



**Cop-Art  
for Bury's  
new  
headquarters**

Page 4



**Britain's  
longest serving  
Special  
Constable's  
send off**

Page 9



**Janette beats  
country's best  
to become  
Woman of the  
Year 2008**

Page 12

# DRAGONFLY LANDS RECORD CANNABIS HAUL

Snakehead people-traffickers revealed at core of multi-million pound drugs production as police capture illegal Vietnamese 'gardeners'



Has any GMP officer had a more extraordinary 2007 than Det. Sgt. Myra Ball? See centre pages.

CANNABIS plants worth more than £25 million have been seized at illegal 'farms' across Greater Manchester in just nine months.

The 60,000 plants found at 354 separate sites would, if lined up against each other, have been enough to cover the Wembley football pitch.

The discoveries were made during a blitz by GMP, codenamed Operation Dragonfly, on cannabis farms.

It was initially set up by the Force Intelligence Bureau to gather intelligence into the increasing problem of farms but is now used as the over-arching plan to target industrial-level growers and those who organise and fund them.

It has found that many of those involved have links with Vietnam and some with Chinese Snakehead gangs involved in

*Continued on page 3*



## Hair-raising emergency for Joshua, 2

*Turn to page 16*



## THE VIEW FROM THE TOP

Every day we have an opportunity to make a difference to the lives of people in Greater Manchester. It doesn't have to be a major project or large-scale operation that has the most impact. In many cases small actions can have big consequences.

In this month's Brief there are examples of when small actions have had a significant impact and improved the quality of life for people in our

communities. The investigation into cannabis farms started with following up a tip off, and dealing with a call effectively helped to save a mother's life.

All these stories demonstrate how doing the right thing, listening to concerns and going that little bit further can fight crime and protect people. It really supports the old phrase 'from little acorns'.

When we are in contact with members of the public we all have a chance to make things happen and ensure we provide the service people want. And while next month we will celebrate the contribution of those short listed for the Excellence Awards, it is important to recognise the contribution we can all make in our daily work.

*Michael Todd*

## CHEERS FOR BOLTON'S BETTER HALF

By Tariq Munir

**CRIME** in Bolton town centre was halved in 2007 with the help of a partnership scheme between the police and pub, club and bar licensees.

The town centre licensees agreed to work in partnership with police and signed a 'statement of intent' outlining how they would deal with crime and work towards developing a safer environment that promoted responsible drinking.

The partnership includes 31 of 34 town centre venues and has been congratulated for helping to reduce assaults, thefts, and public order and drug offences by 49 per cent, from 320 reports in 2006 to 162 last year.

Over the next few months it is hoped to sign up the remaining venues into the partnership and include town

centre off-licenses.

Operation Siren, a high profile policing initiative that operates Thursday to Sunday around the year to ensure responsible drinking, good public order and the safety of Bolton town centre drinkers, has also been acknowledged as a major reason for the continuing decrease in crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.

### MILDER TOWN CENTRE

Chief Inspector Martin Greenhalgh said: "Bolton has a vibrant 24-hour town centre economy that attracts thousands of shoppers, workers and other users during the day and an equal number of drinkers, restaurant-goers and night clubbers during the evenings.

"Bolton police, our partners in the council and the licensed trades have worked hard to ensure the safety and welfare of all users is paramount, and it is somewhere that visitors can enjoy free from the fear of crime.

"I am delighted that our joint efforts have resulted in such a significant decrease in crime and look forward to continuing to work with our partners to reduce town centre crime even further in 2008."



## Avalanche of Volunteers for Trauma Care

**A** PLEA for 'trauma' volunteers to come forward to help provide counselling and psychological support for GMP employees involved in distressing events has had an overwhelming response.

The Occupational Health and Welfare Unit is expanding its Welfare Team and invited officers and staff to apply to join.

They were hoping for 20 but were staggered when a phenomenal 490 stepped forward.

"We were overwhelmed," said Welfare Manager Mark Woodland. "It was beyond our wildest imaginings and says quite a lot about the strength of purpose within the Force.

"We have had responses from every part of GMP, from all ranks, from all types of police staff and from every direction geographically.

"What is more, the quality of the applications has also been extraordinarily high.

"The bad news is that we can only take a maximum of 20 on to the course, so a lot of very talented and motivated people will be disappointed.

"The good news is that we will be able to pick from the crème de la crème."

The Welfare Team provides immediate assistance after any event considered to have the potential to be traumatic for the individuals involved.

The volunteers will be trained to take part in follow-up Traumatic Incident Stress Debrief sessions which are designed to revisit the event in detail to help those involved deal with what they have been through.

It is challenging both for the individuals requiring assistance and their debriefers.

The Health and Welfare Unit is now looking at other ways it might be able to channel the energies of those who will not be selected for the trauma team.

## brief

Editor: Andrew Nott Tel: 0161 856 2238 Mobile: 07887 833890

Photographers: Chris Oldham and Bill Morris: Tel: 0161 856 2777

Picture Desk: Lisa Marks Tel: 0161 856 2279

Items for publication in Brief can be e-mailed to

Andrew Nott/HQ/GMP (internal) or [andrew.nott@gmp.police.uk](mailto:andrew.nott@gmp.police.uk) (external)

Next issue: March

Published 10 times a year by: Corporate Communications Branch of Greater Manchester Police

Designed and Produced by: Design & Print Services Unit of Greater Manchester Police Tel: 0161 856 0843

Brief can be read on the web at:

[www.gmp.police.uk/mainsite/pages/brief.htm](http://www.gmp.police.uk/mainsite/pages/brief.htm)

## Manchester Marches on the Capital

MORE than 900 GMP officers attended the mass police pay protest in London last month.

The vast majority travelled down by coach in the early hours of the morning before joining in a rally addressed by Police Federation National Chairman Jan Berry.

The GMP group then split up with some having a meeting with a number of Manchester MPs and others talking to Leigh MP and Treasury Minister Andy Burnham.

DC Abdul Butt handed in a petition signed by the Manchester marchers to the Home Office while Insp Mo Sultan laid a wreath at the Memorial for Fallen Police Officers located close to The Mall.

GMP Federation Chairman, Chris Burrows, said: "It was a very important message which we delivered very effectively.

"We received a large amount of support as we marched from both other police officers and the public."

## Operation Dragonfly

*continued from front page*

illegally trafficking people from the Far East.

They have been setting up the complicated cultivation equipment in rented and derelict houses and smuggling Vietnamese men into the country to act as 'gardeners'.

Vietnamese and Chinese links account for more than 70 per cent of all the farms discovered in the period from the beginning of April 2007 to the end of December.

They range from small terraced houses to smart new semis and even a 17-bedroom former old folks home in Bolton.

The investigation has established the gardeners live in their allotted houses and are supplied with money and food while they cultivate the plants, transferring them to larger pots as they grow.

Typically, the ground floor front room is left untouched, with furniture on view to suggest to any prying eyes that the occupier is leading a normal life.

### POTENT

But the rest of the building is fitted with special lighting and venting systems to make the plants grow faster and produce a more potent product than if grown in the wild.

DCI George Fawcett, based at Astley Bridge, who is leading Dragonfly, said: "There has been an increase in the number of these farms being set up across the country and activity in Greater Manchester reflects that.

"It may well be that much of the increase is due to a sudden surge in the number of 'farms' being set up by these gangs which we have been able to trace back to China.

"While the illegality of growing these plants is obvious, it is also highly dangerous.

"Invariably, the power supply is bypassed because of the huge amount of electricity required for the vast array of heat lamps used to increase the speed of plant growth.

"The makeshift junction boxes are often very unstable and have the potential to easily start a fire. If one were to start, the venting system would take the flames straight into the roof space.

"Only a few weeks ago a house in Bolton being used as a cannabis farm was badly damaged by a fire. It was only good fortune that no-one was injured or killed."

Dragonfly was set up in March last year and intelligence quickly made a connection to the Far East - and within three months 55 farms had been discovered.

The Vietnamese promise to pay several thousands of pounds to be transported to the UK where they are put to work as gardeners on a set wage to repay the debt.



DCI George Fawcett at a typical cannabis farm

The plant contains a number of different chemicals but illicit producers are only interested in Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which produces the narcotic effect, and the gardeners ensure it is produced at the maximum level possible.

### CROPS

Under the controlled conditions a plant can grow to the point of harvesting in just three months, producing four crops a year.

A single room twelve metres square could produce nearly £30,000 worth of the drug in each three month period.

"While we have discovered many of these farms we are not kidding ourselves we have identified anything like all of them. The operation is continuing and requires concerted support to deal with this spreading problem and target those behind the scenes who are profiting from this activity," said DCI Fawcett.



Special venting (left) and unstable wiring (above)

# COP ART FOR BURY PEELERS



Computer designed graphic of the new Bury HQ



Birthplace, Chamber House



Creator of the modern police,  
Sir Robert Peel

**S**IR Robert Peel, the founder of the modern police service, is to be honoured in art as part of the development of a brand new police headquarters in his home town.

GMP, in conjunction with Bury Council, is to commission a significant piece of art to form part of the new ultra-modern station.

£50,000 is to be offered to attract some of the best and most innovative artists in the country to put forward their ideas.

A panel will then consider a shortlist of

three and decide which of the ideas best fulfils the aesthetic, cultural and historical criteria.

Planning permission for the building was secured last month and it is hoped work will begin in time for it to be completed by January 2010

It was a planning condition that the proposed development would be required to contribute a percentage of the total costs for a central fund for public art for the site. GMP successfully negotiated a reduction in the total amount spent.

The £20 million development is on a site bounded by Castlecroft Road and Carlyle Street, 300 yards from the old station and just yards from a pond where the young Robert Peel played as a boy.

Known locally as the Bury Ground, the land will be renamed The Chamber Hall Site after the mansion, now demolished, where Peel, the son of a wealthy cotton baron, was born in 1778.

As Home Secretary he reformed much of the legal system and introduced the Metropolitan Police. The slang words 'Bobbies' and 'Peelers' both

stem from his name.

In 1850, having left government after twice serving as Prime Minister, he fell from his horse and died of his injuries, aged 72.



Nick Halsall - fuel for thought

## Nick nabs diesel weasel

**A** serial car thief was brought out of prison to take officers on a tour of his crime spree.

Wigan-based investigator Nick Halsall, tasked with tracing 'drive offs' - people who make off from petrol stations without paying - linked four separate incidents.

Excellent CCTV footage revealed different occasions when what appeared to be the same man in first a Metro and then a Maestro driving off from forecourts in Leigh.

Further inquiries with Lancashire Constabulary provided a possible name and it was discovered the man, from Merseyside, was in Preston Prison on remand awaiting trial for a series of driving offences.

Nick, who as a civilian has no power of arrest, passed on the inquiry to PC Stan Cummins who in turn contacted PC

Cameron Hackett, who specialises in prison visits.

At first the man refused to speak to the two officers, but after being convicted of the driving offences at Liverpool Crown Court and faced with the camera evidence, he admitted his guilt and agreed to be driven around Wigan by them so he could point out garages he had targeted.

Eventually he admitted six drive offs - with a further 58 taken into consideration.

"Apparently he specialised in stealing Metros and Maestros in Liverpool and then filling cans with diesel at outlets outside Merseyside to sell on in pubs," said Nick. "Faced with compelling evidence it seems he was happy to clear the whole thing up."

The man was sentenced to three years for the original offences and a further six months to be served concurrently for the forecourt thefts.

# LABOUR AND TORIES UNITED IN CITY OF MANCHESTER

## Operation PROTECTOR

**G**MP has been key to Manchester negotiating a unique four-year deal to host political party conferences.

The Labour Party Annual Conference was held in Manchester in 2006 – the first time in half a century it had not been at a seaside resort.

And it was such a success, notably in terms of security, that Labour reviewed an earlier decision to take its 2008 conference to Brighton and replaced it with a return to Manchester.

But the city's much vaunted ability to create a single, ultra-secure 'island', comprised of the re-named Manchester Central Conference Centre, formerly G-Mex/MICC, and the Radisson and Midland hotels, has led to the four year plan, with Labour here this year and 2010 and the Conservatives in 2009 and 2011.

Assistant Chief Constable Dave Thompson said: "The 2006 Conference was a resounding success for Manchester, which was testament to the dedication of GMP officers who worked tirelessly to ensure its smooth running and provided a high level of security for the thousands of delegates who attended.

"We intend to build on the successes of 2006 and officers have been planning for this year's event for many months.

"We regard the conference as a fantastic opportunity for the city and look forward to policing it effectively."

### ECONOMIC BENEFITS

The September Labour event is Europe's largest political conference and can attract more than 17,000 delegates, together with global leaders and the world's press, and its two conferences are expected to generate over £35 million of economic benefit for the city and region.

The Tory's is almost on the same scale and will attract similar benefits.

All costs associated with policing the conference will be reimbursed through a special grant from the Home Office, and the majority of the officers working on the conference will do so on their rest days. This means that the people of Greater Manchester will not be disadvantaged, either through having to finance the policing operation, or by having fewer officers than normal out and about on

the streets.

GMP undertook a very detailed force and multi-agency debrief process at the end of the 2006 conference and are using these findings to make this year's even better.

One improvement will be the creation of a permanent event control room at Sedgley Park. In addition to providing a state-of-the-art control room for policing the conference, it will also provide GMP with one of the most advanced command and control facilities in Europe, capable of providing the strategic and tactical management for multiple major incidents and operations.

### SPOTLIGHT ON JOBS

There are a number of posts that have yet to be filled and police officers and staff are invited to apply. More information is available on the Operation Protector Intranet site.

- A conference-related competition will be held in the August edition of Brief with exciting prizes at stake – watch out for more information in the next edition of Brief.

## Foreign news

**SLOW POST:** A woman of 94 in Nijmegen, Gelderland, Holland, answered a knock at her door and opened it while keeping the security chain in place. The visitor introduced himself as a postman and produced a piece of paper as identification. Suspicious, she asked for further ID and when the caller waved his wallet the plucky lady grabbed it and slammed the door shut. Finding some cash but no Netherlands Postal Service ID she called the police. Shortly afterwards a 33-year-old man attended at a police station to report the loss of his wallet. Needless to say he was arrested.

**SMOKING AND DRINKING:** Still in Holland, police in Amsterdam – Europe's most drug-tolerant city – are fuming over new instructions to refrain from smoking cannabis while off duty. Traditionally they had been treated just like the rest of the population and were free to roll a joint when not working. While this debate rages, the matter of alcohol is also being addressed. A Dutch police spokesman said: "The use of alcohol is acceptable when officers are off duty but they should not be seen drunkenly babbling on the street."

Quite.

**BLIND LOVE:** In Sydney, Australia, a newly married couple, lost in a passionate embrace in the back of their chauffeur-driven wedding car, were oblivious to anything but each other until they heard the police sirens. Their driver pulled over and was duly arrested for speeding. He had been racing at 80mph after being challenged by another motorist at traffic lights.

**HEAVY METAL:** Scrap metal thieves in Khabarovsk, Russia, stole an entire 40-foot long, 200-tonne steel bridge under cover of darkness. It formed part of the only road into an industrial plant. The owners are to build a concrete replacement bridge at approximately 10 times the value of the stolen scrap.

**SAFETY FIRST:** Last month, the world's cheapest car was launched at India's 9th Auto Expo in New Delhi. The Tata Nano will retail for 100,000 rupees (£1,277). Asked about fears of safety aspects because of the quality of the build, the car company's president, Ratan Tata, replied: "Well, it's safer than trying to pile an entire family on top of a motorbike".

You can't say fairer than that.



Police officers on duty at the Labour Party Annual Conference in Manchester two years ago



## Letter from the Editor

**THIS is my first edition of Brief. I hope you find it interesting and illuminating.**

If you don't, please feel free to tell me why - and how it can be improved.

Derek Hornby who sat in this chair for 11 years, retired at Christmas aged 65. I've known and liked him since his days on the Daily Express and I wish him all the very best in the future.

But my future is now with Brief and I hope you will help me make it a successful, productive and fascinating one.

Some of you will know me from my 26 years as a crime correspondent for the Manchester Evening News which ended three years ago when I moved into publishing and PR.

But journalism is my first love and I am glad to be back in it.

We reporters have a relatively simple job; we talk to interesting people at a time when they are doing interesting things and we write about it.

The tricky bit is finding them, which is where you come in.

I may be the hands of Brief, but you are the body and soul. Without your help this publication - your own personal newspaper - cannot exist.

This February edition contains all kinds of stories; they're about people at work, at home, at play, at risk, in pain, and in jubilation. And these people are you.

Brief is written specifically for the officers and staff of GMP and their families; it is at your service.

Help me make it the best I can by telling me your stories, by letting me know when someone deserves a mention, and by not being too bashful about your own achievements. If you have anything to say, allow me to let you say it.

I look forward to hearing from you.  
My contact details are on page two.  
Regards to you all,  
**Andrew Nott.**

# DIRTY MONEY BLOW FOR FIGHTER

A BARE-KNUCKLE boxing champ was dealt a knockout blow by police during an investigation into a series of shootings.

John Joyce was jailed for 17 months for money laundering after detectives probed his bank accounts.

The 27-year-old criminal from Middleton had been drawing benefit for six years yet enjoyed a lifestyle involving expensive cars and designer labels and tens of thousands of pounds were transferred through his bank account.

Operation Cedar was launched after a spate of shootings on the Langley Estate in the Spring of 2006, including one where more than a dozen shots were fired at a pub and another where bullets and a shotgun were fired at Joyce's house in Thirlmere Drive.

He admitted involvement in criminal activity, including bare-knuckle fighting which he claimed to have retired from undefeated after 37 bouts.

Charged under the Proceeds of Crime Act, Joyce pleaded guilty at Bolton Crown Court to five counts of money laundering between April 2003 and June 2006, all relating to bank transfers and illegal possession of cash and cars.

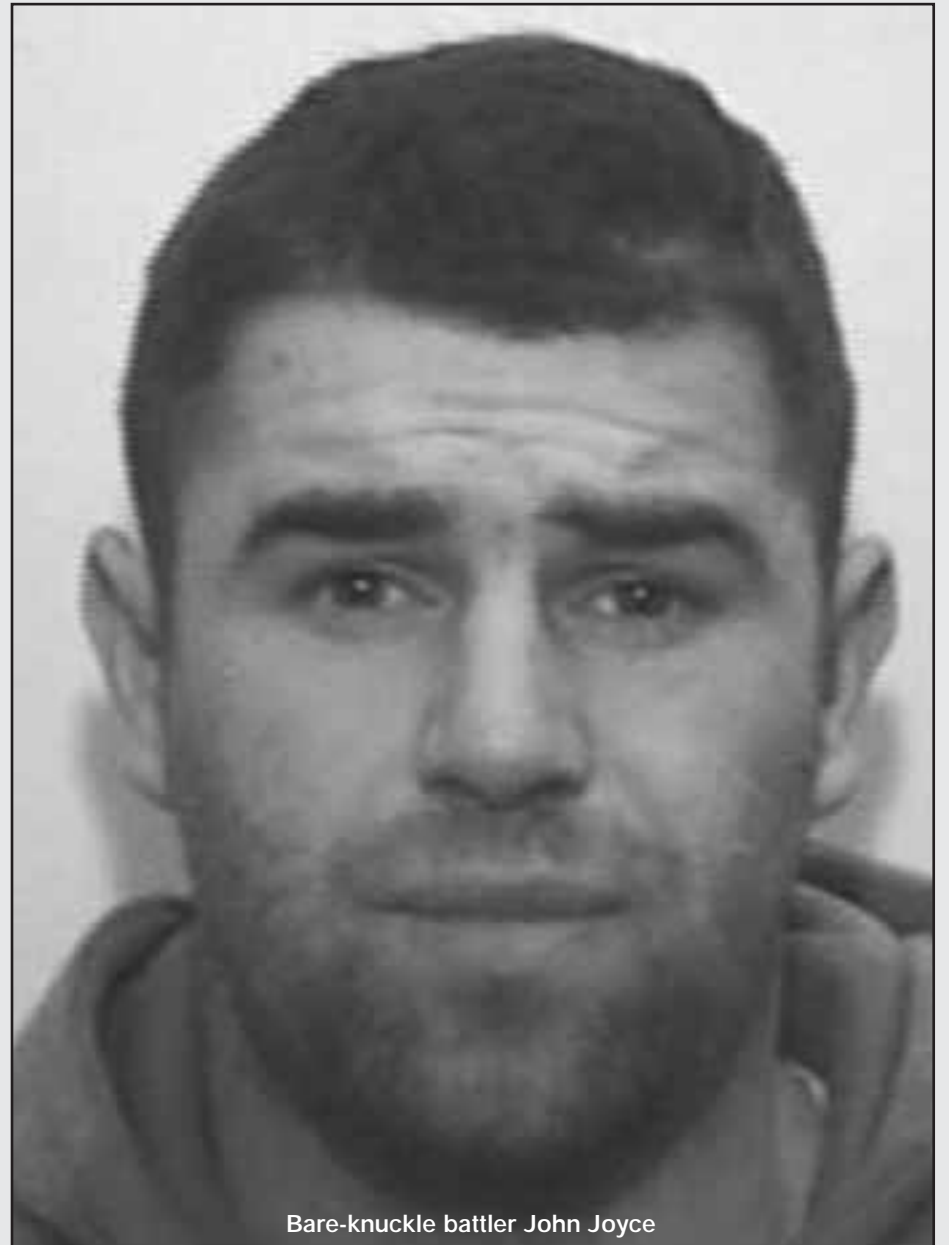
### ASSETS

A confiscation hearing to consider an application to seize his assets is due to be held this month.

DC John Townsend of the Financial Investigation Unit said: "We were determined to make the streets of Langley safer in whatever way we could.

"Joyce had become a negative role model there, flaunting unlawfully obtained wealth in a poor area by driving a series of high-value cars, including a BMW X5, buying his girlfriend a brand new Peugeot convertible and having a wardrobe full of designer clothes and accessories.

"Youngsters on the estate looked up to him. So when he was arrested we made a



Bare-knuckle battler John Joyce

very public display of taking his cars and any items of value, including the cash from his house. The effect should not be underestimated and it is interesting that the series of shootings ended abruptly after his arrest.

"The giving and receiving of a gift funded by crime is a crime in itself and GMP is determined to use the law to

effectively deal with such people, reassuring communities that crime does not pay and reminding them that no-one is untouchable.

"We believe that this is the first time that the Proceeds of Crime Act has been used in a pro-active way as part of a structured solution to problems facing a community, particularly one blighted by gun crime."

## 60 FACE COURT AFTER COVERT "STING" OPERATION

**M**ORE than 60 people have been arrested following an anti-burglary operation led by officers in south Manchester.

Doors were battered open and houses searched in the culmination of Operation Redbud which had been running for more than 18 months.

Those arrested have been charged with more than 250 offences

and are being dealt with by the courts.

Among them are a number suspected of being 'career criminals' responsible for a string of offences including robbery, burglary, handling stolen goods and drug crimes.

The covert, intelligence-led operation came to a conclusion when 200 officers descended on addresses in Withington, West Didsbury

and Chorlton-cum-Hardy and recovered a large quantity of stolen goods.

Detective Inspector Will Chatterton from West Didsbury police station said: "This has been a highly successful operation which has involved a lengthy period of intricate planning and required the dedication of a large team of officers."

## STORE SAFE AWARD

GMP has praised the Oldham branch of chain store Matalan for having one of the safest car parks in the country.

The shop at the Alexandra Retail Park, off Park Road, is the first Matalan store in Britain to be presented with a national Safer Parking Park Mark Award, which acknowledges a host of security features and managerial policies to help provide a secure area for customer parking.

Chief Inspector Chris Sykes said: "It's fantastic that businesses are taking responsibility for improving security but customers, too, must also make it tough for thieves by keeping valuables out of view and parking in well lit areas."

## DRUGS RINGS SMASHED

TWENTY-ONE people were sentenced to more than 47 years in prison after police smashed a major drugs ring in Bury.

The court case was brought after months of undercover work by divisional officers supported by the Tactical Aid Unit, Dog Section and Financial Investigation Unit.

Superintendent Peter Scofield said: "These are fantastic results which would not have been possible without the support of the local community and I'd like to thank them for taking a stand against these criminals."

# Donor plea after brave mum's battle

AFTER succumbing to kidney disease at the age of 30, Gwen Cope continued to fight bravely for her life for another two decades.

Both kidneys had been removed by the time she was 40 and she needed dialysis four times a day, an ordeal she bore with dignity and fortitude, living a life as 'normal' and fulfilling as possible.

Every effort was made to find a donor - including tests within her family - but none suitable was ever found and her condition latterly deteriorated.

Gwen, from Oldham, had become the longest surviving dialysis patient in Greater Manchester when, earlier this year, at the age of 50, she died in hospital surrounded by her family.

Her daughter, Keena Cope, a member of the communications staff at Claytonbrook, has turned to Brief to publicise the continuing plight of dialysis patients waiting in vain for a transplant organ.

"Mum died far too young and her suffering was one of the most harrowing things my family and I have ever had to deal with," she said. "At the moment an astonishing 7,600 patients across the country are waiting for a kidney. I hope through this article to raise awareness of how desperate the situation still is.

"If just one person reading this decides as a consequence to register as a donor then I believe my mum's death will not have been in vain."

Both 30-year-old Keena and her sister, Kristianne, 25, are themselves in the early stages of the same genetic disorder, Polycystic kidney disease, but both are on medication and remain in good health.

"At the moment we are both a long way from needing a kidney, but for so many people it is a life or death situation," said Keena.

"Patients should be in a better position than ever before as far as donors are concerned, not least because recent changes in medical law now allow for 'strangers' to be living donors and not just family members as was the case in the past.

"In the early stages of dialysis mum was able to cope and had relatively few setbacks but things became worse as time went on and various complications cropped up, such as peritonitis. She seemed pretty fine during most of 2006 but in January 2007 the peritonitis flared up once more and this time she could not cope.

"She became very ill, her hair fell out and she lost an enormous amount of weight. Surgeons operated to try to remove the infection that had developed and she spent time in intensive care on life support.

"She came round and went back on a ward but after improving she had another setback and in her last few weeks I think we all knew as a family that she was going to die.

"I can't begin to explain the suffering she had to deal with and leaving her after visits was devastating as she was in constant pain. Watching her die was the most difficult thing I have ever done, but the peaceful look that came over her face is one I will always cherish.

I would also like to say that GMP have been incredible in their support over the past year especially Sue Calland, my line manager. I truly don't know what I



Longest dialysis patient  
Gwen Cope

would have done without their help." More information about organ donors can be found at [www.uktransplant.org.uk](http://www.uktransplant.org.uk)

# Let's all be friends

FOURTEEN members of the Force have been trained as mediators to help resolve conflicts between staff.

The Workplace Mediation Scheme is run by the Human Resources Branch Equality Team and has seen officers and staff working in many of the Force's divisions and branches trained to assist when workplace relationships break down.

Roz Caplan, Principal HR officer, said: "The mediators carry out the role in addition to their 'day job' and were selected on the basis of their skills, experience and sensitivity.

"Mediation is a proven way of resolving conflict and we are keen it should be considered before a dispute between two members of staff or within a team has a serious impact on their performance.

"All parties in conflict must be willing to participate in the mediation which involves talking through the situation and identifying solutions rather than apportioning blame. Both one-to-one and group mediation is offered."

For further information about the Workplace Mediation Scheme, contact the Equality Team on 62303/61123, or visit the HR Branch Intranet site.

## GMPA OK

THE Greater Manchester Police Authority has received a glowing report from Government officials after a series of inspections.

The Audit Commission's annual assessment for 2006-2007 identified good performance in all areas.

There were "proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness," said District Auditor Clive Portman. "The Authority and Force operate robust processes for managing their finances."

# FAREWELL CHRIS

## Hundreds say goodbye to PC killed on duty



SOMBRE - officers line the route for the hearse led by two mounted police officers

### MORE than 250 police officers were among the mourners at the funeral of fallen PC Chris Hart.

His colleagues formed a guard of honour as the hearse carrying his coffin, draped in the GMP standard and adorned with his service helmet, left Bury Police Station on route to the East Lancashire Crematorium in Radcliffe.

Two mounted officers in ceremonial uniform escorted the funeral cortege through the grounds of the crematorium.

The 40-year-old dad was killed when the police van he was driving to an emergency incident through Openshaw, Manchester, collided with a VW Polo.

He was thrown from the vehicle and died instantly from head injuries.

His passenger, 29-year-old PC Colin Harrison, who escaped with minor injuries, paid tribute to his partner at the funeral service.

"From the outset of Chris joining the police four years ago I could see

that he was very keen and eager to learn, tackling every task with a positive attitude and a clear path forwards," he said. "It was this focus that moulded him into the proficient and dedicated police officer we all remember."

Supt Peter Scofield, Bury's Deputy Divisional Commander, recalled: "In March 2005, Chris and a colleague climbed through the broken glass of a smashed window, met the threats and the missiles hurled

by a drunken and enraged man inside the house, and later rescued the eight-year-old boy the man had threatened to kill.

"I was privileged to have played some part in commending Chris for his calm professionalism and bravery in that event.

"I know that he met his death in Openshaw whilst trying to return as soon as he possibly could to his friends in Bury, to back them up if they were in danger and to support them as fully as he could in their regular task of serving and protecting the people of the town."

Born in Bolton, PC Hart lived in Ainsworth and is survived by his six-year-old son, Luke, who was accompanied at the service by his mother, Jane.



Chris doing the job he loved

## OBITUARIES

Former Inspector **Alexander Severs**, 82, of Crumpsall, died on October 25. He joined Manchester City police in 1952, retiring from GMP in 1984 after last working on the B Division.

Former Inspector **Elizabeth Hogg-Parker**, 77, of Northumberland, died on November 11. She began her service in Sunderland with the Northumberland Constabulary in 1963 and joined Manchester City Police three years later, leaving GMP in 1976 but continuing with Central Service until her retirement in 1979.

Former Inspector **Derek Bishop**, 61, of Mossley, died on November 27. He joined Cheshire Police in 1966 and retired in 1996, last working on the C Division.

Former Sgt **David Higgin**, 58, of Bury, died on November 28, leaving a widow, Susan. He joined GMP in 1974 and retired in 2004.

Former Supt **Norman 'Ned' Kelly**, of Macclesfield, died on January 5, leaving a widow, Christine. He joined Manchester City police in 1963 and retired in 1996. He served at Phase Two at Chester House and was a trained negotiator.

Former Supt **Bernard Dunleavy**, 68, of Radcliffe, died on December 17, leaving a widow, Marilyn. He joined Manchester City Police in 1960 and retired in 1990.

Former PC **Vivien Edwards**, 50, of Bury, died on December 24, leaving a partner, Edwina Sykes. She joined GMP in 1976 and retired in 2006, last working on the C Division.

Former Sgt **Brian Coward**, 75, of Ramsbottom, died on December 27, leaving a widow, Mary. He joined Lancashire Police in 1959 and retired from GMP in 1989, last working on the N Division.

Former PC **Brian Cooper**, 56, of Rhyl, North Wales, died on January 2, leaving a widow, Marie. He joined Manchester and Salford Police in 1970 before retiring in 1997.

Former officer **Arthur Clegg**, 91, of Eccles, died on January 7 leaving a widow, Elsie. He joined Salford City Police in 1939 and retired in 1964.

Former PC **Jack Taylor**, 86, of Kincardineshire, Scotland, died on January 9, leaving a widow, Mary. He joined Manchester City Police in 1949, retiring from GMP in 1975 after last working on the A Division.

Former Chief Supt **John Holderness**, 87, of Denton, died on January 17, leaving a widow, Mary. He joined Manchester City Police in 1952 and retired in 1979.

## Hands on

SEDGLEY Park welcomed one of the world's leading experts in palm print identification for three days of seminars.

Ron Smith, from Collinsville, Mississippi, USA, addressed GMP's own fingerprint experts and specialists from other forces.

He has spent 40 years developing his own unique terminology and effective techniques that divide the area under inspection into distinct zones to assist identification.

GMP fingerprint expert Peter Edwards, said: "At first I was unsure about the benefits of this type of training. I thought it might be 'smoke and mirrors' or showmanship and not be relevant to what we needed. However having had the Ron Smith Experience, I was surprised at how much I didn't previously know."



SHOPPERS have welcomed GMP's unique partnership with Sainsbury's to attach a permanent police post to a supermarket.

The police room at the store in Fallowfield, Manchester – the first of its kind in the country - can accommodate up to 14 PCSOs, providing them with a base to work from in the heart of the community, so making them more accessible to local people.

They start and finish their tours of duty from the post and also use it as a place to take breaks without having to return to the police station.

This arrangement allows them to spend more of their shift patrolling the neighbourhood and engaging with residents.

Store duty manager Martin Haynes said: "The public certainly seem to have welcomed them. The officers take time to speak to people and there has been a good response. They also act as a deterrent to potential thieves or anyone who might be thinking of misbehaving."

Chief Inspector John McNeil said: "This new facility provides us with a more permanent presence in the heart of the community and will make a real difference to further reducing crime and the fear of crime.

"We are delighted and grateful that Sainsbury's has welcomed us in this way into their premises and look forward to continuing to fight crime and protect people with their support."



## A Very Special Send Off

COMMUNICATIONS officer Ray May has hung up his baton for the last time and finally retired as the longest serving Special Constable in Britain.

Ray joined the old Oldham Borough Police aged 19 in April 1965, starting a voluntary career lasting an amazing 43 years.

"I would have liked to join the regular force but couldn't afford it because my day job paid £7 a week and the bobbies only got £6," he revealed.

Ray - one of 22 GMP staff who serve as Specials - was sent on his way by Chief Constable Michael Todd who told him: "You can be rightly proud of your record over such a long period. The Specials are exactly that, special people who do a marvellous job as un-paid volunteers who are dedicated to help protect their communities."

Ray progressed to become Special Commandant in both Stockport and Tameside and despite being forced to take on a lighter workload, became a liaison

officer for the integration of the Special Constabulary into the Neighbourhood Policing programme.

He recalls clearly being sworn in before Oldham Borough Chief Constable Fred Berry and being issued with one shirt, three detachable collars and a second-hand uniform. "It was an old Sergeant's; you could still see where the stripes had been," he said.

"When I joined you received next to no training and the most you could claim for expenses was 6d (two and a half pence). You were just stuck on point duty and told to get on with it."

Another vivid memory is of when he literally caught a stolen car - or it caught him.

"I saw this car coming the wrong way up Greaves Street in Oldham and stepped into the road and gave him my best No 1 Stop Sign. But he didn't stop and I was carried about 200 yards clinging to the windscreen wipers, spread-eagled on the bonnet.

"It was a stolen car and he was eventually caught and sent to prison for three months."

Ray, from Oldham, who has also retired from his full time job, was awarded the British Empire Medal in the 1982 New Year Honours List, an event that he passes off, like much of his service, with typical modesty.

"There must have been something in me that just made me want to help out the community, so I just carried on," he explained. "It has given me an extreme sense of satisfaction ever since and I would recommend it to anyone."

Acknowledging Ray's dedication, Special Constabulary Chief Officer David Gledhill added: "He has a rare combination of talents that has made him not only a dedicated Special Constable but a leader, mentor and trouble shooter for the many other Specials who have served the Force during the past 43 years. I am proud to have worked with him."

## NORRIS ON STREET WATCH

BRITAIN'S most famous nose neighbour helped Manchester Homewatch volunteers celebrate a quarter of a century of community crime fighting.

Coronation Street actor Malcolm Hebden - eagle-eyed Norris Cole in the soap - joined 14 volunteers at West Didsbury police station to mark the national programme's 25th anniversary.

He said: "The dedication of these people is commendable. They have worked extremely hard over the years to ensure their communities are safer places for everyone."

Homewatch has been hailed as one of the greatest crime prevention initiatives ever conceived.

Chief Inspector Jim Liggett added: "These schemes, operated by the community for the community, are a vital tool in the fight against crime. Without them our job would be much more difficult."

• Student volunteers in Manchester have been working with officers from the Metropolitan Division, providing free light timers in accommodation blocks and offering crime prevention advice.

Crime Reduction Advisor Judith

Hackney said: "The students have been explaining to their peers that burglars are usually opportunistic so it's important to make sure all windows and doors are locked and no valuables are left on display through the window. Using a light timer gives the appearance that somebody is at home, even when they are not.

"One in three burglaries are through unlocked or open doors and windows so it really is something we can easily reduce. The message is: keep it hidden, keep it locked, keep it safe..."



Actor Malcolm with Homewatch volunteer Marjorie Lees

# GRIEF AND HOPE

## In the fire of Helmand

DETECTIVE Sergeant Myra Ball joined the Territorial Army Medical Service 17 years ago at the age of 18. In June last year, after rigorous refresher training, she was mobilised into full time Regular Army service as a medic in a hospital based at Camp Bastion, Helmand

Province, Afghanistan. She left behind her partner, also a GMP officer, Sgt Jon Evans, her parents and her brothers and sisters, for three months and three weeks to work in the middle of a desert. This is her story.

**T**HE AFGHAN boy was six years old but looked more like four. He wasn't crying, which was a worry.

He had been brought into the hospital with his two sisters, aged six and nine months, his mother, uncle and grandad. Their village had taken some kind of hit and they were all badly hurt.

The boy had a field dressing on his head and it was my job to remove that and replace it with fresh bandages.

As I lifted it I could see into his cheek cavity and his sinus. When I lifted it away completely I could see his brain. It was pulsating with the beat of his heart. The gap in his skull was roughly the circumference of a tennis ball.

Then he cried. To me it was like the cry of a newborn baby, a cry that would bring relief and joy to a parent. He was alive; he had a chance.

"Good boy," I shouted out, suddenly happy. He and his family all survived.

### ROUTINE

There were other horrors, of course. Most of the serious casualties we attended to had suffered either gunshot or blast injuries and one of my major roles was the fluid replacement regimes and rapid control of catastrophic haemorrhage, so to a certain extent it became routine.

A soldier was brought in with ghastly full-thickness burns after a roadside bomb exploded as his Humvee passed by. His body took the full force of the blast, protecting his four comrades who escaped with minor injuries. He, however, had no chance.

There was another with his legs blown off and locals killed by a suicide bomber whose explosive was packed with ball bearings half an inch in diameter.

But it isn't necessarily the extreme horrors that get to you in the most potent way.

A young Brit came in with a head injury that was not horrendous but he had a compression on his brain that meant he couldn't speak.

I could tell that he was getting frustrated because he wanted to tell me things and couldn't, so I provided him with a pen and paper.

Here he was, 6,000 miles from home



On duty in the war zone - Medic Myra prepares for another challenging day.

and injured and he wrote: "Will my injury affect my pay for my family?" His thoughts were not for himself but for his family. I couldn't help but weep.

We arranged to ring his wife so he could tell her he was going into surgery but it was not too serious. He listened on a loudspeaker to his wife and wrote down what he wanted me to say.

I had to call her by a pet name, 'Dookie Wook' or something, so she would know it was real and not a wind up. I was intruding into the most intimate, heart-rending conversation and it was painful.

He went for surgery and I put the notes in a sealed envelope. If he didn't make it, at least his wife would have a record of their last conversation together.

The next day I went to the hospital and

he was there, alive. I asked: "Do you remember me?" and he replied: "Yes, I'm the one who made you cry." That set me off again.

We treated everyone who came in exactly the same, be they coalition forces, civilians or the Taleban and their supporters.

Afghans who died had to have their hands and feet bound together and placed with their heads facing Mecca.

### DIGNITY

It was also my job to help look after the dignity of the service personnel killed in action and prepare them for returning to their countries. I was involved chiefly because I am a police officer and understand the importance of security. There was also a member of SIB (Military CID), the Sgt

Major, a trauma nurse, a consultant and the padre.

I was present at the repatriation ceremonies for 15 Brits, three Danes and one American. Each time, when the plane took off, it would circle the parade square, which was a just bit of desert, and dip its wings.

I felt it was patriotic and dignified and for me it provided closure. I was sending them home.

Once a week we awaited the arrival of what we called the 'Jingly market' because all the carts and trucks had bells on. This was where the local population would set up and sell their wares to the camp residents. The locally-made pashminas and shawls were exquisite and I brought some home.

We talk a lot about diversity but I have never been in a more diverse situation.

Sometimes we would be dealing with civilian members of the local community who were visibly in awe of electric lighting.

The inside of the hospital is white, clinically clean, with silver coloured instruments being used by people of a different colour, speaking a strange language. While we were poking and prodding them they must have felt like they'd been beamed up to the 'mother ship'.

Obviously we had dedicated interpreters but sometimes, when I just wanted a chit chat with a member of an injured patient's family, it didn't seem appropriate to do it that way.

Sign language knows no boundaries and a cup of tea could always be acted out, as could a smile and welcoming gesture. But what about when you make a cup-a-soup in the middle of the night for a man who has never seen a boiling kettle? And what's he going to think when the white woman serving it acts out her best impression of a chicken to tell him what's in it?

When he actually got it we laughed out loud and that was a defining moment for me in my understanding of international language barriers.

Official visits happened regularly and I met (normally as they breezed passed) David Cameron, Des Brown and ROSS KEMP!

He was sitting in the coffee area one day after I had been through an extremely traumatic night and a horrendous day. He had been filming up in a place called Kajaki and was happy to chat to us and have his photo taken and he made us smile. It's funny how something as trivial as meeting him lifted our spirits and enabled us to get on with our day. Unfortunately, the other official visits failed to provide this effect.



Light relief - Myra with Eastender's actor Ross Kemp

## ARMOUR

Even my arrival in Helmand was interesting. We came in on a Hercules, wearing combat body armour and helmets and in complete darkness. The plane was making a rapid tactical descent and then pulled up dramatically, banking left



Out of the blue - a Chinook helicopter bringing wounded into Camp Bastion

and right. My heart was pounding, the sweat was pouring off me due to my attire, panic and Afghan humidity. Were we under attack?

After a further 10 minutes of banking the descent started again and I wondered if I would ever make it to Camp Bastion. When we did land the whole plane cheered and we rattled to a stop. It wasn't insurgents, apparently the wheels hadn't engaged and the pilot had to take emergency measures.

The camp was in the desert, nine minutes flying time from the nearest village. I slept in a tent with eight other women. Most of the time it was a tip as we all worked various shifts 24 hours a day.

The air conditioning unit buzzed constantly but this was nothing compared to the noise of the rifle and tank range and the constant whirring noise from Chinook helicopters dropping off casualties.

Shifts were 12 hours on, 12 on standby and 12 on protected time when you are not supposed to be called up. But it was so busy I was needed 19 times while on standby and four on protected.

I'll never complain about the long hours in CID again.

My bed space was five feet by six and comprised of camp bed, mattress and hanging wardrobe. My bedside table was a plastic box that doubled up as my place to keep food away from the mouse-like jerboas and camel spiders.

The spiders are actually more like scorpions and six inches long. They have no venom but they can bite. They are nocturnal so stay in the shadows during the day.

The problem is that if you encounter one it will try to stay in your shadow, which makes it feel like it's chasing you. And you can't kill one with a flip-flop.

Privacy was rare and most of the time was spent outside the tent catching the sun, moaning about being hot, but it was an experience I would not have missed and will stay with me for the rest of my life.



Me and my shadow - you can't kill a Camel Spider with a flip flop

# SUPERWOMAN



## Janette beats Britain's best!

Chief Supt Janette McCormick is the 2008 Woman of the Year.

And Stretford's Commander earned the title not just for her high-flying career – but also because she's a working mum who makes sure she finds time for her two daughters.

She was nominated for the Aristoc Ultra Woman of the Year Award by her staff officer Sgt Laura Clarke, and her PA Irene Britton, after Laura spotted an advert in a women's magazine.

"We just felt she fitted the bill," said Irene. "Not only is she incredibly keen and enthusiastic and has worked so hard to improve the Division's performance, she's also a great mum.

"She makes sure she gets to her daughters' school plays and sports days and still finds time to do her garden which she loves.

"We went to her 40th birthday recently and she'd done all the food herself.

"She's superwoman."

Now Janette – one of four female chief superintendents in GMP – will be flying off to Barbados as her prize with husband Phil, a DCI at Wigan, and their girls, Ellena, 11, and nine-year-old Georgina.

After the presentation at London's Fortnum and Mason store, Janette said she was surprised to win against such an array of talent.

"They were mostly in business



and had achieved such a lot," she said. "One was a designer who had Jennifer Lopez as a client, another had opened her own chain of fitness clubs, and yet another ran a charity to help disabled children through dance and had written a book.

### COMMITMENT

"The judges told me I had been picked because of how I balanced my commitment to the job with my commitment to my home life, and also that what I had done had been recognised by my staff who put my name forward.

"I was very flattered that colleagues entered me, if shocked. I work with a great team at Trafford. Celebrating achievement, especially those of

women, is something I was honoured to be involved in.

"Things have changed so much over the past 15 years. I was the first Inspector to have part-time hours 10 years ago, which was very useful for bringing up the girls, and when I headed the Road Policing Units I think I doubled the number of women on the team.

"Now the opportunities for women are there if you want to take them."



Woman of the Year Janette pictured at work and at home and (above) her staff officer Sgt Laura Clarke and her PA Irene Britton.

# Op Tomahawk hits home

**P**OLICE boarded buses and set up traps for rogue car drivers in the biggest operation of its kind ever carried out by GMP.

They also targeted shops, homes and industrial premises in a 24-hour 'Day of Action' on January 17 against suspected criminals.

One result was the interception of what is believed to be a massive illegal trade in stolen mobile phones.

A total of 136 arrests were made and several hundred mobile phones and other suspected stolen goods seized.

Individuals were targeted directly while officers manned buses in 'hotspot' areas with the assistance of the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive, Stagecoach, First Manchester and Arriva.

Use of automated number plate recognition systems led to the seizure of 125 vehicles, with 91 summonses issued and 167 fixed penalty notices given.

### BEATING JANUARY

Operation Tomahawk was staged to tackle a predicted increase in robbery offences during January when there is

usually a 30 per cent rise attributed to thieves wanting to get their hands on expensive items bought over Christmas.

Assistant Chief Constable Dave Thompson said: "We really are starting the year as we mean to go on by taking strong and positive action against the people who blight our communities.

"The checks on public transport together with GMPTC are the largest Greater Manchester has seen. On average an offender will travel 5.6km to commit a robbery offence and is likely to use either an untaxed or uninsured vehicle, or public transport."



**NQSC**  
People Count

# Letters of Appreciation

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

## HORSE SENSE FROM FREDDIE



Thank you to the two mounted officers who were patrolling in Withington while I was waiting at a bus stop with my two-year-old son and they crossed the road to say hello and allowed him to feed and pet the horses. He was clearly touched by the encounter and the kindness shown. One of the horses was called Freddie. We continue to be proud to live in Manchester where we have such an effective, passionate and approachable police service.

*Dr Robert Varnam  
Withington  
Manchester*

### HAPPY FAMILY

MY family and I wish to thank **PCs Tricia Solomon, Grant Barnes and Gary Owen** from Stockport police station who helped in the successful search for my ill husband when he went missing.

*JB  
Heaton Mersey  
Stockport*

### CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WAY FOR JADE

I AM bringing up my 12-year-old grand-daughter, Jade, and in

these troubled times I rarely let her out of the house. But when she pleaded with me to allow her to watch the Christmas lights switch-on in Stockport with two friends and their mother I agreed. By the time 8.30pm arrived and she had not returned home I had become desperately worried, though it turned out I needn't have been.

She had become separated from her friends but fortunately had the good sense to ask some policemen for help. They made a real fuss of her and brought her home in a minibus. They turned a frightened child into a very happy one.

Jade has always had ambitions to be a police officer and the wonderful way these officers handled the situation has made her more resolute than ever to follow her dream.

*Sandra Cole  
Brinnington  
Stockport*

### KINDNESS PAYS DIVIDENDS

MY first attempt at petty theft was also my last. While very tired and not thinking straight, I tried to steal a bottle of Port from my local Asda store in Tameside in the early hours of the morning. I was quite rightly 'nabbed' by the security guard who called the police.

When I explained to **PCs Alison MacEachran and Jamie O'Dwyer** that I suffered from chronic insomnia as a result of Parkinson's Disease they displayed exemplary behaviour.

They treated me with the utmost courtesy, kindness and respect, took me home so I could prove my identity and made me a cup of tea while the paper formalities were completed.

Furthermore, the following evening they called to see if I was feeling better, an act of such generous kindness it reduced me to tears. I cannot thank them enough for their display of incredible humanity to someone who was, effectively, just another common thief.

It may be that their behaviour during the arrest and caution was only to be expected from two such clearly professional officers, but to go out of their way the following evening to come around was above and beyond the call of duty.

Rest assured my brief attempt at a career in crime is well and truly over.

*MD  
Dukinfield  
Tameside*

### BEATING TEEN FEARS

A BOY attacked my teenage daughter while she was visiting a friend in Stretford, punched her to the ground and continued to punch and kick her while she was down, causing her to need stitches.

She was very upset and angry but explained that such things

were commonplace and it had happened to other girls who were too scared to make a complaint to the police.

Despite the fact that she believed no-one who witnessed the incident would confirm her story, she nevertheless felt she had to report the incident otherwise it would probably happen again.

As time passed she became worried about intimidation if the case was to go to court, stopped going out with her friends and became withdrawn.

However, when she spoke to **PC Dave Butterworth** he put her at ease and she felt comfortable talking to him about the problems in the area between different groups of teenagers.

PC Butterworth obviously has an excellent understanding of the area he works in and the groups of teenagers he deals with.

He helped both of us feel totally confident about the situation and my daughter agreed to go ahead with the case at Trafford Magistrates Court which resulted in the boy being convicted of assault.

We are extremely grateful to this officer for the support he gave us and my girl now has a very positive attitude towards the police.

*J Williams  
Manchester*

### COMPASSION COUNTS

I would like to thank **PCs Laura Bristow and Mark Atkinson** from Plant Hill police station for their understanding and compassion when they attended the sudden death of my aunt. I was shocked and upset but they explained the process of what would happen and guided me through it. They were both very reassuring and helpful.

*Lynda Shakeshaft  
Blackley  
Manchester*

### OUT OF HOURS

I would like to express my thanks for the excellent police work conducted by three off duty GMP officers based at Stockport.

One hour after the theft of an Audi TT from Derbyshire, the car was noticed by one of the

officers, parked and unattended on Hollinwood Road, Disley, Cheshire. He and his two colleagues contacted Cheshire Police and maintained observations on the vehicle while officers from Cheshire moved into position.

These off duty PCs – **Carl Morton, Philip Housley and Richard Fox** – assisted in the production of a tactical plan should the offenders return, and remained giving assistance for more than three hours until the decision was taken shortly after 11pm to recover the vehicle.

The three demonstrated a commitment and dedication to the detection of crime and the apprehension of offenders that extended beyond their normal working hours and their Cheshire colleagues thank them for their efforts.

*Sgt Mark Ellershaw  
Targeted Patrol team  
Macclesfield Police Station  
Cheshire*

### GIRLS GUIDED

I WOULD like to thank **PCSOs Norman Smith and Robert Longdon** who took the time to meet with the 3rd Gatley Brownies and Guides. The girls found it interesting and certainly became more aware of safety issues particularly with regard to the risks of being out and about with mobile phones and MP3 players.

*Ashley Hickson  
Guide Guider  
Poynnton*

### PAUL ON THE BALL

AS a Homewatch co-ordinator in Worsley Hall, Wigan, I would like to thank you for appointing **PCSO Paul Dickinson** as our community officer. We have quite a few elderly people living alone and we were having a lot of problems with boys playing ball and throwing stones. Paul had a word with them and – fingers crossed – it has since remained quiet.

He really has taken an interest in us and we have seen him quite a lot, walking around the estate. He is liked and respected by everyone.

*Mavis Darbyshire  
Worsley Hall  
Wigan*

# Super moves for Chiefs

**C**HIEF Supt Jon Rush has been appointed commander of Bury Division, replacing David Anthony who has moved to South Manchester.

Mr Rush joined GMP from Cumbria Constabulary in May 2007, and has since worked at Force Headquarters where he had responsibility for a number of key projects, including developing strategies for dealing with anti-social behaviour and supporting the Command team in the restructure of GMP.



Chief Supt Jon Rush



Chief Supt David Anthony

He spent 24 years working in Cumbria where he became Deputy Divisional Commander for Carlisle. Other roles included working in CID and developing strategies and policies for protecting vulnerable people in local communities.

Mr Anthony spent 25 years as a career detective with the Metropolitan Police, including time on the Flying Squad and the North East London Murder Squad, before joining GMP as Divisional Commander for Tameside in May 2006. He is keen on rugby and football and is a lifelong Chelsea fan.

Superintendent Zoë Hamilton

has become the acting Chief Supt at Tameside Division, replacing Steve Hartley who has moved to Chester House in charge of the new Local Policing



Chief Supt Zoë Hamilton



Chief Supt Steve Hartley

Support Department.

Chief Supt Hamilton began her career with GMP 20 years ago on the beat in Rochdale. She has since spent time on the Bury, North Manchester and Oldham divisions as well as at Force headquarters in the Criminal Justice Division and as Staff Officer to the Chief Constable. Latterly she has served as a Divisional Superintendent at Tameside.

Chief Supt Hartley joined GMP from Lancashire Constabulary in March 2006 to take up the post of Divisional Commander for Tameside. He joined Lancashire in 1984 and during a period with their drug squad he worked on investigations in Florida and Spain, and attended the FBI Academy in America.

While a superintendent in Burnley, he faced the challenges of operationally responding to the BNP and demonstrations by the Anti-Nazi League within the context of significant community tensions.

He has a law degree and a Masters in business administration.

# CASH FLEW

REGULARS rushed outside their pub and scooped up £6,000 cash takings blowing on the breeze.

The money had been dropped after an attempt to mug the landlord of the Trevor

Arms in Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, as he walked to the bank.

The drinkers recovered all the money – apart from 76p. And all were promised a free pint.

# FINE DINING AT THE SOCIAL

WHO needs the paparazzi outside The Ivy?

Why pay Heston Blumenthal's prices?

Our very own Masterchef is right here – at Hough End.

The Sports and Social Club in Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, has won a prestigious award for its culinary excellence as Catering Club of the Year.

It beat off challenges from at least 25 others across the country to land the accolade sponsored by Club Mirror, the specialist magazine for sports, social and private members clubs, and the prize was

awarded at a dinner at Manchester's Palace Hotel.

Martin Coughlan, boss of MC Catering which supplies the club, said: "The award reflects the professionalism of the club and its services. Menu content, presentation and service all played a major role in the judging."

Martin, who now also lectures in catering at Tameside College, started as a weekend chef at Grey Mare Lane when he was 18, whilst a student, and moved around a number of police canteens before settling at Chester House. He became head

chef at Hough End in 1984, moving on to Kellogg's in 1995.

The following year he set up his own business and in 2001 returned with it to the police club.

He said: "This award is obviously for a team effort, but I must say the innovative ideas of our Executive Chef Christina Bowker have been essential in achieving the high standards that have made this possible."

Our Manager, Darren Butterfield, and the club's Chief Executive, Ian Campbell, also deserve a more than honourable mention."



Winning dish - executive chef Christina Bowker and catering boss Martin Coughlan

# CHEETAH RUNNING WELL



Prince Michael of Kent with Chief Insp Haydn Roberts and Road Safety Manager Josie Wride

## AN OPERATION set up to track down cheating motorists has earned Royal approval.

More than 150 people who used various scams to avoid punishment for speeding or driving illegally have been caught since 2005.

Now the officers and staff involved in Operation Cheetah, based at the Central Ticket Office, have won a special

award, sponsored by Prince Michael of Kent, for improving road safety.

Chief Inspector Haydn Roberts of the Traffic Network Section, Road Safety Manager Josie Wride, CTO Manager Karen Stringer, Sgt John Buckley, Sgt Mark Beales and PC Vaughan Sherrah-Davies traveled to London's Savoy Hotel to accept the honour from Prince Michael.

The awards were set up in 1987 to recognize outstanding achievement in improving road safety with road users of all types asked to nominate candidates. The CTU team was put forward by a section of ACPO.

Amongst the Cheetah cases which led to charges of perverting the cause of justice were a car courier who altered his number plate to avoid congestion charges when in London, a couple who

invented a driver from Bulgaria who, they lied, had been using their car; 25 taxi drivers, caught after 100 speeding tickets were returned to GMP bearing one man's name, and a non-driver who allowed his details to be used on tickets in exchange for cash.

Janet said: "The unit has had some brilliant successes over the last two years and everyone involved is very proud of this recognition."

## SING IF YOU'RE WOMEN

A PLEA from retired officer Reg Eaton who can't get enough women.

The GMP Ladies' Choir, of which he is the conductor, is down to just 18 members from a peak of double that and he's looking to build it up again.

It was formed in 1974 by three support staff at Stretford police station and they rehearsed on Wednesday evenings in the parade room.

But Manchester United's growing popularity meant that

too often on Wednesdays the room was needed for policing football games, so they moved to the Officers' Mess at Chester House.

The redesign of headquarters took them north to Sedgley Park but that – plus football traffic – lost the singers from the south of the city.

"It was great in its heyday but things have changed," said Reg. "We used to work a lot with the Force band and once sang at the NEC in Birmingham. I hope we can carry it on but we need more singers."

"With all the thousands of ladies in the Force I should be able to get it up to at least past levels."

Any vocalists wanting to get involved with the choir can contact Reg on 0161 865 4010 or [regeaton@ntlworld.com](mailto:regeaton@ntlworld.com)

## In the pink

GMP has been voted the best force in the country by readers of the Pink Paper, the specialist magazine for gay men, lesbians and bisexuals.

Editor Tris Reid-Smith said the annual awards were completely democratic with no input from him, so this was a genuine recognition by the gay population of an organisation working very well within their community.

"We don't ask our readers

why they are voting for someone or something, we just accept their vote," he explained. "This is a real achievement for GMP."

"It will be about the way officers are positive and open with the community and engage with the people."

"They also pro-actively warn against potential dangers."

"I personally am always impressed with GMP when I come to Manchester for a Pride event."

## Memories of motorways and men



TRAFFIC cop Pete Birch is taking a charitable view of changes to the GMP Motorway Unit.

He has designed and commissioned 500 tie pins bearing the message: "GMP Motorway Unit 1974-2007" over a road sign logo advising: "end of motorway".

The badge is a light-hearted reference to the change of name and shape of the unit, now known as the Strategic Road Policing Unit and spread across five centres rather than the previous two.

However, all proceeds from the sale of the pins will go to Cancer Research and MacMillan Nurses in memory of motorway officer PC Paul Merrick, who died recently at the age of 44.

PC Birch said: "The decision to make the tie pins was initially just as a memento of the dedicated Motorway Unit which had been in existence for 33 years until its role was extended to cover primary routes as well, integrated into the 5 RPUs, and ceased to exist in its traditional form."

"The matter of raising money for charity came up and I approached Paul Merrick, who at that time was recovering, and he asked if any money raised could be donated to Cancer Research and the MacMillan nurses."

"Tragically, he took a turn for the worse and we received the sad news that he had passed away the day before we took delivery of the pins, so Paul never got to see them."

"We are asking for a minimum donation of £2 per pin which will leave people free to donate more if they wish."

# Joshua, 2, in mum's 999 rescue

**A** TWO-year-old boy saved his mum when he had the presence of mind to dial 999 after she collapsed.

"Mummy won't wake up", the terrified toddler told GMP call handler Paula Hall.

Police were at the scene within six minutes where tiny Joshua Brookes even managed to let them in the front door.

They found his mother, Isobel, 30, still collapsed and she was taken to hospital by ambulance where she recovered.



Astounded - Paula Hall

"I could tell by the youngster's voice that he was very young," said Paula, herself the mother of a teenage daughter. "But I was astonished when I discovered he was just two.

"Obviously you get used to taking calls from people who are distressed and calls from kids are often hoaxes, but as soon as I heard him speak I got a gut feeling that something was genuinely wrong.

"My main concern was to get someone there to help, so I was focused on keeping him on the line and ensuring that I put as much information as I could on the log to help the officers who were on their way.

"I asked him to go and shake his mum in an attempt to wake her and he went off the line, but he was back again within seconds saying it hadn't worked.

"I couldn't believe how brave he was but at the same time he was so frightened he couldn't tell me his name. I told him that someone would be coming to the door to help but I was worried that he wouldn't be able to answer it.

"I was very relieved when I heard



My saviour - mum Isobel with her partner Martin and pint-sized hero Joshua

an adult voice and knew officers had got there."

Paula, from Ashton-under-Lyne, who is based at Claytonbrook OCU, met Joshua at his home in Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan, to give him a personal "well done".

Isobel, who has a rare heart condition that occasionally causes

her to pass out explained that from the day Joshua and his sister, Amy, aged six, could speak she had shown them how to use the phone to dial 999 in an emergency.

"It was a precaution because of my condition," she said. "Amy has done it before but she was at

school this time. I didn't know anything about it until I woke up with a paramedic standing over me.

"Joshua did really well, not only making the call but also letting the emergency services into the house.

"I'm really proud of him."

## JUDITH AIDS STREET FOLK



Judith with High Sheriff Michael Oglesby and councillor Jim Battle

GMP's champion of the homeless helped launch the latest scheme to aid those living on the streets in Manchester.

PC Judith Walmsley was on hand with High Sheriff Michael Oglesby and the City Council's deputy leader, Cllr Jim Battle, for the presentation of five new collection boxes for the homeless.

Mr Oglesby is also the chairman of the Bruntwood property empire and the boxes will be placed at sites across Manchester owned by his company.

The smart chrome boxes replace the seven-year-old

old black ones used in the initial 'Change for the Better' scheme and are more in tune with the city's modern image.

Judith, who has earned an OBE and a Chief Constable's Commendation for her work with the homeless explained: "People on the street can earn money with begging to fuel a drug or alcohol habit and this obviously doesn't help at all.

"The message is: 'Give to the box, not the beggar,' so that outreach workers can utilise whatever is donated to provide these people with the real help they need to get back into everyday life."

## SALFORD SUCCESSES

**POLICE** in Salford made significant reductions in crime in 2007, according to latest figures.

When the period April to December was compared for both years, total crime was down 17.5 per cent, equating to 4,432 fewer victims.

Burglary was reduced by 12.3 per cent, robbery by 12 per cent,

vehicle crime by 22.3 per cent and violence against the person by 7.5 per cent.

Superintendent Ian Palmer said: "We are committed to keeping crime in Salford down, and I am delighted that these figures show we've achieved considerable success in this.

"GMP officers, staff and our

partners have worked hard over the last year to reduce crime, and we aim to continue this trend throughout 2008.

"We also saw good reductions during the run up to the festive season, which is traditionally a very challenging time of year. Overall, crime for the months of November and December was down by more than 25 per cent."

Meanwhile, a vehicle crime

initiative run in east Salford has almost halved the number of offences.

In September 2007 there were 173 thefts from motor vehicles in the area but, since running Operation Walney, there have been month on month reductions, with just 91 offences in December, a drop of 47 per cent.

Police targeted offenders in hotspots around Trinity and Lower Broughton, and used high-profile

vehicles, bikes and foot patrols as deterrents.

Covert surveillance tactics were also employed to gather intelligence on known offenders.

Inspector Steve Bailey of the Salford East Neighbourhood Policing Team said: "To reduce the number of vehicle crime incidents by nearly half over this period is testament to the hard work of all the officers involved."



# SCOTS POISON PLOTTERS FOILED BY ANTI-TERROR TEAM

By Smyth Harper

**P**OLICE took just four days to track down terrorists threatening to kill English people 'at random' with lethal poison.

The men, claiming to represent the Scottish National Liberation Army, mixed caustic soda with vodka then re-sealed the bottles before sending one to a Blackburn councillor and another to a Scottish journalist.

The chemical – also known as sodium peroxide – was in a concentration up to 30 times stronger than powerful oven cleaner and consumption would have probably resulted in death.

The councillor's Jiffy bag package was intercepted at a postal sorting office as suspicious, and the journalist's – arriving on the same day – came with a note warning of the danger.

Linking the two, and establishing both had been posted from the Wigan area, officers from the GMP Counter Terrorism Unit were immediately deployed.

Following a surveillance operation, a 42-year-old Scottish doorman, Steven Kerr Robinson, was identified as a suspect.

He was arrested by CTU detectives supported by Tactical Aid Unit officers at his flat in Robert Street, Tyldesley, and a search led to another flat in the same block, the home of Wayne Cook, 45.

Cook was heading home on the bus when he noticed all the police activity outside his home, missed his stop and

went on the run before being captured 14 days later.

The note in the package to the councillor, who never actually received it, read: "Congratulations on a Labour victory. Have a drink on me."

The one enclosed with the spiked vodka sent to the Glasgow journalist carried a chilling message typed on a manual typewriter.

It read: "EXCLUSIVE. The bottle is full of lethal caustic soda. Any chemist will immediately confirm this by a simple test.

"A very large number of similarly poisoned items have just been sent to political figures all over England. An example is councillor John Wright who will be getting his at the Town Hall, King William Street, Blackburn.

"Perhaps you might warn him? Pity you cannot warn the other targets individually, but we want to demonstrate our intent to kill English people at random and with no discrimination or compunction.

"This is necessary to convince the British Govt. that we will lethally poison England's water supplies if they do not withdraw totally from Scotland.

We have already proved, at Salford, our ability to contaminate the water supply of any English town or city. We can, and will, kill thousands of English if the British Govt. does not withdraw from Scotland."

It was signed: SNLA.

The Salford incident referred to was a failed attempt to contaminate the water supply with fuel oil six months earlier.



One of the vodka bottles that contained the lethal poison

DEAR WYRA,

EXCLUSIVE

THE BOTTLE IS FULL OF LETHAL CAUSTIC SODA. ANY CHEMIST WILL IMMEDIATELY CONFIRM THIS BY A SIMPLE TEST. A VERY LARGE NUMBER, OF SIMILARLY POISONED ITEMS HAVE JUST BEEN SENT TO POLITICAL FIGURES ALL OVER ENGLAND. AN EXAMPLE IS COUNCILLOR JOHN WRIGHT WHO WILL BE GETTING HIS AT THE TOWN HALL, KING WILLIAM STREET, BLACKBURN. PERHAPS YOU MIGHT WARN HIM PITY YOU CANNOT WARN THE OTHER TARGETS INDIVIDUALLY, BUT WE WANT TO DEMONSTRATE OUR INTENT TO KILL ENGLISH PEOPLE AT RANDOM AND WITH NO DISCRIMINATION OR COMPUNCTION. THIS IS NECESSARY TO CONVINCE THE BRITISH GOVT. THAT WE WILL LETHALLY POISON ENGLANDS WATER SUPPLIES, IF THEY DO NOT WITHDRAW TOTALLY FROM SCOTLAND. WE HAVE ALREADY PROVED, AT SALFORD, OUR ABILITY TO CONTAMINATE THE WATER SUPPLY OF ANY ENGLISH TOWN OR CITY WE CAN, AND WILL, KILL THOUSANDS OF ENGLISH IF THE BRITISH GOVT. DOES NOT WITHDRAW FROM SCOTLAND.

The terrifying letter sent to Glasgow

As the pair were held under the Terrorism Act rather than PACE, detectives from the CTU could hold them for longer than normal and set up a series of interviews with Tier 3 interviewers, co-ordinated by Tier 5 interviewers.

## SENTENCED

As a result of a detailed investigation and following a number of admissions, Robinson pleaded guilty to offences under the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, and last month a Manchester Crown Court jury convicted Cook of identical charges. Both were sentenced to six years in jail.

Police believe that Robinson was a member of the small Scottish nationalist group of militant extremists that was formed in 1980 by a man currently in custody for unrelated offences.

It was responsible in 1983 for 27 attacks, including letter bombs to then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the Princess of Wales. Eight years later the organisation sent Prince William a fake 'anthrax bomb'.

More recently an SNLA member was convicted for sending Cherie Blair face cream contaminated with caustic soda, and hundreds of people have received e-mails threatening deadly force.

Robinson's friend, Cook, knew of the Scotsman's intentions but, it is suspected, he had an additional, motive. His son, Shane, died in a car accident while being driven at 1.30am by a disqualified driver while he was in the care of Blackburn Social Services, and for years he has continued to blame the council for the boy's death.

Det Ch Supt Tony Porter, head of GMP's CTU, said: "Be in no doubt these men are terrorists. This was not some clumsy joke – it was a serious attempt to cause real harm and intimidation.

"Robinson and Cook's actions would have caused serious injury to anyone who came into contact with the chemical. Had anyone drunk the contents they would, in all likelihood, have died.

"Not only were the two people who the parcels were addressed to put in serious danger, but so were the postal workers who handled the packages and anyone else who could have come into contact with them.

"These convictions show we will use all of the powers at our disposal to bring to justice those – from any community – who think they can use terrorist tactics."

While one note threatened many attacks, leading GMP to issue a public warning at the time, the two bottles of vodka in question are the only ones ever found.



Steven Kerr Robinson  
TERRORIST



Wayne Cook  
TERRORIST

# Chief Constable's EXCELLENCE Awards 2007

The 2008 Chief Constable's Excellence Awards Gala Dinner will be staged at Manchester's Midland Hotel on the evening of Friday 29 February.

Hosted once again by BBC Radio Manchester's Eamonn O'Neal, it will showcase the very best of GMP's officers and staff.

Twenty four individuals and teams have been nominated for eight categories whose winner will be declared on the night.

Their efforts - all deserving of victory - are listed here:

## Partnership Working

**PC Steven Hodgson**, community beat manager for Hurst Cross, Tameside.

Through excellent links forged with integral community partners he acquired unprecedented levels of funding - £150,000 through the Safer Stronger Communities Fund - and has been able to bring a better quality of life for residents.

## Messenger Team, Oldham.

Set up in 2006 as a response to child sexual exploitation, the team has been successful in overcoming cultural and process barriers so that referrals, priorities, timescales and outcomes are supported by all partners. Fifty young people have been supported through the partnership.

## Safer Schools Partnership Team, Metropolitan Division.

Officers involved soon became embedded in the schools, engaging with vulnerable pupils and diverting young people away from anti-social behaviour. Work concentrates on preventative, early intervention activity and there is compelling evidence of its effectiveness including a 20 per cent drop in crime at SSP schools.

## Outstanding Team Performance

### D Relief Road Policing Unit, Traffic Network Services, Specialist Operations.

Consisting of one sergeant and eight PCs, the team has made 594 arrests in 12 months for both traffic matters and priority crime. From July 2006 to June 2007 they seized 1,104 vehicles under the Road Traffic Act and demonstrate consistently high standards of work and delivery.

### Rape Investigation Unit, Wigan.

Theirs is a very high standard of investigation and the level of dedication and commitment is evident when dealing with and supporting the more vulnerable victims of our community. The unit has the highest sanction detection rate of any division.

### Operation Crusader, North Manchester.

A hand-picked team of highly motivated officers, who know Manchester gang

members and organised criminals, were deployed to engage with them, collecting intelligence and disrupting criminal activities in volatile and sometimes dangerous situations. They were also involved in the arrests of dangerous criminals and gangsters.

## Individual Achievement

### Sgt Rocque Fernandes, Serious Crime Division.

He is an inspirational leader and ambassador for the Major Incident Team, with legendary knowledge and experience. Completely enthusiastic and committed, he sets a benchmark to which others can aspire.

### Sgt Kevin Lister, Offender Management Unit, Bolton.

The determination he has shown developing best practice for the Persistent, Prolific Offender (PPO) scheme has been acknowledged at regional level and beyond. He has involved and focused outside partners and internally has re-shaped his team beyond recognition. His work has clearly contributed to successes such as a 50 per cent reduction in burglary over three years.

### PC Sarah McCabe, Salford.

She is a role model for what a Community Beat Officer should be, through her tireless efforts to deal with difficult issues, including racially motivated crimes and drug dealing on the Brookhouse estate, Eccles. She works closely with her PCSOs to decide how best to target criminals and those responsible for anti-social behaviour. Her team works effectively to improve the quality of life on the estate.

## Outstanding Communication

### Sale Neighbourhood Policing Team, Trafford.

At a time when burglary was on the increase, the team set objectives to improve communications in three areas: internally, with partner organisations and with the community. Stories for the media were developed to present clear, innovative messages. This has helped reduce insecurity burglaries by more than 50 per cent.

### Amanda Coleman, Deputy Director, Corporate Communications.

She has worked closely with the Counter Terrorism Unit since its inception, raising awareness within the Force, the region and within the county's diverse communities. She has embraced the concept of 'be alert but not alarmed' while championing the new CTU and she has developed and led many outstanding pieces of work

### Corporate Media Imaging Unit, Corporate Communications.

The team offers a creative image service that extends to far more than taking photographs for posterity. They are dedicated to their purpose of conveying key messages in a meaningful, speedy and effective manner so they are noticed and acted upon.

## Police Staff Employee of the Year

### Suzanne Kay, Intelligence Analyst, south Manchester.

Her meticulous and highly professional work in the area of student burglary prompted a large-scale initiative, Operation Flood, which brought about a 40 per cent cut in these crimes and has been adopted by the Home Office as a model of best practice. It also won the GMP Problem Solving Awards.

### Michael Scholes, Area Transport Supervisor, Business Services.

Through his own diligence and self-motivation, he has become a role model for other supervisors. As well as tasking and co-ordinating drivers effectively and efficiently, he also takes a proactive approach and has instigated a number of logistics improvements.

### PCSO Ian Chadwick, North Manchester.

A former security officer at Chester House, he now works in Newton Heath where his enthusiasm and resilience is endless. Parts of this ward have a high national average for deprivation and he has been faced with some exceptional challenges but he has worked hard to become an integral member of the community.

## Outstanding Leadership

### Sgt Richard Giddings, Trafford OCR.

He received 60 separate nominations from staff at the OCU and is described as an inspiration who motivates the team, supports them when needed, makes them feel needed and encourages good performance. His work ethic raises standards and helps staff realise their full potential.

### Chief Insp Robert Lomas, North Manchester.

He was integral to a great deal of change on the Division that has led to continuous improvements and the consistent meeting of challenging targets. He has promoted the changes enthusiastically, pointing out the advantages, and he is once more taking the lead in developing Neighbourhood Police Teams.

### Insp Alan Wood, Firearms Training, Learning and Development.

Through his positive and effective leadership, focus upon performance, and providing encouragement to his team, he has enabled the Force to meet the National Police Improvement Agency Firearms Trainer Standard. GMP is now delivering accredited courses to officers around the country.

## Communications Officer

### Elaine Blanchard, Tameside.

In view of her enthusiasm, commitment and selfless behaviour, she epitomizes the positive image of a communicator to which we can all aspire. She became an OCR mentor in February 2007 and has successfully mentored members of staff.

### Andrew Martin, Trafford.

He is assertive and takes control of situations, is motivated to ensure he makes correct decisions and shows sound judgement. A bereaved father was moved to send a letter of thanks, praising the way he handled the tragedy of the man's daughter's suicide.

### Robin Craft, Wigan.

He is one of the Force's longest serving communications supervisors, demonstrating high standards of both call handling and command and control. A consummate professional, his experience and knowledge together make an unwavering foundation that supports his peers and colleagues alike.

## Bravery

### Dedicated Surveillance Unit.

Five officers became involved in a terrifying struggle with armed robbers when, while under surveillance, the gang attacked a post office in Stockport, pouring petrol on security guards and threatening staff with a loaded shotgun. Due to the immediate threat to the lives of the guards and the danger to the public, the officers had to put their own lives at risk and acted immediately. All the men were caught and £86,000 recovered.

### PC Jonathan Ashcroft, PC Alison Flatley, Bolton.

The pair were in a patrol car following an armed gang who had just robbed a bank when a shotgun was pointed at them so they backed off. When they picked up the trail again two of the men - both carrying shotguns - got out of their stolen car and ran at the police officers. One raised his weapon and aimed at PC Ashcroft who tried to reverse but the police car stalled. The pair ducked down, expecting to die, as one of the thugs deliberately fired his weapon. The shot missed the officers but shattered the windscreen, cutting PC Ashcroft's face and injuring his right eye.

### PC David Martin, Rochdale.

Coming across a serious house fire in Roch Valley Way, he heard a voice coming from the kitchen and saw an elderly man on the floor. Despite the obvious risk, he forced the door and dragged the man to safety. It was so hot his uniform had started to melt. The man recovered and the officer was treated for smoke inhalation and minor burns. He has since received a Chief Constable's High Commendation and Royal Humane Society Award for his actions.

## Marathon man's quest for kids



**ACTION** man Steve Phillips has dumped his sumo suit along with Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and is getting serious for his biggest challenge.

The super fit PC spends his spare time teaching judo and running half marathons for charity in various colourful costumes.

But for his attempt at Britain's longest, toughest running race, he'll need to be in the shape of his life – and definitely not in a rubber suit.

He's tackling the 145-mile Grand Union Canal Race which runs from the centre of Birmingham to the centre of London via the towpaths of the connecting canals. It must be completed within 45 hours and competitors are not allowed to stop for more than 40 minutes at a time.

Steve, 40, an assistant resource co-ordinator based at Claytonbrook, said: "I've run a number of half marathons for children's charities like the Make a Wish Foundation. My normal race time would be around 1 hour 45 minutes but in a panda suit it took me nearly twice that - and there was something strange about crossing the line alongside Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

He has twice completed the City of Manchester 10k in an inflatable Sumo suit with members of the judo club he

runs in Glossop, raising around £3,500 for Cystic Fibrosis.

But Steve started to show his more serious side this year by entering the High Peak 40 miler, a mixed terrain run around Buxton and Castleton in Derbyshire that takes in the summit of Mam Tor.

When Amy Hall, the five-year-old sister of three members of the judo club, died of cancer, her parents set up Amy's Retreat, a charity that helps children with cancer and their families to take a break at places like Centre Parcs.

And Steve is hoping his new challenge along the Grand Union in May will encourage sponsorship that will make a major contribution to their funds.

"A number of organizations have pledged prizes which can be auctioned," said Steve. "But there is a long way to go. One bobby has told me he knows a friend of Ricky Hatton and will try and get a signed glove. This is what I'm after – A-list stuff that we can turn into money for the charity."

Another stumbling block is the support crew that he needs to keep him going, including a mobile home for the weekend.

Seriously!

Anyone wanting to help can contact Steve on ext 66800, mobile 07765 115134 or at StevenDPhillips@GMP.police.uk

## VINTAGE SOCCER AT HOUGH END

**A** FORMER GMP officer is behind an auction of soccer memorabilia staged at Hough End just two days after the 50th anniversary of the Manchester United Munich disaster.

David Goldemann served for nearly 20 years mainly at Greenheys until an accident ended his career in 1999.

His hobby of collecting match day programmes started when he was a young supporter but he has now developed it into a business with an Arsenal fan pal.

"We have both been to numerous memorabilia auctions up and down

the country but noted that there wasn't really anything specific in the Manchester area that catered for football items like ours. So I suppose the gap in the market is our driving force. If this succeeds we could hold auctions every three months.

"The main thing is to create an exciting atmosphere at the police club on February 8 and make the event enjoyable to those who attend.

"It is not a dedicated United auction but the timing – the crash was February 6 1958 - has certainly helped attract interest and we do have Munich era pieces.

"There are autographs from modern players such as Rooney, Ronaldo and Elano but the main part of the auction is the vintage section with pre-war items which can be valuable."

One man is flying over from Zagreb with a programme for the match against Red Star Belgrade which was the last match the Busby Babes played before the accident that wiped out the team. Another rare item is the itinerary for the 1909 FA Cup Final (then known as the English Cup) between United and Bristol City.

Viewing is at Hough End from 9am. The auction begins at 1pm.

## 300 up and still going strong

**RETIRED** Rochdale PC Andy O'Sullivan is celebrating a triple century of running events.

He has organised more than 300 races - all for charity – and this year he is not looking like slowing down.

Already he has earmarked ten dates in 2008 for further fun running events to support causes such as Children of Chernobyl, the Rochdale Stroke Club and Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

But one race, to be staged on September 16, will be extra special as it will mark the 25th anniversary of Andy's remarkable career in staging charity runs.

In 2004 Andy was an Olympic torch bearer in London as part of the worldwide relay from Sydney and the same year was awarded an MBE to go with his British Empire Medal for charitable services and services to athletics.

The runs so far arranged for this year are:

Vera Hirst 5K Road race, Wednesday 26 March, at 6.45pm, from the Falcon Inn, Church Street, Littleborough.

Brenda Robinson 5K Road race, Wednesday 2 April, at 7pm, from the Falcon Inn, Church Street, Littleborough.

Steve Rothwell Memorial 4 Mile Road race, Wednesday 16 April, at 7pm, from the Turf Tavern, Edenfield Road, Rochdale.

Colin Robinson 4.2 Mile Multi-Terrain race, Wednesday 23 April, at 7pm, from the Red Lion Inn, The Square, Whitworth.

Geoff Doggett Memorial 5K Road race, Tuesday 13 May, at 7.15pm from the Falcon Inn, Church Street, Littleborough.

Brown Wardle Hill Race, Monday 11 August, at 7pm from the Oxford Pub, Whitworth Road, Rochdale.

Graham Wright 4.2 Mile Multi-Terrain race, Wednesday 10 September, at 7pm from the Red Lion, The Square, Whitworth.

The 'Real 25th' Anniversary Brown Wardle Hill race, Tuesday 16 September, at 6.30pm from the Oxford Public House, Whitworth Road, Rochdale.

Ron Hill's 70th Birthday 5K Road Race, Thursday 25 September, at 6.45pm from the Falcon Inn, Littleborough.

This last event is likely to be televised and has a limit of 450 competitors and is expected to be full very quickly, so those interested should sign up soon.

Andy can be contacted at: andems.runners@btinternet.com

## GREEN ISSUES

**IS THERE anyone out there who knows his finger peg from his thumb and his block from his bobby?**

**PC Tony Crompton would like to start up a GMP crown green bowling team and to enter a regional league.**

**"I'm a new bowler playing in the Cheshire leagues and we could make my green in Mobberley the Force home green", he explained.**

**"I'm told GMP used to be involved in the sport a long time ago but dropped out and haven't hosted an event for at least 25 years".**

**Tony, a Crime Reduction Advisor based at Stretford, can be contacted on extension 67546.**

## AND FINALLY...

Chief Constable Michael Todd was guest editor on the BBC Radio Manchester morning drivetime show at the end of January.

He presenting a mix of the serious and not so serious subjects including gun crime and anti-social behaviour, Dr Who, Manchester music and why Manchester is better than London.

An initiative in Stockport which successfully reduced anti-social behaviour by more than 60 per cent was also featured, along with an interview with Neighbourhood Inspector Dave Turner.

During the programme, Cllr Paul Murphy, chairman of Greater Manchester Police Authority, announced that a ground-breaking three-year deal on police funding had been agreed which will see the Force given a 7.5 per cent increase and lead to 104 additional police officers being provided for local policing.

## No 1 Copperpot Credit Union Winners

### JANUARY DRAW

- £2,000 - Paul Pennington, retired.
- £1,000 - Diane Maudsley, GMP.
- £500 - Brian Webb, retired.
- £250 - Philip Lowe, GMP. Julie Newall, GMP.
- £100 - Terence Berry, retired, Barry Tipton, retired, Paul Beckwith, GMP, Malcolm Waters, retired, Stephen Clitheroe, GMP.
- £50 - Paul Quinlan, retired, Ian Buckingham, GMP, Paul Bray, GMP, Mark Owen, North Wales, Julie Barnes-Frank, GMP, John Connolly, retired, Andrew West, retired, Adam Murphy, GMP, Brian Gladston, Cheshire, Anthony Raby, GMP, Gerrard Mirrelson, GMP, Steven Foster, BTP, Phyllis Winterbottom, relative, Shaun Simpson, GMP, David Roberts, retired.