ and Amy were 2-0 down to Durham Constabulary before fighting back to 2-2 with two tremendous finishes by

Amy, only to lose the final leg.

Mark Astbury (Trafford) fought hard, but was beaten in the semi-finals of the men's pool competition by Dan Singh (West Midlands).

In the table tennis semi-finals, Craig Hill (Oldham) played with nerve and skill, but was unable to get the better of Graham Metcalfe (Peebles), who went on to win the men's singles and described his match against Craig as 'hair-raising.'

Rochdale rise to the challenge

ROCHDALE won the GMP Challenge Cup with a 2-0 victory over Tameside at Curzon Ashton F.C.

On 18 minutes, a low shot from John Foster was blocked by the Tameside defence, only to fall at the feet of James Castle with his back to goal.

He turned and

hammered the ball into the top left corner of the Tameside net.

With 10 minutes to go, a long ball from Rochdale's defence was headed on by Tony Hanlon.

Then James Parkinson rounded Tameside's Jeff Taylor and keeper Jim

Forster to walk the ball into an empty net.

Afterwards, Rochdale's Gareth Davies received the Man of the Match award. Referee of the year was Graham Lawler, with Glyn Edwards accepting the First Division Trophy on behalf of the D Division.

ATHERTON THE STAR

FOUR GMP players were in a British Police Rugby League team that defeated the Czech Republic's national side 68-10.

Most prominent was

Dan Atherton (Rochdale), who clocked up seven conversions.

GMP colleagues on the trip were Mark Elvidge (Rochdale), Adam Fogarty

(Wigan) and Dave Edmondson (Tactical Aid Unit), accompanied by assistant national coach Damieon Pickles (Oldham) and ACC Ian Seabridge, who chairs the British Police Rugby

League Section.

In temperatures pushing 30C (86F), the police group played in a festival of rugby at the Beroun athletics stadium, where the spectators included 1,200 schoolchildren.

THE GMP team fought their way to the final of the Police Sport UK women's football tournament, only to be defeated 4-1 by the Metropolitan Police.

In the two-day event hosted by the Police Service of Northern Ireland, a skilful GMP team won Group A, then went on to defeat West Midlands 2-0 in the semi-finals.



TOP RIDER: PC John Bellamy (Trafford) is the national over-40s police cycling champion after winning two events in time trial championships at Swindon last month.

John won the 10-mile event among riders aged 40 and over and the next day went on to win the 25-mile race.

Trafford colleague Sgt Paul Shallicker came third among all competitors in the 10-mile race and fourth in the 25-mile event. To complete a successful weekend, GMP won the overall team prize for the 25-mile race, the third member of the team being PC Tony Lowe (Plant Hill).

Pictured from left are PC Ian Hunt (Trafford), who also competed, John Bellamy, Tony Lowe and Paul Shallicker.