



Chief Constable chooses the winners of his new awards **THE GMP 'OSCARs'**



Picture: Chris Oldham

BRAVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR: PC Paul Lowden



It was the night the star performers of GMP were honoured.

"We've had the Baftas, the Brits, the Oscars and the Comedy Awards," said Chief Constable Michael Todd.

"Well tonight, it is GMP's version of the Oscars."

The Chief Constable's Excellence Awards – eight new accolades recognising outstanding commitment and

leadership – were presented at a sponsored dinner for nearly 300 people at the Midland Hotel in Manchester.

Officers and staff throughout GMP nominated 117 people for the inaugural awards.

THE WINNERS...Centre pages

A judging panel drew up a shortlist of three finalists in each category and Mr Todd

selected the winners.

He told the guests: "In the police service, we are not good at saying thanks to people.

"We forget about the things that go right, the outstanding work and the things that make a real difference to people's lives.

"Tonight, that changes with this celebration of some absolutely excellent police work."

As well as the eight new

honours, three awards which used to be given at the Chief Constable's divisional ceremonies, and have now been added to the Excellence Awards event, were presented.

They were for the Community Police Officer of the Year, Student Police Officer of the Year and Diversity in Action.

Chief Constable writes – Page 2.

COUNTER TERRORISM UNIT IS OPERATIONAL FROM NEXT MONTH

Team of 250 will be in place by 2010

GMP is at the forefront of the fight against terrorism and has been given the responsibility for developing one of four Counter Terrorism Units in England and Wales.

The units are being created as part of a national counter terrorism infrastructure to meet the challenges of the threat from terrorists across the country.

GMP's CTU will be headed by Det Ch Supt Tony Porter and brings together the expertise of existing staff within GMP

Special Branch, the Regional Intelligence Cell and the GMP Anti-Terrorist Unit.

"This is a significant development and enhances the capability to protect the public from the threat from terrorists," Det Ch Supt Porter said.

"GMP, together with the other three CTUs, will support forces across the whole of the UK.

"A tremendous amount of work has taken place during the past few months to bring the existing resources together and to put

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THE VIEW FROM THE TOP

EVERY day, excellent work is taking place within Greater Manchester Police and all too often it goes unnoticed.

So I have been delighted to be able to hand out the first Excellence Awards this month to deserving winners.

We all know that recognising good work is extremely important and just saying 'thank you' can give people a real boost.

Until now, we have rewarded acts of bravery, but we have been slow to recognise outstanding

work and the contribution of teams across the Force.

I believe that 'recognising and rewarding good performance' is an important factor in motivating the men and women of Greater Manchester Police.

It is also something that I highlighted in the Leadership Charter, as I believe providing positive feedback is a sign of good leadership.

To all the winners of the awards and those who were nominated, I want to say thank

you for the amazing contribution you have made both to GMP and, more importantly, to the communities we serve.

I am grateful to everyone who nominated a colleague and helped make the first Chief Constable's Excellence Awards a success.

Michael J. Todd

Gary's guest appearance

Wounded PCSO is asked to present blood donor medals - and raffle money will help the hospital that treated him

A BLOOD transfusion, he says, saved his life. So Gary Etchells, the PCSO who was stabbed on duty in December, wanted to say thanks in some way to the anonymous donors.

He contacted the NHS Blood and Transplant Service (previously called the Blood Transfusion Service) and offered to help the scheme.

The result is that he has been asked to present the annual regional blood donor awards at Lancashire County Cricket Club headquarters on March 16.

A month later, Gary is to be guest of honour at a dinner-dance for GMP's PCSOs.

He and his wife Andie are to join colleagues and other guests at the event at Sedgley Park Centre on April 14.

Gary has been invited to choose a good cause to benefit from the proceeds of a raffle and auction to be held on the night.

He said he hopes enough money will be raised to buy a digital TV for a day room used by visitors to the men's surgical ward at Tameside General Hospital.

Gary, 47, had two emergency operations and a blood transfusion of five litres at the hospital after the stabbing incident in Stalybridge.

4th anniversary for PCSOs

He said: "The TV in the day room, which is constantly in use, isn't up to much.

"I thought that if I could get them a new one, it would be a small way of saying thanks for saving my life."

The Sedgley Park dinner marks the fourth anniversary since GMP's first PCSOs, who included Gary, went on patrol.

"It is also a way of celebrating the whole PCSO project," said Sgt Rachel Bedford, who is organising the event with Moira Fewster, of Continuous and Professional Development.

Guests will include representatives from various venues in Greater Manchester where PCSOs are trained.

The fund for Gary's good cause will be helped by an auction of paintings done by two admin assistants at Sedgley Park Centre, Georgina Bailey and Andrea Pomphrey.

* Tickets for the event, which is open to anyone in GMP, cost £21 for a three-course meal, including wine. E-mail Moira Fewster to book.

* Overnight accommodation in the motel-style Clitheroe Building costs £15 per person. E-mail Alison Murphy to book.



Recovering: PCSO Gary Etchells

brief

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From the Brief files

20 years ago

GMP appointed its first female divisional commander, Ch Supt Margaret Gornall, who moved from Personnel to South Manchester Division.

10 years ago

GMP became the first police force in the country to issue a yellow high-visibility suit specifically designed for traffic officers.

Terrorism from Page 1

things in place to make the CTU a reality."

The unit will be operational from Monday, April 2 and will report to Deputy Chief Constable Dave Whatton.

An additional 30 officers will be recruited to the CTU. In the next three years, the number of officers and staff will grow to

around 250.

Det Supt Dave Chetwynd has been leading the creation of the GMP CTU in line with the other three units.

A number of posts have recently been advertised nationally for people with existing specialist skills or who demonstrate potential to be trained to work effectively

in the CTU.

The announcement that four CTUs would be created nationally was made last September.

• In the next edition of Brief, we will put your questions about the CTU to Det Ch Supt Tony Porter. To submit a question, e-mail Derek Hornby at GMP HQ.



Photo: BILL MORRIS

AT the start of a series of consultations to strengthen community relations on the Manchester Metropolitan Division, a briefing was given to 40 community leaders by the division's Stop Search Forum, which includes both police officers and local people.

The leaders then split into teams to visit various groups across the inner-city area. Afterwards, the findings and opinions gathered by each team were collected by officers.



RETURN TRIP: A former prisoner held up a bank in Daytona, Florida, because he was missing the comforts of jail. Fed up with working as a roofer, he walked into the bank, told staff he was a robber and said: "You might as well call the police now." The man, who had served six years for bank robbery, sat in the lobby and waited for officers to arrive.

OLD LAGS: Germany has opened a purpose-built prison for pensioners. There are 50 inmates in the £5 million jail at Singen, where cells have been specially designed for the use of walking frames and wheelchairs.

SNAP JUSTICE: A man who dived into a river to escape police in Australia's Northern Territory was forced to give himself up after being attacked by a crocodile. The man, 45, who was wanted for breaching bail conditions, was bitten on the head. He got away by poking the crocodile in the eye.

TIGHT FIT: Border police found a 40-year-old illegal Chinese immigrant wedged in the dashboard of a car crossing from Mexico into California.

TAKING IT EASY: A man who stole a police car from outside a post office in Gunma, near Tokyo, said he had been too tired to walk home. The car had been left with the engine running while officers investigated a reported crime.

CASH STRAPPED: Police in the Bulgarian capital Sofia say they are so short of cash that they can't afford pens and paper to take statements and use 40-year-old typewriters held together by belts to file reports.

And nearer home.....

CLOSE SHAVE: Police spotted a driver leaning forward and using an electric shaver while he overtook a line of traffic in Perthshire at 70mph. The man, 39, who was banned for six months and fined £300 at Perth Sheriff Court for careless driving, is a health and safety inspector. He was on his way to a first-aid training course.

MUG SHOT: A burglar in Taplow, Buckinghamshire, left behind a vital clue at a house he had broken into – his mobile phone containing a photo of himself. The man, 44, was sentenced at Reading Crown Court to 160 hours' community service.

GMP is one of the top gay-friendly employers

REACHES NO.13 OUT OF 100 IN NATIONAL JOBS SURVEY

GMP has been named as one of the most gay-friendly employers in the country.

It has been placed 13th among the UK's top 100 employers for gay people by Stonewall, the gay rights organisation.

The ranking has been given in Stonewall's Workplace Equality Index for 2007.

"This was our first attempt at a place in the index and to come 13th out of 100 is a source of tremendous pride," said Sgt Julie Barnes-Frank, Co-ordinator of GMP's Lesbian and Gay Staff Affiliation.

GMP did even better, however, in a readers' poll organised by the Pink Paper.

They voted it the second best police force in the country on gay issues.

Evidence of GMP's policies and procedures was compiled and submitted to Stonewall by Julie, Sgt Kate Crompton (Diversity Command) and Roz Caplan, head of the Equal Opportunities Unit.

All three were then interviewed at GMP Headquarters, together with other officers and staff, after

Stonewall's workplace team had provisionally put the Force among the country's top 30 employers.

That led to a final placing of 13th with a mark of 87 per cent, tying with BT.

The average score of other police forces in the list is 76 per cent.

WINNER

Top employer in the index is IBM on 95 per cent. In second place with 94 per cent is last year's winner, Staffordshire Police.

In joint third place with 93 per cent are Manchester City Council and the Greater London Authority.

The Metropolitan Police is 29 places below GMP with a mark of 74 per cent.

Other police forces and their placings in the index are:

Hampshire (11), West Midlands (15), Bedfordshire (28), City of London (37), South Wales (joint 42 with the Met), Leicestershire (66), Devon & Cornwall (77), Gwent (80), and Essex (88).

The index measures 20 criteria covering an employer's policies and practices.

In a report with the index, Stonewall said GMP's monitoring of staff sexual orientation was an example of best practice.

It said: "GMP made a commitment to monitor sexual orientation alongside other categories back in 2004 and now monitors all strands of diversity at the point of police officer recruitment, applications for

specialist posts, applications to have or become a mentor or equal opportunities adviser and on leaving the organisation."

ACC Rob Taylor, Criminal Justice and Diversity Command, said: "I am delighted at this success. It's great news and reflects well on GMP."

The Force has joined Stonewall's 'diversity champions' programme, which has 254 members across Britain representing four million employees.



OUT IN FORCE: Officers march in last year's Manchester Pride parade.

Letters of Appreciation

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

LOCAL, WELL RESPECTED AND THEY HAVE RETRIEVED MY MOTHER'S STOLEN SAVINGS

More than £9,000 was stolen from my mother's bank account by someone using her bank card and PIN number. My mother, who is 83, was extremely upset and believed she had lost

her life savings.

Local people in Norden village suggested I contact **Det Con Andy Curzon** and **Det Con Neil McCaffrey** and seek their advice. They came to see me and spoke to my mother, reassuring

her that they would investigate the matter themselves. Within a few weeks, they had arrested two local people. One was my mother's cleaner and the other the cleaner's partner. Furthermore, the officers made

representations to my mother's bank to try to get her money reimbursed, and I am happy to say that due to their efforts, the bank has now repaid my mother in full.

Both officers are local men and

well respected in Norden village. They have a reputation as approachable and diligent officers who are a credit to the force.

G. A.,
Norden, Rochdale.

THE OFFICER WHO SAVED CHRISTMAS

I AM a single parent and have a son with a medical condition which allows me to work only part-time.

I was trying to save a little money and bought an iPod for his Christmas present from e-bay costing £90.20 in total from a seller in Wigan.

I did not receive the iPod, and after going through the channels via e-bay, found it would take 75 days for a refund of only £70.

Someone suggested I contact the police because the seller had not responded to any enquiries.

Time was running out for me as I couldn't afford to replace this amount of money and Christmas was getting closer.

A local officer started the ball rolling with yourselves, and whatever negotiating skills were put into play at Wigan by **PC Angelo Disalvo**, the matter was resolved and I received a cheque for a full refund on December 23.

In short, Christmas was saved.

I'd like to thank PC Disalvo for saving the day and resolving a difficult matter. I have been informed that this is not often the case for other e-bay users.

Kay Stangroom,
Washington,
Tyne & Wear.

WHY I FEEL BETTER

I WOULD like to congratulate **PC Andrew Walsh**, our local community beat officer, on the fine job he is doing. He is what real police officers are supposed to be like.

After much hesitation, I have taken on the position of pharmacy manager. It has suffered from lots of crime in the past, including windows being smashed while we were open and an attempted car-jacking of the pharmacist's car.

Although still feeling some

insecurity, I feel a lot better with officers like PC Walsh around.

He dealt with a recent shoplifting in a gutsy manner, and he regularly pops his head round the door to check if everything is all right.

Faisal Choudry,
Co-op Pharmacy,
Ayres Road, Old Trafford.

STEVE IS A CREDIT

PERIODICALLY, forces experience demands beyond their capabilities. In support of these demands, the Police National Information and Co-ordination Centre (PNICC) is activated by the ACPO President, Ken Jones.

Once PNICC is activated, police officers are requested, at short notice, to attend the PNICC offices in central London and mobilise police officers and staff around the country to the host force.

An immense expectation is placed on our colleagues to learn a new IT system and deal directly with forces who may be reluctant to release their own staff.

The success of mobilisation can be attributed to the dedication and persistence of many of the professionals who attend and work with the PNICC office.

Operation Safeguard is such an example. When the Government declared that due to prison overcrowding, prisoners would occupy police cells, PNICC was activated to ensure the police-prison liaison was enhanced through a clear line of communication.

I would like to thank **Sgt Steve Gerrard** (Salford) for the work he has undertaken while at PNICC.

It has been a credit to Sgt Gerrard's ability to grasp problems from the outset and deal with them, together with his inter-personal skills, that the operation has run so smoothly.

I would also like to thank GMP for allowing the attachment.

Paige Kimberley,
PNICC Manager.

IMPRESSED

I WAS sitting in my lounge at 6.30pm when a young man broke in and entered the room.

I was very scared to be faced with a total stranger like this. He stole two lots of house keys and also my daughter's iPod. I rang 999 and officers arrived within 10 minutes.

I felt a whole lot more relaxed after speaking to **PC Jeffrey Taylor** and his partner and was impressed with the way they called on my neighbours to advise them.

D.T.,
Droylsden.

FRAUD VICTIMS PRAISE CID TEAM

MY wife and I were victims of fraud by ——— and I am writing to let you know of the dedication of the team who worked on the case.

Originally investigated by **Det Con Andy Derbyshire**, it was taken over by **Det Con John Ashington** and **Det Con Carol Brittain**.

During the course of this complex investigation, Det Con Ashington kept all victims fully informed. His discussions with the financial institutions involved has resulted in some of them recognising failings in their own systems and they have repaid monies which had been stolen.

We are hopeful that Det Con Ashington's efforts will result in further payments being made in the near future.

J.L.,
Davenport,
Stockport.

SENTENCE has been passed at the Crown Court on ——— for financial irregularities that have brought distress to many people in Stockport.

I was involved in a small way and have helped to support an elderly colleague whose affairs were much more damaged.

Throughout the investigation, we were lucky to have **Det Con John Ashington** and his colleagues working on our behalf.

It is not the easiest job to deal with a large number of elderly, shocked and angry people, but we always had support and sympathy as well as feeling the police team was doing an excellent job.

That will probably be the only happy memory most of us have of this period.

A.F.,
Higher Offerton Green,
Stockport.

GIVE THEM AN OSCAR

SPECIAL thanks to **PC Lance Thomas** and **PC Graham Rothwell** (Grey Mare Lane) for taking part in our annual Live4City pantomime in January. In addition to their normal match day duties at the City of Manchester stadium, they have taken part in the pantomime for the past two years and their attendance is greatly appreciated. They gave up hours of their own time to rehearse their Oscar-worthy performance and managed to show the under-16s, who were the main stars of the show, a friendlier side to policing. We are already scripting their parts for the next panto!

Liz Douglas,
Manchester City FC.

ORDEAL EASED BY OFFICER'S APPROACH

MY son assaulted my ex-partner who I was with for a number of years when my children were young.

Both my children and I endured horrible outbursts of violence from this man. Some 10 years later, my son met him by chance and in a fit of anger, gave him what he had given us.

The way in which **PC James Gratrix** handled the situation on arresting my son should be highly praised.

He was sympathetic and understanding, and my son answered his questions honestly and politely because he had a great deal of respect for PC Gratrix.

My son received a six-month referral order with extensive counselling to overcome his childhood experiences, which is long overdue. I believe he will stay out of trouble and be a law-abiding citizen.

The whole distressing experience I faced at the time of his arrest was made much easier by the conduct and professionalism of PC Gratrix, which I both admire and appreciate.

K.H.,
Flixton.

HEART WARMING

IT is down to **Sgt Neil Charnock** and **PC Andrew Benson** that, following a road accident, my husband is with me and our two boys today.

They will never know how grateful we are. Even if it was just part of their job, their quick thinking and actions were beyond belief, and it is heart warming to know there are still people like them around.

Christina Hamblett,
Worsley.

PLEASE KEEP THE MOUNTED PATROLS

ENCLOSED are several sheets detailing resident satisfaction with the increased police presence in Sale Moor and in particular the mounted patrols.

Appreciation

Talking to people outside the shops, there is overwhelming support for the mounted police presence, which has provided reassurance and also created great interest for the children. Many residents feel safer.

*Graham Roe,
Chair,
Sale Moor Community Partnership.*

Among the comments on the sheets enclosed by Mr Roe:

Fantastic to see the mounted police. Nice to see them stop and talk to all the community.....

The mounted police are a welcome addition to the visible policing, along with the PCSOs. Hope they stick around.....

The mounted police make you feel safe in our home.....

It should have happened months ago. I have also noticed less drinking and I am not so scared about going to the shops at night....

On Friday and Saturday nights at 10.30, I heard the mounted patrol. It makes you feel things are being done to make the area safe.....

I hope this continues for a long time. It would lower crime and make people feel more safe.....

We are pleased to see the presence of mounted police on a regular basis and certainly hope it continues.....

MORE THAN I EXPECTED

I WAS involved in a collision and was taken by ambulance to Rochdale A&E. The other driver and passenger made off, leaving me in a state of shock.

While being treated in hospital, I was spoken to by **PC Ben Brunt** and **PC Paul Slater** who showed a sympathetic and calming nature far above what I would have expected from busy police officers today.

They also attended at my home and contacted my insurance company to ensure the necessary information was supplied without delay.

*Mrs F. V. Upham,
Middleton.*

GOOD TO KNOW THERE ARE OFFICERS LIKE THIS

I WORKED with **PC Janet Ramsden** (Vulnerable Adult Liaison) in connection with a man we are supporting to live in a house in Kearsley.

He has a learning disability, a history of challenging behaviour and minor offences and needs skilled support and guidance if he is to make the most of living in the community after a

number of years in hospital and secure services. After he set two small fires outside his house, I was impressed with the way **PC Ramsden** interviewed him with great patience, explaining things carefully and using words, gestures and pictures to ensure he understood.

Whether he makes a success of life in the community is uncertain, but I feel that while reoffending is possible, the likelihood has been reduced by the process of caution that **PC Ramsden** led him through.

We specialise in working with vulnerable adults and it is reassuring to know police in Bolton have invested resources in an officer with expertise in this area.

*Philip Schofield,
Head of Nursing and Care,
Community Care Options,
Egerton, Bolton.*

LIFE SAVER

MY mother, aged 83, was admitted to hospital after being found by **PC Alan Twentyman** with hypothermia and cuts to her feet in a stream at Heald Green following a call from a member of the public.

Had **PC Twentyman** not acted promptly in entering the stream to drag her from the rising waters as she slipped in and out of consciousness, it is likely she would not be here today.

*Janice Holden,
Cheadle Hulme.*

WELCOME ASSISTANCE

WE participated in a multi-agency disaster exercise at Liverpool John Lennon Airport, and our team was greatly assisted by **Sgt Bill Parker** (HOLMES and Casualty Bureau Training Unit) and **Sgt Merle Holmes** (Manchester Airport), who performed the role as observers.

Throughout the planning and observation, they were able to provide assessment, advice and feedback from the exercise to assist with our development.

*Det Insp Phil McEwan,
Major Incident Team,
Merseyside Police.*

SPEED IN SOLVING CRIME LEFT US BREATHLESS

WE had a break-in at our premises and your officers woke us up to tell us. We were extremely shocked and dismayed, but **Det Con Garry Gregory** helped us feel more at ease.

He promised us an early result, and sure enough, most of the property was returned to us the same day and one suspect arrested.

The rapidity in solving the crime took our breath away. What fantastic team work.

Special thanks to **Det Con Gregory, Det Con Nicholas Price, Det Con Damien McLaughlin, Det Con Philip Moulsher, PC Neil Melling** and **PC Victoria Chew.**

*Jackie and Alex Price,
Milnrow.*

MAGNIFICENT RESPONSE

WHILE working from my office at Sedgley Park, I was contacted by my partner, Patricia, in a very distressed state to say that someone was trying to break into our property through the bathroom window.

I contacted the Force Duty Officer, who was **Insp Sully Sultan**, and explained the predicament. He assured me that he would deal with the situation and come back to me.

He did so within a minute to say that the police were responding as we spoke.

I left Sedgley Park and returned to our property to find the police had already arrived and were taking a statement from my partner.

The officer who attended was **PC Amy Parrott** from Chadderton. She conducted herself exceptionally well and was very polite and professional in all aspects of her inquiry.

We were served magnificently by both **Insp Sultan** and the prompt response of **PC Amy Parrott** on that early morning.

*George Forti,
Welfare Officer
GMP Force Welfare Team.*

IN BRIEF.....

THE calm and kind manner of **PC Ian Littlewood** (Roads Policing) helped me immensely after my car was hit by another car pulling out from a side road in Salford. He was extremely helpful and supportive, and I am grateful for his assistance.

*Anita McHale,
Prescot, Merseyside.*

EXCELLENT service was provided by **PC Marissa Tomkins** (Greenheys) when she assisted me with a domestic violence victim. She went out of her way on more than one occasion for the victim to feel reassured, and I feel that if it was not for her, the offender may not have been arrested.



*Rosiee Rafiq,
Victim Support & Witness Service,
Manchester.*

THANKS for a really good website. It helped me a lot to find what I wanted.

*Hayley Howard,
Droylsden.*

AFTER my car was broken into, **PC Andrew Westwell**, our local community beat officer, arrested a suspect and regained my property in less than an hour.

*Mark Downs,
Leigh.*

WE enjoyed the play, Bogus Caller, put on for us by the Halliwell Theatre Company and arranged by Crime Reduction Adviser **Marie Brown**. It gave us all plenty to think about and what we could do to help ourselves.

*Mrs Florence Russell,
Rise & Shine Club,
Romiley.*

WE were impressed with the professional manner and reassurance of **PC Sue Hazell** (Chorlton) when she came to take a statement after we were burgled. She also returned to provide us with extra security advice.

*Dr Anthony Dysart,
West Didsbury.*

WHAT an asset is **PCSO Neil Bevan**. It would be great to learn that he will be staying in this area. It would be a shame to lose such a trustworthy and reliable officer.

*Hayley Tomlinson,
Edgeley.*

A LONG investigation involved a member of hospital staff who was suspected of stealing money from patients.

PC Darren Whitehead continued the inquiry in a sensitive and professional manner to its conclusion, even though the CPS decided not to institute proceedings.

*Alan Trafford,
Security Services Manager,
Salford Royal University Teaching
Hospital*

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.**

Nearly 8,000 back Oake petition

ALMOST 8,000 people e-mailed a petition on the 10 Downing Street website asking for a reversal of the decision not to give murdered officer **Det Con Stephen Oake** a posthumous honour.

The petition ran for three months, and when it closed in mid-February, a total of 7,991 people had added their names.

It was started by a GMP special constable, **Dave Brettell** (Trafford) and supported by Chief Constable **Michael Todd** and Greater Manchester Police Federation.

The petition called on the Prime Minister to step in and reconsider the decision made by an honours committee.

It said a posthumous award - which many campaigners say should be a George Cross - would show that the 'ultimate sacrifice' made four years ago by **Det Con Oake** had not been forgotten.

CASH BACK

A BOX of clothes donated anonymously to the Golborne branch of Wigan and Leigh Hospice contained something extra - £13,000 in cash.

The money was discovered when hospice volunteers were sorting through the box early last December.

Despite police appeals to find if the cash had been left by mistake, no one came forward either to claim it or to give an explanation.

Last month, it was handed back to the hospice by **Ch Insp Andy Baddeley**.

"It's a shame no one told us where the money came from," he said, "but we are pleased it has gone to a good cause.

"We ran quite a big appeal just before Christmas and a few people enquired, but none proved to be the owner."

The hospice's chief executive, **Stuart Liptrot**, said: "We have no idea where the box came from.

"We are delighted to be able to put the money to good use, but we didn't want to take it if it was never intended for us."

Mark of quality

FOUR years ago, it was one of only six to win Quality Approval status from Centrex, the Central Police Training and Development Authority.

But now GMP's Learning and Development Branch has left the others behind by becoming the

first in the country to achieve Centrex's new higher-grade certification.

Centrex inspectors who visited the branch in January highlighted a number of strengths and 'areas of noteworthy practice' – including the 'enthusiasm and professionalism displayed by all

staff at all times.'

As part of the award process, the branch will be invited to share experiences with other forces.

Director of Learning and Development Cathy Butterworth paid tribute to the work of Training Co-ordination Manager Aileen Lockhart and her colleague, PC Angela Anderton, in spearheading the branch's re-accreditation effort.

ACCREDITED

"It is good news for all our customers who can be

assured that their training is externally accredited and is entirely fit for their specific purposes," Cathy said.

A report to the Force Strategic Management Board said: "By securing this award, GMP Learning and Development Branch can confirm its status and position at the forefront of providers of quality learning products.

"The achievement of the Centrex new Quality Approval award will greatly assist with the promotion of GMP on a national basis and enhance its income generation potential."

The Centrex quality award was introduced in the late 1990s to encourage higher training standards.

Learning and Development Branch secured its first individual quality mark in 1999 and went on to gain accreditation for the full branch, together with five other police forces, in 2003.

** Launch of e-learning system - Page 12.*

Learning and Development Branch is first in country to win new grading



Drug Co-ordinator Sgt Steve Brough (far left) with NVQ achievers from two courses he ran,

Youth drug study brings NVQ successes

DURING the second half of 2006, I ran two NVQ courses entitled 'Working with young people in custody,' which were attended by a wide range of officers and staff from all three divisions in the city.

The course was designed from scratch with the assistance of a drug charity, Parents Against

Drug Abuse.

It was rated as NVQ Level 3 and required 15 hours of classroom input and 15 hours of work outside the classroom.

It looked at issues around drug awareness, working with parents and carers, working with agencies and general matters on

dealing with young people and the effects of substance abuse.

The £20,000 funding came from the Young Persons Arrest Referral pilot scheme in the city.

Twenty-two members of GMP in varying roles across the city – detention officers, area policing team officers, school-based

officers and PCSOs – completed the course, together with four members of the Youth Support Team.

The culmination was a presentation day at West Didsbury Police Station in January when the students received their certificates.

by Sgt Steve Brough,
Drug Co-ordinator,
Metropolitan and South
Manchester Divisions

The course has been fully evaluated and accredited – so it can be run again at any time.

** For further information about the course, Sgt Steve Brough can be contacted in the Partnership Office at Bootle Street Police Station on extension 66072.*

NOW BROUGHT TO BOOK - THE GMP FAMILY GUIDE TO STAYING SAFE

FROM all corners of GMP has come hints, tips and advice on ways of making life harder for criminals.

The result: a crime reduction book – the most comprehensive guide of its kind ever produced by the Force – called 'How to Avoid Becoming a Target for Crime.'

It was launched in January to representatives from businesses and councils across Greater Manchester, with a first print run of 20,000 copies.

Crime reduction advisers, detectives, PCSOs, Watch Scheme leaders and council community safety experts have all contributed to the 100-page book.

It has been compiled by PC Chris MacKenzie, the Force Crime

Reduction Adviser, who was joined at the launch by Deputy Chief Constable Dave Whatton.

The book is available for any

Published with a £30,000 grant from High Sheriff's Police Trust

organisation to buy for their staff, including councils, businesses and community groups.

Profits will help to provide free copies to victims of crime and to groups of people most at risk, such as the elderly.

The Greater Manchester High Sheriff's Police Trust gave a grant of almost £30,000 for production of the guide, following a joint bid for funding by

the Force Operational Policing Unit and GMAC (Greater Manchester Against Crime).

"The grant has enabled us to produce an informative guide that will help people protect themselves, their families and their

homes," said PC MacKenzie.

"The book has been professionally designed and illustrated and is very readable in a style comparable with general non-fiction books."

Valerie Watson, GMP's Sponsorship and Funding Supervisor, said: "We are encouraging organisations to buy this book for their staff and we hope they will seize the opportunity to help reduce crime in Greater Manchester."

The book covers all aspects of security, from burglary prevention to personal safety and vehicle crime.

There are sections on giving advice to young children, the law relating to defending yourself from an intruder, a guide to different types of burglar alarm.....even legal guidance on putting up barbed wire.

Information aimed specifically at students and pensioners is also included.

'How to Avoid Becoming a Target for Crime' costs £2.50. Copies can be obtained by contacting the Divisional and Partnership Support Unit at GMP Headquarters on 0161 856 2211 or by e-mailing:

howtoavoidbecomingatargetforcrime@gmp.police.uk

Postage and packing is 75p per copy. The book can also be read on the GMP Intranet.



BOOK LAUNCH: Deputy Chief Constable Dave Whatton, PC Chris MacKenzie and Ruth Fairhurst, Assistant Chief Executive of Bury Council, who was one of those contributing to the content.

Most wanted – the burglar's favourite items

ALONG with ready cash, the top items for burglars in Manchester are mobile phones, laptop computers, TVs and digital cameras.

Investigators say these are the most burgled possessions at break-ins across the city.

"They are particularly attractive to criminals because they are high in value and easy to transport," Det Insp Vanessa Jardine, of the Metropolitan Division, said.

"Televisions and computers used to be heavy and difficult to move, but this is no longer the case.

"Although the average home contains much more valuable equipment now than 10 years ago, many people still have outdated security measures in place."

INSECURE

Recent figures show that one in three burglaries in Greater Manchester occur when criminals enter a property through an insecure door or window.

Officers hope that publicising the burglar's most wanted list will encourage more people to pay attention to home security.

"Burglars are on the look out for these

items, so it is important that they are not on display in windows," Det Insp Jardine said.

"If anyone can see these items from outside your property, you are more likely to become a victim.

"Locking your doors and windows properly and using a light timer can significantly improve the security of your home. It really is easy to make it hard for burglars."

Jewellery, MP3 players and car keys are among other items regularly targeted by criminals.

Officers are also encouraging people to safeguard personal property such as mobile phones, laptop computers and other electronic equipment by registering them free at www.immobilise.com.

McCaffrey milestone

THE McCaffrey police family reached a milestone recently.

For 50 unbroken years, there has been a McCaffrey serving at Rochdale – and between them, family members have clocked up more than 100 years' service.

First in line was Det Con John McCaffrey.

He joined the former borough force in January 1957 and retired from GMP's Rochdale Division in 1987.

His son, Det Con Neil McCaffrey, is a Rochdale CID officer, having joined GMP in 1982.

And Neil's wife, PC Kay McCaffrey, who has served 22 years at Rochdale, is currently the division's ASBO officer.

Another Rochdale officer, PC John Ellis, with 26 years' service, also has a McCaffrey family connection.

He is Neil's cousin – his mother was John McCaffrey's sister.

The half-century of McCaffreys serving non-stop at Rochdale was reached in mid-January.

* 150 years of Rochdale policing – Page 16.



JUSTINE CURRAN

Two new ACCs are appointed

DAVE THOMPSON



SHE is GMP's first female assistant chief constable. He was GMP's youngest chief superintendent.

Justine Curran and Dave Thompson were promoted to the Command Team last month as Chief Constable Michael Todd redefined the responsibilities and portfolios of his ACCs.

Both of the new ACCs headed Manchester divisions before their promotions.

ACC Curran, 39, who was North Manchester Divisional Commander, based at Bootle Street, started her career

with GMP in 1989 as a Wigan constable.

She returned to the Force four years ago after a brief spell with Merseyside Police.

Born in Sheffield and brought up in Wigan, she has a degree in Classical Studies from Hull University and an MA in Police Management. She is married with two children.

ACC Thompson, 38, joined GMP 17 years ago after graduating from Liverpool University with a law degree.

He was appointed the first head of the new Metropolitan Division, based at Longsight, in 2004.

Born in Middleton, he lives in Stockport and is married with two children.

The Chief Constable said the two officers were 'incredibly talented individuals' with excellent track records.

Police Authority chairman Derek Osbaldestin said their careers with GMP had been 'impressive'.

He said: "GMP is one of the most improved police forces in the country, which would not have been possible without the commitment and dedication of senior officers such as these."

Boosting forensic skills

THE clues were all there and police at the scene of the crime had to spot them.

But what made things different from the normal routine was that as the officers went about their business, they were being observed.

And afterwards, they were given a detailed breakdown of how successfully they had performed.

More than 200 frontline uniformed officers at Stockport are taking part in a training course on crime scene investigation to improve their forensic skills.

A vacant flat at a block under renovation is being used for the simulated burglary.

A window has been broken to gain entry, cupboards have been rifled, a mattress overturned, a bottle of fizzy orange taken from the fridge and half consumed....

The course is being run by Phil Brimelow, Stockport's



ON THE SCENE: PC Vicki Bailey and Insp Dermot Morrissey with Volume Crime Scene Investigator Natalie Entwistle playing the part of the victim in forensic skill training at Stockport.

Volume Crime Scene Supervisor, and Sgt Mike Davies, of West Didsbury Area Training Base.

"It aims to make officers more forensically aware so that they can begin to gather vital evidence as soon as they attend a crime scene such as a burglary," Phil said.

One of the first to take part in the 'refresher' training was Ch Supt Neil Wain, head of Stockport Division.

He was given full marks in passing the course, but admitted he found it 'a real challenge.'

He said: "Normally, we would bring in a crime scene investigator to do the majority of this work.

"But by making our frontline officers more forensically aware, they can begin to gather vital evidence as soon as they enter a property."

As the Credit Union moves to bigger premises.... New building is named in tribute to late GMP officer

THE name of a former GMP officer has been given to the new headquarters of the country's biggest credit union, the No 1 CopperPot.

Slater House at Cheadle Royal Business Park, near Stockport, has been named after Insp Chris Slater, who died suddenly in retirement four years ago.

Chris, who was based at Bolton in traffic planning, was a member of the union's board of supervisors.

Following the union's move from Progress House at Reddish, Stockport, his widow, Susan, was invited to perform the opening of the new premises in January, accompanied by son Nicholas and daughter Victoria.

"Chris was very influential in establishing our credit union as a major force within the movement," said General Manager Frank Corcoran, who heads a staff of 13.

"It was in tribute to his work and his enthusiasm that it was decided to name the building after him."

MERGER

The No 1CopperPot started life as the Police Credit Union when it was formed by Greater Manchester Police Federation 21 years ago.

Following a merger in 2004, it now has 16,500 members from every police force in England and Wales, £40 million in assets, and reserves of around £3.5 million.

It has also outgrown its Stockport offices.

Mr Corcoran said: "We have used the move as an opportunity to upgrade our computer systems so that we can add to our product range in the future.



Photo: BILL MORRIS

IN CREDIT: Police widow Susan Slater and Insp Chris Burrows, chairman of the No 1 CopperPot Credit Union. The union's new building is named after Susan's late husband, Chris.

"Plans for new products are in the pipeline, and the new premises will enable us to cope better with this expansion."

In the near future, it is hoped to offer ISAs and facilities for establishing child trust funds.

£££ *At the annual general meeting, which was held on the same day as the opening ceremony, the union announced dividend rates of 4.3 per cent on instant access accounts and 5.3 per cent for three-month notice accounts.*

February winners in the No 1 CopperPot Credit Union's monthly lottery draw:

- £2,000 Terence Elliott, GMP.
- £1,000 Rachel O'Shaughnessy, GMP.
- £500 Patricia King, GMP.
- £250 Jeremy Wycherley, North Wales and Jeremy Millington-Pipe, Leics.
- £100 Michael McAllister, retd, Keith Sharpe, retd, Paul Scott, GMP, Philip Parrans, GMP, and Margaret Austin, Lincolnshire.
- £50 Pauline Heath, GMP, Trevor Marshall, Humberside, Malwyn Carnall, retd, David Hartwell, GMP, Matthew Rusbrook, GMP, Hilary Ramsey, N. Wales, James Astbury, N. Wales, Deborah Naden, GMP, Natasha Brown, GMP, Tim Ward, Notts, John O'Malley, GMP, Denver Helsby, GMP, Lian Smith, Leics, Karen Ayers, relative, Lucille Barville, GMP.



Charlotte's transfer from PR to PC

CHARLOTTE MAHER arrived at GMP as a public relations officer and is departing as a police officer.

She is to be a constable with Cheshire Police after two years handling PR for North Manchester Division.

Charlotte, 26, lives in Cheshire and says it was for that reason that she applied to the county force last year.

When she joined GMP, she had no thoughts of becoming an officer.

It was only as a result of what she saw, heard and experienced while working out of Bootle Street that she decided to make the move.

"The more I thought about it, the more appealing the idea became," she said.

Her divisional work has included

helping to publicise the City Centre Safe and Think Safe, Drink Safe campaigns.

Charlotte, who has a degree in journalism from the University of Central Lancashire, was news editor of Southport radio station Dune FM before moving to GMP.

Her transfer into uniform takes place this month

WOMEN IN POLICING

To mark the 20th anniversary of the British Association for Women in Policing, there will be a special feature in the May edition of Brief. If you have a story to tell about how the roles of female officers and staff have changed over the years, get in touch with Brief.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT



Det Supt Tony Brett

NOMINATED for his work as co-ordinator of the Major Incident Team, which resulted in an improvement in GMP's response to the investigation of major crime. Was instrumental in improving the team's efficiency and effectiveness. In 2005, an HMIC report described the team as a 'flagship for the Force,' and in

2006, GMP was one of only two police forces graded 'excellent' and 'improving' in investigating major and serious crime.

Runners-up: PC Jeffrey Pearcey (Harpurhey) and Insp David Jones (Bury), who has recently retired.

Sponsor: Post Office. John Scott, head of security for Royal Mail, is pictured with Det Supt Brett and the Chief Constable.

OUTSTANDING TEAM PERFORMANCE



Cold Case Review Unit – Det Insp Jeff Arnold, Det Sgt Andrew Meeks and Det Cons Perry Sinacola, Michaela Clinch, Kenneth Brooks, Lesley Connor and Lynda Parry.

THE team was established in 2004 to re-investigate undetected homicides, rapes and other serious sexual offences going back 20 years or more. It was the

first in the world to secure a conviction using a revolutionary DNA test. Officers have apprehended some of the most dangerous criminals, leading to five stranger rape charges, a serial offender and one man charged with murder. Offenders have been jailed for rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, indecent assault and robbery.

Runners-up: PC Elaine

Garrigan and PC Richard Hadfield, Trafford Video Intelligence Unit, and the Operation Protector team, which planned the successful policing of the Labour Party Conference in Manchester last year.

Sponsor: Manchester Evening News. News Editor Sarah Lester (second from left, front) pictured with the team and Chief Constable.

EXCELLENCE

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Philip Bridgford

WORKING in Trafford Operational Communications Room, Philip is a call handler, radio operator and Police National Computer update operator. Nominated for his positive attitude, he has several times reduced caller queues to zero. He is also a mentor and

recently received a branch award as Police Staff Employee of the Year.

Runners-up: Michael Howarth and PC Peter Terry (both Tameside OCR).

Sponsor: Greater Manchester Police Authority, whose chairman, Derek Osbaldestin, is pictured with Philip Bridgford and the Chief Constable.

Insp Stephen McFarlane, PCSO Karen Hopes and Paul Cullen, of Manchester Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

THE team devised Operation Axel in East Manchester, which included joint agency patrolling, intelligence gathering, civil and criminal enforcement, activities to divert teenagers away from crime and targeting under-age drinking. Achieved overall 25 per cent reduction in youth nuisance calls, with a fall of 43 per cent in Miles Platting.

Runners-up: PC Coralie Haydock, Community Beat Manager, Bolton town centre north, and Det Ch Insp Carol Ashworth (Public Protection Unit), with St Mary's Sexual Assault

PARTNERSHIP WORKING



Referral Centre clinical director Dr Cath White and senior staff members Bernie Ryan and Kim Doyle. Nominated for successful

establishment of a children's unit.

Sponsor: Forensic Science Service. Chief Executive Dave Werrell is on the right of the photo.

BRAVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

PC Paul Lowden.

THE Horwich dog handler was based at Stretford when he saved the life of a drunken man, pulling him from a blazing car seconds before it exploded. The man was

seen on council CCTV revving the engine with flames coming from under the car. PC Lowden found him slumped oblivious in the driver's seat. After pulling the man out, PC Lowden gave first-aid, saving him from serious or

possibly fatal injuries.

Runners-up: Sgt Christopher Allsop (Greenheys) and PCs Stephen Worrall and Claire Titterington (Ashton-under-Lyne).

Sponsor: Greater Manchester Police Federation.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNICATION



Tactical Vehicle Crime Unit - Sgt David Lees and PCs Paul Fletcher, Simon Dear, Phillip Cross, Stephen Booth, Ian Bruce, Peter Snook, Andrew Torkington and Richard Wilbraham

WITHOUT any experience of working with TV crews, the

officers took part in the BBC1 series Car Wars (currently being repeated) to show the public how GMP is fighting vehicle crime. Their dedication was such that Corporate Communications Branch now recommends that any other officer asked to take part in a TV documentary gets in touch with

the Tactical Vehicle Crime Unit. **Runners-up:** PC Andrew Vernon, Community Beat Manager for Horwich East, and Tom Bassford, Public Relations Officer for the Metropolitan Division. **Sponsor:** Research in Motion.

DIVERSITY IN ACTION AWARD



Wythenshawe and Northenden Area Policing Team - including Ch Insp Jim Liggett, Insp Adrian Hopkins, Insp Kevin Marriott, Sgt Jane Butler, PCs Andrew Sidebotham and Tim Wells, Community and Race Relations Officer Mazamil Bashir and Crime Reduction Adviser Mark Flanagan.

WHEN people from the South Indian Malayalee community arrived in Wythenshawe to work in the local hospital, their sought-after role in meeting a skills shortage was not recognised by everyone. Some were subjected to racist taunts and physical attacks. The team took action to stop the attacks, improving

links with the community, building confidence by increasing patrols and encouraging victims to report incidents. Last year, the team won Police Review's Diversity in Action Award. **Sponsor:** SunGard Vivista (representative Julia Mercer pictured on left of the group).

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

PCSO Jane Gough

JOINED GMP in 2005 after working as a security manager at Asda, Wigan. People living on the Brookhouse Estate at Peel Green, Eccles, have praised her high-quality work many times.

In one incident, several Chinese people were victims of racial abuse, violence and intimidation and were too frightened to leave their homes. Offenders were charged thanks to Jane's work, which included giving the



victims emotional and practical support.

Runners-up: Det Con Elaine Dickinson (Wigan) and PC Rachel Jones (Trafford). **Sponsor:** PCP Media.

TEAM LEADERSHIP

Det Sgt Andrew Greenhalgh

HAS guided Bolton's Burglary Unit to remarkable results. Led successful investigation of boiler thefts from council properties and achieved high level of aggravated burglary detections. His unit has exceeded targets for burglary reduction and detection, bringing an outstanding performance improvement on Bolton Division.



Runners-up: Sgt Peter Knight (Tactical Aid Unit, Claytonbrook) and Cathy Butterworth, Director Learning and Development. **Sponsor:** Microsoft.

COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR



PC Krys Urbaniak.

THE Swinton officer didn't take a back seat when local youths needed something to deter them from crime. He started a banger and stock car racing club, negotiating the supply of

car maintenance equipment, acquiring wrecks for members to work on and also winning cash grants. There are now more than 40 members. Car crime in Krys's area has fallen by more than 25 per cent. **Sponsor:** John Laing.

STUDENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR

PC Nathan Gulam.

THE Stockport officer, who joined GMP two years ago, was the divisional Probationary Constable of the Year in 2005. Among his successes was the arrest of two drug dealers following a

routine vehicle check. Another time he obtained enough evidence to charge a man with numerous offences of deception and fraud. Described as an excellent team worker, dedicated and committed. **Sponsor:** Tribal Group.

Thanking the sponsors

"There is no way we could have used the public funds of GMP to put on an awards ceremony like this," the Chief Constable told guests. "Thank you to the sponsors for making it all possible."

Prizes were provided by the Midland Hotel, Radisson Edwardian Hotels and BlackBerry.

Compere: Eamonn O'Neal (right), of BBC Radio Manchester and Channel M.

Continuity announcer: Ch Supt Lilian King.



Pictures by Chris Oldham and Bill Morris

The launch of e-learning.....and the answers to some questions you may be asking about it

by STEVE BUTTERWORTH
Head of Immersive Learning and Design

DURING April, the Learning and Development Branch will launch GMP's e-learning system.

The system, provided by nCalt (National Centre of Applied Learning Technologies), has been trialled in GMP for the last 18 months and is now ready to be formally launched to all GMP staff.

One of the biggest challenges we face as a Force is being able to deliver appropriate pieces of training quickly within a reasonable time frame and cost effectively. The nCalt system will allow us to develop and deliver learning to large audiences in a short space of time.

More importantly, when put together well, these packages are extremely effective, interesting and enjoyable to the learner.

One of the most successful pieces of e-learning that GMP has used has been on the Pursuits Management programme.

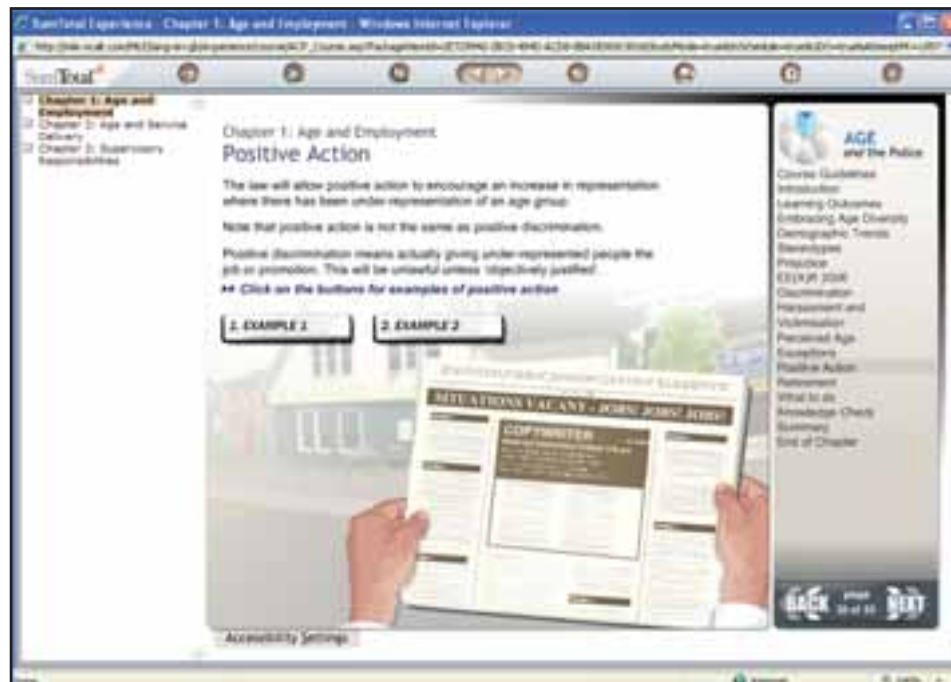
Here the e-learning element was developed jointly by nCalt and GMP and successfully deployed to staff in the Operational Communications Branch.

Q - I've used nCalt before and had difficulty logging in and finding things.

nCalt has been available since 2002 to all police forces throughout the UK. However, there have been some problems in the integration of this new technology which may have caused you difficulty in the past. As part of the official launch, the log-in screen has been made easier, course searching has been improved and general navigation and accessibility is now much easier.

What is e-learning?

It has evolved considerably over the last three to four years and most people have experienced some element of e-learning.



In the early days, e-learning contents tended to be a poor experience, lacked interactivity and earned a negative reputation.

This has now changed and well-designed packages such as those delivered through nCalt are fully interactive and easy to use, with an interesting and relevant content.

The development of e-learning goes through exactly the same development process as traditional classroom-based learning.

Objectives are determined and the materials designed so that the subject is broken down into meaningful concepts.

The main difference is that instead of a trainer delivering these materials in a classroom, they are delivered electronically by computer over the internet, with a text and audio voice presentation.

Will all training be delivered via e-learning?

While e-learning clearly has advantages, it does not replace classroom training.

When it is well designed, it can deliver knowledge and provide interactivity. But when there is a need for group discussion, practical exercise or hands-on training, it is clearly not the answer.

It is essential that during the design and development of any learning, these aspects are taken into account and the correct blend of e-learning, classroom training, simulation or facilitation is used.

What are the main benefits to e-learning?

The main benefit is the fact that these materials are available 24 hours a day seven days a week and can be accessed from either work or home.

This offers flexible patterns of study and even the ability for staff to develop themselves for other roles, functions and careers within GMP.

The learning can be carried out in manageable chunks, allowing you to stop and start when you want or when the situation allows, completing it at your own pace. Consistent quality and availability after completion mean that when you need to refresh on a subject, you can just log on and review any aspect of the training again.

What support is available when completing learning online?

Some of the current e-learning packages provide support contacts while enrolled, although some don't.

However, Learning and Development Branch staff are always willing to help and will be happy to provide support and assistance.



One of the areas we are looking to develop in the future will be the capability to contact interactively a tutor or provide virtual classrooms for guidance and support.

How does my learning get recorded?

Any package you complete is automatically tracked and recorded within the nCalt system. In the future, we will have a direct link into GMP's HR system so that training completed is transferred to individual training histories. This would then be viewable via 'You-in-View'.

What happens now?

During April, you will be automatically registered on to the nCalt website and you'll be provided with an automatically generated account for you to log into the nCalt e-learning system. This will be emailed to you, providing you with a username and password.

You will then receive a further email which will give you guidance on how to access the nCalt website, providing you with some suggestions towards some of the interesting and valuable e-learning programmes currently available.

At this point, you are free to register on any of the e-learning programs you wish

As new learning materials become available, these will be automatically added and, if appropriate, you will be notified about these e-learning packages.



Problems during registration and logging in?

We have created an nCalt Help Desk where staff can be contacted on extension 60520 or via email by typing 'ncalt' as the email address.



Members of the GMP Christian Police Association planning the Alpha course are (from left) Val Carroll, of Radio Network Services, Sgt Sally Winstanley (Chester House), PC John Whittaker (Openshaw) and PC Daljit Singh (Greenheys).

Questions of faith

A 10-week course run by GMP's Christian Police Association starts next month.

"It is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith, whether they have a belief or not," says CPA member PC John Whittaker.

The sessions are to be held at the GMP Driving School at Openshaw, where John is an instructor, starting on Thursday, April 19, at 5pm.

Topics to be discussed will include: How true is the Bible? Who is Jesus? Why and how do I pray? How can I be sure of my faith? How can I resist evil?

The Alpha Course, as it's called, is supported by all the main Christian denominations.

There are currently 24,000 Alpha courses running around the world and eight million people have attended them.

NO THREAT

The meetings are described as informal, friendly and non-threatening, but thought-provoking.

At the first session at Openshaw, there will be an introductory meal and an outline of the course programme so that people can decide if they want to carry on attending.

Each week, there will be a talk on DVD about a particular topic, followed by questions and a discussion.

There is no charge for those attending the course.

The CPA says the Alpha sessions are particularly aimed at people wanting to investigate Christianity, new Christians, newcomers to the church and 'those wanting to brush up on the basics.'

+ For further information, contact CPA members PC John Whittaker on 0772 5096087 or Sgt Sally Winstanley on 07974 822019 or extension 61162.

Julian's MA degree will aid colleagues

AFTER three and a half years of study through Teesside Business School, Det Con Julian King, of the Commercial Fraud Unit, has achieved an MA in Fraud Management.

His work was part-funded by GMP and follows his completion of a national fraud course at Sedgley Park

Centre in 2001.

So that his degree could have a direct benefit for GMP, part of Julian's final dissertation was in the form of an investigation guide for officers.

The topic was the investigation of long-firm fraud.

As well as being available to both new and experienced

officers in GMP's Economic Crime Section, the guide has been accepted as part of the national fraud course held annually at Sedgley Park.

It has also been highlighted on the Solve It website for wider access by GMP officers and staff.

A copy of the full dissertation, Developing Appropriate Guidelines for the Investigation of Long-Firm Fraud, is held in the library at Sedgley Park.

A copy of his previous work, Is the Serious Fraud Office Fighting Fraud Effectively? is also held at the library.

New unit is helping vulnerable victims

A NEW unit to protect vulnerable victims and bring their abusers to justice has been launched at Bury.

The Community Safety Unit investigates child abuse, elder abuse, sexual crimes, domestic abuse and hate crime.

Experienced officers have been assigned to the unit to concentrate efforts on thoroughly investigating those crimes that target the most vulnerable people.

Effective yet sensitive interview techniques will be used to draw quality evidence from victims and witnesses.

Vulnerable witnesses will be able to give evidence on videotape.

EXPERTISE

The CSU has greater access to professionals from other fields, such as social care and medicine, and can draw on their expertise to support the victim and build a case.

Officers also get involved at an earlier stage of the investigation.

They are better able to control the direction it takes, ensuring that crucial evidence is sought, preserved and used.

Officers in the unit also have an educational and communication role to play in promoting safety messages to vulnerable groups.

The ultimate aim is to solve more crimes against vulnerable victims as well as ensuring successful prosecutions.

CONFIDENCE

By doing this, it is hoped public confidence in the police will be increased and that more people will be encouraged to report these distressing crimes.

Det Insp Lynne Vernon said: "We will draw together a whole range of experience and expertise to ensure offenders are brought to justice, while reducing as far as possible any further anguish, pain and damage to victims.

"Those offenders who prey on the weak and vulnerable and commit these heinous crimes should be aware that we will leave no stone unturned to bring them before the courts to pay for their wrongdoing."

Recent award ceremonies

TRAFFORD

Gas threat officers commended

TWO officers tackled a knife-wielding man who tried to blow up his estranged wife's house.

The man had barricaded himself in and was breaking furniture when a team of officers arrived.

As the officers forced their way in, they were met with an overpowering smell of gas.

Despite the danger, **PC Barry Cheetham** and **PC Alan Whitten** went into the living room where the man lunged at them repeatedly with a large, serrated-edge knife.

The officers used protective shields to ward off the blows.

The man then produced a cigarette lighter and tried to ignite

the escaping gas, which was coming from an unlit fire.

But before he could do so, he was disarmed with CS spray.

The two officers were presented with high commendations by Chief Constable Michael Todd at an awards ceremony on Trafford Division.

Traffic officer **PC Robert Sharpe**

received a commendation and a Royal Humane Society award for helping to stop a man committing suicide off 95ft Barton Bridge near the Trafford Centre.

Cyclist Luke Kirkham, 19, of Salford, had grabbed the man as he jumped and held on to him for several minutes until PC Sharpe joined him.

The officer kept hold of both men until the arrival of other officers.

The violent man was so intent on taking his life that it took five officers to pull him to safety with a rope.

Luke also received a Chief Constable's commendation and Royal Humane Society award.

MANCHESTER

Airport terror suspect

FIVE officers detained a terrorist suspect carrying a suitcase and chanting religious slogans at Manchester Airport.

The man had gained access to a runway and was approaching an aircraft filled with passengers.

High commendations for 'extreme courage and bravery' went to **PCs Phillip Ainscough, Paul Durand, Andrew Gosling, John Harte and Patrick Mitchell.**

For the part he played in the incident, security guard James

McCall also received a high commendation from the Chief Constable.

PC Lance Thomas received a high commendation for his work in East Manchester to target and rehabilitate prolific offenders.

Mr Todd said Project Embrace

had contributed to significant reduction of robbery, burglary and car crime in the Beswick, Clayton and Openshaw areas.

There was also a high commendation for retired **Peter Boylan** in recognition of his

dedication and commitment in helping to make GMP's Vetting Unit the best in the country.

He had improved and developed processes to such an extent that GMP had become a national lead in the field of vetting, the Chief Constable said.

ROCHDALE

Lone PC and takeaway gunman

AN officer overpowered a man who had held up a takeaway at Heywood with a gun and a knife.

Driving alone through the town centre in the early hours, **PC Robert Smith** saw the disturbance, tackled the man and restrained him until other officers arrived.

The man had a knife, and a search of the premises uncovered

a loaded pistol which, unknown to PC Smith, he had dropped as the officer approached him.

Charged with robbery and firearm offences, the man received a three-year community sentence at Bolton Crown Court.

PC Smith received a high commendation from the Chief Constable.

A high commendation also went

to **PC Ian Bell**, with a Royal Humane Society award, for rescuing a man from a house fire at Smithybridge, Rochdale.

PC James Makin received a St John Ambulance award for rescuing a man who tried to commit suicide by taking an overdose of tablets and wading into a dam in Stalybridge.

Father and son Kantilal and

Jagdish Patel received high commendations for tackling two gunmen during a raid on their post office in Buersil, Rochdale.

Jagdish, 36, was pistol-whipped by one of the men, but activated an attack alarm, grabbed a baseball bat and vaulted the counter to challenge the pair.

As the men fled, one fired a shot that grazed Jagdish's temple.

The men tried to get away on a motorbike, but Jagdish stopped them by hitting one of them on the knee with the bat.

Jagdish chased one of the robbers to a nearby house, detaining him there until police arrived.

His 62-year-old father and another man chased and held the second man, despite being shot at several times.

BOLTON

Suicide calls

AWARDS were presented to nine officers for their actions in responding to a number of suicide attempts.

PC Stephen Rowe and **PC Jonathan Sharples** (who was a special constable at the time)

received Royal Humane Society awards for preventing a man from jumping off a 40ft bridge.

PC Gina McLean and two other officers received St John Ambulance awards for saving a man who had tried to hang

himself from a communal balcony at a block of flats in Farnworth.

St John Ambulance awards also went to **PC Alan Prescott** and another officer for giving first-aid to a man who had tried to kill himself with a tube from his car exhaust in

a remote area of Rivington.

Sgt Christopher Walker and **PC Jonathan Miles** received St John Ambulance awards for trying to save a man who hanged himself in his garage in Horwich after cutting his wrists and swallowing

industrial chemicals.

PC Philip McArdle, who was a member of a previously-commended team that solved the murder of a Bolton prostitute, received a commendation from the Chief Constable.

Sports & Social Club launches discount insurance

GMP Sports & Social Club is offering discount insurance to members for car, travel and home cover, writes *Ian Campbell, Chief Executive at Hough End Centre.*

The scheme is operated through Abbey Insurance Brokers and colleagues from the Royal Ulster Constabulary Athletic Association.

Over the past two years, the scheme has been launched within Strathclyde Police Recreation Association and South Yorkshire Police Sports and Social Club and became available in Greater Manchester in January.

The scheme, underwritten by Prestige NIG, a subsidiary of Royal Bank of Scotland, is run from the RUC Athletic Association site at Newforge Country Club by fully trained security-cleared staff who provide a friendly and confidential service to customers.

Each force is served by dedicated staff, allowing us to build personal relationships without the need for a call centre operation and annoying automated telephone systems.

Not only do take up rates continually exceed industry standards, but renewal rates also constantly run at 95 per cent, a figure well above the norm.

Personal details of customers are not available to any other sections within Prestige NIG or Royal Bank of Scotland, so no cross-selling can take place from the details retained at the Newforge, reducing the amount of unsolicited mail that emanates from many insurance and financial services companies.

For further information, call 0800 121 8277.

FORCEFUL IDEAS YOUR SUGGESTION SCHEME Ext 62735/6

Prize call

by Pat Garside

YOU will know that OPUS is a major GMP information and communication system, but it's also the name of a new restaurant and nightclub venue at The Printworks in Manchester city centre.

Its management team has joined up with the Force Suggestion Scheme by offering a prize to those contributing ideas in the month of March.

Do you have a suggestion about how we can improve the performance of the Force,

not just by enhancing the OPUS database, but by addressing any of the Force priorities for improvement such as crime reduction, detection levels, reducing bureaucracy, call handling or other general efficiency measures?

Well now is the time to submit your ideas.

The sender of every idea submitted during March will receive an OPUS VIP membership card allowing entrance to the club VIP lounge.

And one lucky winner drawn out of the electronic hat at the end of the month will receive a package that will include a meal for two in the brasserie, two first-class tickets for the comedy lounge

WINNING LINE: THE winner of two cinema tickets in a draw from among suggestions for improving the management of seized, lost and found items held by GMP was won by Sgt Tom Martin (Bolton Custody).

His suggestion for the KiM property management system to be included in training has been sent on to Learning and

Development Branch for evaluation.

Tom won tickets for any film being shown at any Odeon cinema when his idea was the first to be drawn.

The draw was part of a campaign to reduce the estimated 400,000 items stored at 15 locations.

and an OPUS VIP membership card.

Lewis Hellewell, OPUS Live Entertainments Manager, says: "We are delighted to become involved with the GMP Suggestion Scheme.

"We recognise the value of staff ideas and hope that our prize package will act as an incentive for GMP staff to contribute their suggestions for improvement, and at the same time, make them aware of what our venue can offer as an entertainment centre on their doorstep".

So.....keep OPUS in mind and let the Suggestion Scheme have your ideas.



Greater Manchester High Sheriff's Police Trust



JANET WILCOX on how recent grants from the Trust have brought benefits at local levels

Sports get-together

WITH a £4,000 grant from the High Sheriff's Trust, an inflatable sports arena has been provided for Cheadle Muslim Association to encourage people from various ethnic backgrounds to take part in sporting activities.

Young people aged 10 to 18 from the Cheadle and Heald Green area of Stockport learn how to break down barriers in the community and participate in healthy activities, while improving the quality of life for local residents by reducing the number of juvenile incidents in the area.

Rochdale roadshows

A GRANT of £2,600 helped Rochdale Division launch its first series of Christmas

crime prevention roadshows which it is keen to repeat this year.

During the seven workshops, police officers, crime reduction advisers and PCSOs were on hand to provide crime prevention advice, distribute literature and mark property, as well as meet all sections of the community.

Raising awareness of domestic and personal security is a priority for the High Sheriff's Trust.

Before the roadshow event, 96 per cent of people attending said they were fearful of crime occurring.

Afterwards, only 42 per cent said they still had serious concerns about burglary.

The High Sheriff's Trust aims to increase the quality of life and enhance the safety of the people of Greater Manchester by fighting crime and protecting people and providing education to reduce the threat of alcohol and drug abuse in our communities.

Got a crime busting idea that needs funding? Then think about applying for a grant from the High Sheriff's Police Trust by contacting External Funding Officer Janet Wilcox in the Divisional and Partnership Support Unit at Force HQ on extension 61144.

How a coaching course helps PCSO management

EFFECTIVE coaching skills are being used by Trafford Division to help the development of its Police Community Support Officers.

The number of PCSOs on the division has risen from 11 to 46 in a few months.

To assist in their management,

seven PCSO Development Officers – all police constables – have undertaken a 'coaching skills for supervisors' course.

Ch Supt Janette McCormick, the Divisional Commander, and HR Manager Lesley Kewin contacted the Force's Leadership and Development

Unit to find out what coaching was on offer.

"We were put in touch with a company that provided a two-day course in November and a follow-up day in January," said Lesley.

"Because the role of PCSO Development Officer is a new one, we wanted to equip them with the skills they needed to perform well.

"Leadership is not just something which happens at senior management team level,

it is about developing people.

"Coaching, with its focus on encouraging individuals to find solutions to problems themselves, seemed to be ideal.

"The response from the officers has certainly opened my eyes to coaching, assisting people to have a better perspective of themselves and of the organisation."

PC Aidan Kennedy (Sale West), one of the seven officers on the course, said:

"I'm eager to use these newly-acquired skills to supervise the PCSOs on the division and to be an integral part in their development.

"All seven of us have agreed to set up a Best Practice group, the aim of which is to maximise the potential of the PCSOs by ensuring all supervisors are providing a consistent, efficient and appropriate level of service in line with the divisional and specific area team demands."

Called to account

by Stephanie Chadwick

GMP has reviewed the way policy is developed and approved with a view to achieving greater consistency and quality control.

In support of this, the Force Policy Unit in Corporate Development and Performance Branch has introduced an account management system to:

- Provide support to branches on developing policy and

procedure, including advice on statutory compliance

- Share information and keep abreast of policy developments within each branch
- Assist in the resolution of policy ownership issues
- Monitor implications for Force policy arising from mission

critical areas and the baseline and self-assessment process.

A Force Policy User Guide will be published shortly, explaining in more detail the processes involved in the drafting and approval of policy. The guide will be available both as a printed booklet and on the Force Policy intranet site.

The Force Policy Unit continues

to have responsibility for publishing policy and procedure in Chief Constable's Orders and on the Force Policy intranet site (on the 'Force Information' page).

* Staff in the unit can assist with policy queries, and can be contacted on extensions 62282, 62523, 62388 and 61143.

150th anniversary recalls harsher times for pioneer police officers

No pension, no days off and buy your own boots

by Max Bowie

ROCHDALE is celebrating 150 years of policing.

The borough force, as it was then known, was founded on March 11, 1857, and a total of 15 officers were sworn in that day.

Today, Rochdale Division has 423 police officers, 47 police community support officers and 94 police staff.

It is difficult to pinpoint the precise location of the first police station in Rochdale, but records do mention the Police Office on Union Street and a superintendent's house, which was an official residence for the chief officer that also contained a police office.

There was also a 'lock up' with seven cells and a residence for the constable responsible for supervising, feeding and accounting for prisoners.

In 1872, the police headquarters was transferred to Rochdale Town Hall and moved to its current location in 1971.

PAY RATES

Annual pay for the first officers was £45.10s for a constable, £54.12s for a sergeant and £120 for a superintendent.

It meant that a constable was

paid little more than a typical labourer, while a superintendent's pay was equivalent to that of a headmaster.

There were no police inspectors at that time, and the post of chief constable did not appear in Rochdale until after the force had been running for seven years.

Early working conditions were harsh, and it is unlikely that the first Rochdale officers were entitled to any time off at all.

It was not until 1861 that they were given an entitlement of seven days leave per year.

Early shifts were eight, 10 or 12 hours long and officers worked seven days a week, 52 weeks of the year.

BASIC EQUIPMENT

Equipment provided was very basic. It would have included a stout wooden truncheon, a wooden rattle called an alarm rattle or Rick Rack, which was used to raise the alarm and call for help, and an oil lantern for night duty.

Officers may also have been issued with a pair of handcuffs, although these were not always found at this period.

No pension was provided by the force 150 years ago.



This was the style of dress for police officers at Rochdale up to 1865, eight years after the borough force was formed. It consisted of a blue frock coat with bright buttons, blue trousers, a tall hat with a leather top, a leather collar-stock and a brass-buckled belt. In cold weather, a great-coat and a cloth cape were issued.

The system was not introduced until the later 1800s – and even then, contributions to the pension fund were based on the assumption that a retired officer would typically live only two years after retiring.

The job of a police officer was considered so dangerous that inventors constantly sent designs for improved truncheons to forces for consideration. These included truncheons made of cast iron (which were issued briefly in some forces), truncheons with a concealed knife blade that could be turned into a spear and even a truncheon containing a pistol barrel, so officers

could choose to either hit offenders or shoot them – or perhaps both.

BLACK MARIA

Transportation supplied for police use was limited and initially would have comprised the horse-drawn Black Maria prison van that took prisoners to and from the magistrates' court each day.

It is probable that the superintendent also had access to a horse and carriage for official use.

The Rochdale force had its first Government inspection in September 1857.

It passed, and the inspectors

noted with approval that each officer had received a printed set of the force instructions (this comprised the sum total of training given to constables), and also that each man received 6d (2.5p) per week boot allowance since they had to buy their own boots.

The prisoners in the cells were supplied with three meals a day, comprising coffee and bread at a cost of 3d (1.25p) per meal.

The entire administration and record-keeping of the force was contained in 22 official books, which were all found by the Government inspectors to be well kept and up to date.



Museum Matters

by Curator Duncan Broady



FOR the first time, the museum hosted the AGM and annual conference of the Crime and Punishment Network, membership of which includes police and prison museums, archivists and academics, all of whom share a desire to preserve the history of policing and criminal justice.

Among the 35 delegates were members from the Home Office, Centrex, the Open University, HM Prison Service, the Irish

Prison Service and museum staff from the Metropolitan Police and from police and law museums in Cheshire, Derbyshire, Glasgow, South Wales and Nottingham.

GMP Catering Services provided excellent food for the event.

It was opened by Ch Supt Neil Wain, and ACC Ian Seabridge joined us for lunch.

A PARTY of US air marshals based at Manchester Airport

visited the museum, and one was astonished to find a patch from his police training academy in the Florida backwoods on display in the museum's International Gallery.

JUST to bring home the message that even yesterday is already history, the museum assisted a costume designer looking at police uniforms of the 1980s for an independent film project, *The Rise of the Foot Soldier*. And a student looking into the 1990 Strangeways Prison riots was delighted to find not only objects and information at the museum from the riots, but also personal reminiscences from some of the museum volunteers who had actually been there at the time.

AN interesting piece of research was carried out by a student from Lancaster.

He was looking into records of 19th century travelling thieves from Kendal who also had convictions in Manchester to see if the criminal records were complete and accurate, given the difficulties in those days of sharing information between forces.

He was able to find a small number of such men in our records and showed that basic information about previous convictions had in those cases been accurately recorded in both the Manchester and Kendal Thieves Albums.

THE Bruche Database Project, co-ordinated by museum volunteer and former Bruche

trainer Mary Randles, is gathering pace.

A number of retired officers have now come to the museum with class photographs from Bruche.

These have been added to Mary's computerised image database, together with details of the officers in the images.

Mary would be delighted to hear from any retired or serving officers who are willing to lend class photographs (or any other images of Bruche) for copying and inclusion on the database.

All original photographs will be returned. Please contact Mary at the Museum on 0161 856 3287, or by e-mail at: police.museum@gmp.police.uk

The GMP Museum is well worth a visit

says retired Det Sgt ERIC ROBERTS

NEWTON STREET Police Station in Manchester closed its doors for the first time in almost a century in 1979 after being open to the public round the clock every day of the year.

After three years in limbo, it was back in business when it reopened to the public as the GMP Museum.

The project started in a modest way, but under the expert guidance of Curator Duncan Broady and his team of dedicated helpers, it is now one of the best museums of its kind in the UK.

The museum takes the visitor back to the days before telephones and computers when constables had to work eight to 12 hours per shift seven days a week.

They were subjected to a great many petty regulations.

They couldn't vote, couldn't sit in a public house and couldn't gossip with any member of the general public (especially the opposite sex).....

Punishments were instant and severe for any infringement of the rules.

Recently, the National Lottery fund made a grant of £126,500 for the museum to buy the former Victorian courtroom from the now-defunct Denton Police Office.

The courtroom dated back to 1895 and much restoration work was needed to bring the original dock, benches and panelling up to standard.

Among the memorabilia on display at the museum is an original birching stool, old-type uniforms, caps, truncheons and whistles, charge books and albums of criminals and their sentences.

The museum is open to the general public every Tuesday from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

Appointments to view can be made by phone – 0161 856 3287 – and the size of parties must be between five and 25 people.

And there's no entrance charge.

Now showing..... Police Authority's doorstep crime DVD



ACC Vincent Sweeney with Councillor Sam Cohen and Lesley Allen from Greater Manchester Police Authority at the launch of a new DVD warning about doorstep criminals.

A DVD to raise awareness of doorstep criminals, bogus callers and rogue traders has been circulated by Greater Manchester Police Authority.

It is designed to support a campaign that GMP has been running with crime and disorder reduction partner agencies for the past three years.

The DVD has been produced by media students at Salford University and features BBC Radio Manchester's Allan Beswick.

It has been distributed to a range of organisations, including Age Concern, health and social care groups, community safety teams, Home Watch groups and Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.

GMP statistics show that those most at risk from doorstep crime are white women aged between 82 and 86.

The most common method is for the fake caller to say they are 'from the water board.' This accounts for more than 25 per cent of all recorded offences.

Police Authority chairman Derek Osbaldestin said: "These criminals deliberately target older people, so we are focusing our campaign on this particularly vulnerable group.

"Our message is simple – if in doubt, keep them out.

"Statistics from GMP have shown a dramatic fall in reported bogus caller and doorstep crimes over the past few months.

"This suggests people are becoming more aware, but there is still a long way to go."

* Agencies can obtain a copy of the DVD by calling Lesley Allen at the Police Authority on 0161 793 3886. It can also be viewed on the GMPA website www.gmpa.gov.uk.

OBITUARIES

Former Supt **Wilfred Cunliffe**, 94, of Thornton Cleveleys, died on January 20, leaving a son as next of kin. He served with Salford City Police from 1935 to 1968.

Former Ch Insp **William Jones**, 82, of Atherton, died on January 16, leaving a widow, Mabel. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1954 and retired from GMP in 1982.

Former Supt **John Nugent**, 75, of Accrington, died on January 24, leaving a widow, Maud. He joined Wolverhampton Borough Police in 1955, transferred to Manchester City Police in 1965 and retired from GMP in 1985.

Former PC **Frank Pickles**, 79, of Ashton-under-Lyne, died on January 17, leaving a widow, Emma. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1948 and retired from GMP in 1976. Sons David and Christopher are both serving GMP officers.

Former Supt **Thomas Ryan**, 73, of Radcliffe, died on January 18, leaving a son as next of kin. He joined Salford City Police in 1956 and retired from GMP in 1986.

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

Former Sgt **Alfred Woodcock**, 82, of Sale, died on November 27, leaving a widow, Jill. He joined Cheshire Constabulary in 1947 and retired from GMP in 1977.



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DEPARTMENT ON THE WAY

A PROFESSIONAL Standards Department is to be established by GMP next year, combining work now performed by a number of units across the Force.

A project team headed by Supt Mike Freeman is co-ordinating the work.

Some units will be brought together early in the process.

Staff in the affected units have already been informed that no jobs are being put at risk and changes will take place with full consultation and consideration.

The new structure will build on GMP's grading of 'good' for professional standards in last year's HMIC Baseline Assessment, and takes into account HMIC recommendations to form such a department as well as actions being taken

as part of the National Quality of Service Commitment.

ACC Stephen Thomas said: "The way professional standards is carried out in police forces has changed markedly in recent years.

"There is greater emphasis not just on misconduct, but also on taking a lead in ensuring all officers and staff are fully aware of their ethical and professional obligations in their dealings with the public and with their colleagues.

"It is necessary to have a structure in place which allows us to take a pro-active approach to carrying out those actions to best effect."

* Further information will be published on the Force Intranet as it becomes available.

DRIVING DOWN VEHICLE CRIME

A DEDICATED vehicle crime unit has been formed at Stockport with 19 officers and police staff.

To help them, a Vauxhall Vectra has been funded by the Safer Stockport Partnership.

Ch Insp Stuart Barton said:

"There has been an increase recently in thefts from vehicles across Stockport.

"This rise is as a result of more people leaving expensive items such as satellite navigation systems and laptops in their

vehicles, which make easy-pickings for thieves."

Pictured above at the launch: Ch Supt Neil Wain, the Divisional Commander, with unit members PC Andy Torkington and PC Gareth Frith.



Do the right thing – make a note of this number
0800 111 4444

HELP AND ADVICE

Integrity issues
Internal Investigations Unit: 62923 or 0800 111 4444

Conduct matters, general enquiries
Internal Affairs Branch: 62910
Human Resources Branch: 62355 or 61325

Policy complaints and other issues relating to standards
Strategic Planning & Services Standard Unit: 62671 or 61168

PARTNERS

GMP's Facilities Branch has introduced 'partnering frameworks' to raise standards on contracts with outside firms.

The new system will 'significantly improve the delivery, quality and efficiency of projects and new buildings,' said

Assistant Facilities Director (Operational Services) Peter Wright.

Last month, the first Partnership Commencement Agreement under the system was signed between GMP and contractors working on upgrading the IT suite in

Phase II at Chester House and increasing its capacity.

Such agreements between clients and contractors are a new feature of the construction industry in both the private and public sectors.

The agreement with GMP

was signed by representatives from main contractors Birse, Copeland Electrics, mechanical engineers Operon and Oasis, RW Associates (architecture), Mouchel Parkman (project management) and Faithful and Gould (health and safety).

Pictured above left: Bill Cook, GMP project manager (centre) signs the partnership agreement with Peter Walthall, of main contractors Birse (left) and Keith Paylor, of project management Mouchel Parkman.



John Radcliffe, Vice President of the Blue Knights England V Chapter, retired 10 years ago as an inspector in the GMP Motorcycle Unit. He's pictured (kneeling, left) with English members and police escort officers at a rally in Belgium.

NORTH WEST BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Police Sport UK badminton championships are to be held at Ribby Hall Holiday Village, Wrea Green, near Blackpool, on March 16, and are open to competitors from Lancashire, Merseyside, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Cumbria and Isle of Man.

Winners will represent the North West region in the national finals next month.

All members of police sports and social clubs can enter.

If you are playing in any of the doubles events, however, you must enter with a partner from your own force area.

Each competitor is limited to entering a maximum of three events.

The events are:

- Men's singles
- Ladies' singles
- Men's open doubles
- Ladies' open doubles
- Mixed open doubles

Men's veteran doubles (Over 40 on 01/01/07)

Ladies' veteran doubles (Over 35)

Mixed veteran doubles (Men over 40, Ladies over 35)

Men's super veteran doubles (Over 45)

Ladies' super veteran doubles (Over 40)

Mixed super veteran doubles (Men over 45, Ladies over 40)

Entries will be accepted only by e-mail to paul.hope@lancashire.pnn.police.uk.

You will then receive an e-mail confirming your entry has been accepted.

If you are unable to find a partner for a doubles event, please put on the e-mail that you would like a partner and I will try to sort this out for you.

Paul Hope,
N.W. PSUK Badminton Secretary

INDOOR SUCCESSES

GMP had another successful run in the Police Sport UK regional indoor games championships, with several competitors qualifying.

They will now go on to the national championships hosted by Norfolk Constabulary in May, alongside GMP's defending champions in the ladies' darts doubles, Natalie and Lynn Smith.

SNOOKER/BILLIARDS

Snooker singles –
Tony Crompton (Trafford).

Billiards –
Brian Sweeney (North Manchester).

Retired snooker –
Adrian Ladkin (Financial Investigations).

DARTS

Men's singles –
Harry Kearney (Oldham).

Men's pairs –
Harry Kearney and Russ Arpino (Trafford).

Mixed pairs –
Russ Arpino and Amy Blick (Scientific Services).

HOCKEY CHAMPS

Det Sgt Mark D'Souza (Crime Training) was one of the coaches of the British police hockey team which scored victories over other services in a tournament last month.

The team, which included PC Julian Scarsbrook (Stockport), defeated the RAF 6-3 and went on to beat the Civil Service, again 6-3.

Riding out with a sheriff or a gendarme....it can only be the Blue Knights

by retired Insp John Radcliffe

WHO wants to ride a motorbike with cops in front, cops behind and cops all around?

Another cop, of course. Enter the Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club.

It makes a lot of sense. Members of any bike club have something in common, but often it's nothing more profound than ownership of a particular bike.

It may make for a fine ride-out, but you sometimes realise during the fag break or, worse still, in the middle of a camping weekend, that a little more compatibility wouldn't go amiss.

Consequently, many clubs have some form of secondary criterion for membership, and what better criterion than one's profession, particularly when that profession is one which generates the strength of kinship as does the police service.

Actually, this is more than a 'police' bike club, as the necessary qualification for membership requires only that a person has a 'power of arrest.'

This wider definition brings in prison officers, military police, customs and immigration officers, for example.

30 YEARS OLD

The club originated 30 years ago when a few police officers in Bangor, USA, formed a local police bike club. One of the aims was to act as a counterbalance to some of the rather lawless motorcycle clubs in the States which were giving motorcyclists a bad name.

Within two years, it had grown to 3,000 members, mainly in America, but also including Canada and Australia.

In 1991, the movement crossed the pond and there are now chapters in most European countries, including the UK.

With more than 20,000 members and 500 chapters in 21 countries, the Blue Knights goes from strength to strength.

The club's headquarters are in Bangor and the American origins are displayed by some

of the terminology used.

Chapters are as active as their members wish them to be, organising all the usual biker distractions – runs, barbecues, camping weekends, charity events (about £3 million donated in the past 10 years).

But the club's real crowning glory is the system of international rallies.

Each chapter hosts a rally every couple of years, meaning that there is always one going on somewhere. Some members organise their annual touring holiday to take in as many as possible, South of France this week, the Black Forest next week, and squeeze in Belgium on the way home.

These are full-on social events, plenty of partying and ride-outs led by the natives to places the guide books can't reach.

The club also prides itself on being family orientated, and if your significant other has had enough of riding, alternatives such as sightseeing or shopping trips may be laid on.

NEVER BORING

Sharing a room with an American sheriff, a Paris gendarme and a German military police officer, the company is anything but boring.

There are two chapters covering the Greater Manchester area, England I and England V, which liaise closely.

It doesn't particularly matter which one you choose

Last year, we in England V held our rally outside Blackpool and welcomed Blue Knights from Belgium, Holland and Norway.

Our Christmas party at Sedgley Park drew guests from all over England, as well as Norway, and this year we have members travelling to rallies in Holland, Croatia and America.

Further information:
www.blueknightsuk.info.

Or contact Sgt Tom Elliott at Stockport, Sgt Ian Campbell at Prestwich, Roger Mason at Leigh OCR or John Radcliffe at radcliffe@toucansurf.com.

Swimming for good causes

THE annual Swimarathon organised by retired Sgt Terry Harding and Romily, Marple and District Lions Club takes place on Saturday, March 31 at Romiley Marina.

Once again, says Terry, anyone who would like to raise funds for a school project or favourite charity is welcome to take part.

"As in previous years, we will carry out all the organisation and pay for the pool and share

sponsorship money 50-50," says Terry.

The event will run from 4.30pm to 7.30pm.

Each team, consisting of one to 10 swimmers, depending on ability, will be allocated up to 20 minutes to swim a maximum of 30 breadths or lengths.

For entry forms, sponsorship forms and fact sheet, Terry can be contacted on 0161 303 0011.