



What makes Claire a superstar?

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Hello and goodbye to Kim and Warwick

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Jhabulo's South African salute to GMP

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“Slave girl” ordeal brings new hope for sex-trade victims

By Andrew Nott

THE NIGHTMARE ordeal of a young victim of an international sex trafficking ring is being used to help other vulnerable women trapped in the vile trade.

Her story of deceit, entrapment, blackmail, threats and violence is typical of that to befall hundreds of women lured to the UK from the poorer reaches of Europe and beyond.

But its detail – and most importantly how she escaped – has now been translated into the various languages spoken by many women forced into prostitution and reproduced as a message of hope for them.

And the laminated note is proving a useful tool in persuading them that there is an alternative to doing their captors' bidding and they can trust the police to help them.

The GMP initiative came about during a high-profile crackdown on human trafficking for sexual exploitation (HTSE) that actively targeted phoney massage parlours and saunas.

Operation Pentameter 2 built up intelligence on the scale and nature of the problem across the force and established links with brothel owners.

A total of 113 premises were identified through open source material, and intelligence suggested that 26 of these were actively utilising the services of foreign national women, many of whom spoke virtually no English.

Officers conducted 'harm reduction' visits on each of the addresses to check on the welfare of these girls, confirm that they were not being forced into the sex trade, and to offer them a way out. The letter, in languages including Albanian, Romanian, Latvian, Moldovan, Czech and Hungarian was handed to the girls on site.

It reads: "In August 2005, I came to England from the Czech Republic. I had been promised, by people I had no reason to disbelieve at that time, work in a shop, somewhere to stay, a good wage and a better life.

"When I arrived, I was faced with a completely different situation. I had my documents taken away and was told I would be selling my body for sex and the money was going to a man who, for reasons known only to him, treated me in a way you would not even treat an animal.

"He degraded me in many ways, taking away my trust in people and my dignity. He forced me to work in the sex industry without a care for my feelings. He threatened to hurt me and my children if I didn't do as he said, or if I told someone what was happening.

"He said the police and other authorities wouldn't believe me. I was so frightened of him and his threats.

"Does this sound familiar to you? Have you or are you suffering a similar situation?"

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Dog lover Leanne Murphy used pooch-power to collar thieves. Read how she did it on page 17

FOCUSING ON A PROFESSIONAL APPROACH

Performance over the past year was scrutinised at last month's Police Authority meeting and the fantastic results reported were a credit to the hard work of everyone in Greater Manchester Police. We have demonstrated significant reductions in crime as well as improving detection rates but, most importantly, this means fewer victims.

Our achievement has made a real difference to our communities and as I explained in the previous edition of Brief, we now need to ensure that people are at the heart of everything we do. It is essential that we provide

the best possible service for people so we can continue to increase their confidence in the police. If people have confidence they are more willing to come forward with intelligence and information which means new systems such as the Force Intelligence System (FIS) can be more effective.

Increasing confidence is not just about tackling crime it is about listening to people and ensuring we present a professional approach. In this edition of Brief there is a reminder for us all about how we should look as police officers and police community support officers

while on duty. If we look and act professionally then we make a lasting impression.

We have made Greater Manchester safer over the past 12 months and by listening and responding to our communities we can continue to build on this achievement. If we work together and help each other we can provide an even better service for the people of Greater Manchester this year.



Acting Chief Constable Dave Whatton

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"I eventually got the courage from somewhere to tell the police what had happened to me, and guess what?

"They believed me and I have had lots of support to try and put my life back together, and to try and put the people who have wronged me in prison. The police are not liars. You have to trust them as they want to help. I hope, if you find yourself in a similar position to mine, you find the courage to tell the police.

"Please fight for your lives and do what you want, not what someone else is telling you to do."

In her case - resolved in an investigation by the Sexual Crime Unit from the Force Headquarters' Public Protection Section - the traffickers used the 31-year-old victim's children to exert control, threatening to sell them for their organs or pornography if she did not do as she was told.

Intimidated and with no money, forced to depend upon them, she could see no way out until she was located

and persuaded to open up to the police. Four men and three women subsequently pleaded guilty at Manchester Crown Court to various offences including trafficking into the UK, trafficking within the UK, controlling prostitution for gain, and rape.

Det Insp Debbie Conlon Houldershaw who co-ordinated Operation Pentameter 2 in GMP said: "I have learned that this crime is horrendous and these young girls are true victims who are being raped daily many times over.

"If someone presented at the front desk and said that they had been raped 70 times that week there would be panic. This is exactly what is happening to these girls.

"The most important thing is the victim care. These girls need real help and support and it is important to have an awareness and understanding of their religious beliefs and cultures as this can offer a level of reassurance.

"I have also learned that when a victim is recovered her cultural background may be such that repatriation is not an option as certain religions see working in the sex industry as bringing shame on the family and has resulted in their death.

"This was the potential situation with one girl we recovered and we arranged for accommodation in a private refuge where her own language is spoken and where she will be safe.

"Trafficking and sexual exploitation is a form of modern day slavery that we are determined to stop."

Throughout Operation Pentameter 2, which concluded earlier this year, 10 victims of HTSE were rescued by GMP.

PARLIAMENT'S BIG TWO SEEK OUT VIP MAGNET

VIP MAGNET Rob Hanley found himself the surprise subject of heavyweight political argument during the recent local election campaign.

For the top men in both the Labour Party and the Conservatives each sought out the Bolton-based PCSO in a 24-hour span.

First he was told that he would be engaged in looking after a special visitor to the UCAN Centre in Halliwell but not informed of their identity.

So he was quite startled when, without warning, Prime Minister Gordon Brown walked through the foyer and caught his eye.

"He was on his way through when he stopped, turned and shook my hand," said Rob. "He then engaged me in conversation about my uniform and how I liked the job, and then thanked me for the work that PCSOs are undertaking.

"I was completely taken aback but pleased that he had taken time to stop and speak to me before he moved on. He seemed ordinary and appeared genuinely interested in people's opinions."

The following afternoon while at the Town Hall Square, he was again surprised to become the subject of political attention, this time from David Cameron.

The Tory leader was being followed by TV crews during a walkabout when he made a bee-line for the officer.

"He was with the press and other members of the council but shook my hand and, like Mr Brown, asked about how I much I liked the job and my uniform, and thanked me for the work I was undertaking. I thought he was very professional, polite and courteous."

As both leaders asked exactly the same questions, it seems unlikely that either managed to sway Rob's vote.

Brief was too polite to ask.



IMPORTANT ROLE FOR EVERYONE AS CONFERENCE APPROACHES

EACH of the 8,000 officers in GMP is being called upon to play a role in protecting the 17,000 delegates who will be coming to Manchester for Europe's biggest political rally.

Intelligence is considered to be key in ensuring GMP is prepared for anything that might occur at the 2008 Labour Party Annual Conference.

And even with three months to go to the September event, a dedicated team under Operation Protector is gathering information from scores of sources, nationally and internationally.

But it is closer to home that Detective Chief Inspector Gill Mellor, who heads the Intelligence arm of the huge operation, believes the most important work can be done.

"We are putting a system in place that will try to remove any element of surprise during the conference," she said.

"The conference itself will be enormous with a lot of important people attending, so it's vital we are ahead of the game and have every available piece of intelligence at our fingertips to ensure it runs smoothly and without incident.

"And all GMP officers and police staff can help. It is so crucial that any intelligence about something that may have an adverse impact on the success of the conference is submitted.

"Regardless of rank or division, any individual could be the one with that crucial bit of intelligence that helps us prevent an incident."

VIGILANCE

Officers are already being asked to be vigilant and flag up individuals or networks that may be involved in suspicious activity at the conference 'Island Site' around the Manchester International Conference Centre.

This might be someone taking an abnormal amount of pictures or filming one of the venues, including the Midland and Radisson hotels, at a strange time.

"Officers will have to use their judgement, but, put simply, anything that

Operation PROTECTOR

appears at all out of the ordinary in and around the Island Site should be reported to us," said Inspector Richard Timson, Key Task Manager for the intelligence operation.

During the conference itself, a dedicated intelligence cell will be operating 24 hours a day, working closely with the National Public Order Intelligence Unit (NPOIU), seeking intelligence in three broad categories: terrorism, crime and public order.

While the threats from extremist terrorists of whatever persuasion are obvious, there are other people who may want to use the conference to forward their own, single-issue grievance.

Richard said: "There will always be people who seek to use such a high-profile event to protest or cause a nuisance to make a name for themselves, and the intelligence cell needs as much information as possible to help us cope with these.

"During the 2006 Labour Party Conference, more than 20,000 people took part in the Stop the War march and it presented a huge challenge to GMP to ensure the protestors were able to demonstrate peacefully without disrupting the conference.

"Clearly, that challenge was successfully met and is a reminder that any intelligence gathered about groups or individuals planning to demonstrate at the 2008 conference will help the Force manage a protest of whatever nature."

Officers with any information should submit a 5x5x5 intelligence report in the usual way and mark it 'Operation Protector'.

This year's conference runs from Saturday 20 September to Wednesday 24 September.

High speed delivery



PCs Jones and Wade with Alicia, Brett, their son Andrew and baby Bailey

Picture: Lisa Marks

A BABY'S sudden arrival into the world was signalled by flashing lights, a blaring siren and a screech of police car brakes.

Heavily-pregnant Alicia Royles was being driven to hospital by her partner, Brett Scase, when it suddenly became clear that the birth was imminent.

Terrified he wouldn't make it in time, Brett pulled in to a car park in the centre of Stockport and flagged down a pair of PCSOs for help.

They radioed in the emergency and PCs Dan Jones and Victoria Wade, who were at the nearby Portwood roundabout, responded in their Vauxhall Astra estate.

Dan said: "When we arrived it was clear her waters had broken and the birth was about to happen.

"We called for an ambulance but they couldn't give us an ETA so we decided that in the interests of the health of both mum and baby she shouldn't be giving birth in a car park.

"It seemed the best thing to do was to put her in the back of the Astra, lying down, and get to Stepping Hill Hospital as fast as possible.

"Her partner rode in the back with her, and my colleague, Victoria, was also giving them both reassurance and encouragement as I drove.

"I switched everything on and put my foot down. It was approaching rush hour so should have taken at least 10 minutes, but we did it in about two and a half.

"However, even that wasn't fast enough because when I opened the rear door outside the Maternity Unit it was clear the baby was coming.

"We got sheets to put around the car to give her some privacy while the medical staff helped with the birth in the back seat."

PRAISE

Both Alicia, from Hyde, Tameside, and her newborn son, Bailey, came through the drama unscathed and she has nothing but praise for the help she got from the police.

"The PCSOs and the officers were all fabulous," she said. "I was really panicking but they all stayed calm and helped me through it.

"It all happened so fast and the whole delivery probably only lasted five minutes. I could hardly believe it."

Dan, 30, himself a dad, said: "It was certainly unusual but we are very pleased that we were able to help.

"Aside from the obvious concerns at the time, Alicia came out of it rather well. When our son was born, my wife's labour took 23 hours."

Breakthroughs in war against drugs

TWO GMP initiatives have brought dividends in the long-term battle against drug dealers.

What began as an exercise in disrupting drug peddlers in Salford developed into full-blown active operations that have shattered drug networks and led to more than 40 arrests.

And a series of trials resulting from a major operation in north Manchester ended with members of a gang being sentenced to what amounts to a century of jail time.

The Salford breakthrough began 18 months ago when police decided to use anti-social behaviour legislation to issue a 'Crack House Closure Order' at an address in Little Hulton.

The occupiers, suspected of dealing in drugs on a 24-hour basis and bringing fear and resentment to the area, were ordered out and the maisonette sealed with aluminium sheeting.

"The reaction from the local community was remarkable," said Supt Ian Palmer. "The house was in the middle of the social life of Little Hulton, above a row of shops and, once sealed, it acted like a beacon of hope.

"People saw that the police were capable of doing something about these individuals who had been making decent people's lives a misery."

Five more 'Crack House Closures' followed and in ensuing months local PCSOs and officers involved in neighbourhood policing found themselves receiving more and more good intelligence on dealers.

This was put to highly productive effect in two surveillance operations, Marengo and Helmswell, the former resulting in 20 convictions for low to middle level dealing in crack cocaine and heroin, and the latter leading to 23 arrests and similar charges.

RAIDS

Each involved the monitoring of individuals over a period of months before squads involving up to 200 officers staged simultaneous dawn raids.

More similar police actions are now being planned across the Force with a controlled rollover of operations.

"While these people cannot be described as in the higher echelon of the criminal fraternity, they are what

allows organised crime to exist," said Supt Palmer.

"In the past it has been a challenge using what are limited resources to target such groups, but this series of events has shown us it can be both productive and cost-effective.

"Disrupting them and finding ways to bring them before the courts has many benefits, not least of which is to act as a reminder to the general law-abiding public that they can play a role in protecting their own communities by having the courage and common sense to talk to the police.

"They don't even have to give evidence, they can just supply the facts and we have the resources to do the rest."

Meanwhile, a judge has praised officers in north Manchester after a complex inquiry resulted in members of a drugs gang being jailed for a century.

Operation Proportion ended with 27 people being jailed for a total of 100 years for dealing heroin and crack cocaine following various trials during the past 18 months.

The intelligence-led operation was launched in 2006 to target dealers supplying to people in the Beswick and Openshaw areas, with officers making

both overt and covert inquiries within the community.

It climaxed with mass raids on suspects' homes in June 2006 and the last member of the gang was convicted earlier this month.

After the hearing at Manchester Crown Court, Judge Martin Rudland said: "I would like to commend all the officers involved in this operation, not only the undercover officers, but also those involved in the swoop day, those carrying out interviews, and the whole team involved in the setting up and execution of Operation Proportion."

DEDICATION

Det Sgt Dave Gething said: "The final conviction marked the end of months of hard work from all the dedicated officers involved with this operation.

"All of those convicted were intent on plaguing the streets with dangerous drugs for their own financial gain but, acting on information passed to us by their community, we stopped them.

"The streets of Beswick and Openshaw are certainly nicer places to live without these people, and I hope that the local community will continue to work with us to drive down crime in their area."



Claire in superstar mode

SGT CLAIRE MAKES A SONG AND DANCE

WOW! There's no doubt Kylie Minogue's special, but not usually like this.

For when Claire Williams is not patrolling Horwich as a sergeant in the Special Constabulary, she swaps her uniform for sequins and bows and steps out as a lookalike tribute act for the Aussie songstress.

And she's been lucky, lucky, lucky to stage a string of shows both locally and around the country.

"I've always been a bit of a karaoke singer and a massive Kylie fan since about 1986," said Claire, 27, from Salford.

"A while ago a friend suggested I audition for Stars in Their Eyes on TV and I went as far as getting a blonde wig and knocking up a costume, but I never went through with it.

"However, that started me thinking and I prepared an act with backing tracks and it's been going down really well."

Her next gig will be as part of a charity special on 27 June at Hough

End for a children's fund set up by 10-year-old Jenny Lloyd whose mum Amanda is a nurse at GMP's Occupational Health Unit.

Jenny suffers from a rare disorder and regularly attends the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and she set up the charity, Jenny's Pennies, to raise cash for its Endocrine Unit.

The spectacular Hough End show is expected to be the biggest money-maker yet for the charity.

Claire has created seven different Kylie costumes, each cleverly stitched together to allow the quick changes she has to make between the 16 songs in her programme.

And, in the style of the Aussie superstar's act, when she's off-stage the music and light show continues, keeping the audience entertained until her return for the next number.

"I've done a lot of work improving the show since I started" said Bolton-born Claire. "I've done shows for the police, fire service, pubs and various social

clubs and it's got better each time.

"I don't think anyone who comes along to Hough End for Jenny's event will be disappointed.

Tickets are available from Sedgley Park-based Amanda on either 64688 or 07962 081712.

To see more of Claire in character visit www.kylieshowgirl.co.uk



Sgt Claire at work

GMP COUPLE CATCH MANCHESTER'S MOST WANTED

A COUPLE have spoken for the first time about their role in arresting GMP's most wanted dangerous criminal in an off-duty drama.

The officers – one serving in Salford, the other in north Manchester – were shopping in Rawtenstall, Lancashire, after visiting friends when their day out turned serious.

The pair, who do not want to be named, separated briefly while she visited a hairdressers to buy some beauty products and he went in to a shoe shop.

He said: "When I stepped back into the main shopping street I noticed a black Range Rover with dark tinted windows and an 07 number plate pull up.

"A man got out of the passenger side, walked across the road towards a designer clothes shop and looked straight at me.

"It was as if he recognised me but I know we have never met. However, I knew him.

"He was wearing a large gold chain around his neck which is often a trademark piece of jewellery for Salford gangsters.

"Suddenly I knew he was a fugitive called Aaron Williams whose picture had been circulated. He was wanted for armed robbery, attempted murder and escaping from custody.

He walked into the shop and I immediately rang my girlfriend to tell her. She said: "Right, we've got to do something. Stay there."

Luckily, Lancashire police officers were nearby and the North Manchester PC alerted them to the identity of the man.

While he was talking to them his partner had a look in the clothes shop and confirmed his suspicions.

"I was concerned that Williams might have been carrying a weapon," said the 32-year-old PC. "I hadn't seen one but I knew what he was capable of.

"My advice was to call for a firearms strike but the Lancashire officers decided to take him there and then. At the end of the day it was always their call.

TACKLED

"As they approached the shop he came out and he tried to run through them. He vaulted over one man who tried to grab him but another brought him down with a rugby tackle.

"On the ground he fought like an alligator, struggling to break free, and he was obviously very strong.

"It took a violent struggle but eventually he was subdued and arrested."

Williams, 23, from Lower Broughton,

Salford, was sprung from a prison van while being transported to Salford Magistrates Court.

Six days later he and other Salford gangsters staged a £70,000 armed robbery in Humberside in which security guards and a policeman were attacked with machetes.

This triggered a massive manhunt for Williams but he remained at large for eight months until spotted by the GMP officer.

He was sentenced to 12 years in jail – nine for the armed robbery and a further three for escaping from custody.

ACC Dave Thompson said: "For a period, Aaron Williams was GMP's most wanted criminal. This was a truly inspirational piece of police work by two terrific officers.

"The support from Lancashire Police was exceptional. It makes you proud!"

ULTIMATE CHALLENGE

THEY may be at the cutting edge of tackling the most dangerous gangsters in the country but GMP's Firearms Unit has never faced a challenge quite like this.

Indeed, no-one has. It's a first.

They are planning to push themselves far beyond normal physical limits in what will be the ultimate charity endurance test.

It begins on bicycles with a brisk 1,000-mile ride from John O'Groats to Land's End.

After a short breather, it's off on foot as the team runs 400 miles along the south coast to Dover.

And the whole thing finishes in France – after a collective 21-mile cross-Channel swim.

And they reckon they can do the lot in just six days.

"As it has never been attempted before no-one really knows how much time will be needed, nor in fact whether it's possible, but we think we've got it about right," said Inspector Tony Hughes.

There will be two teams of 10, each with six athletes and a four-strong support team, operating in 10-hour shifts with one team working while the other sleeps – or at last rest their weary feet.

Their time scale is based upon riding at 15mph and running at an average of 7mph.

So the first team would set off from John O'Groats and be relieved 10 hours later at 150 miles with a plan of arriving at Land's End less than three days later.

Similarly, if each 10-hour running

block clocks up 70 miles, Dover could be reached in about two and a half days.

And the rest of the time is spent trying not to drown.

Tony, a former high-level rugby player, was talking with his fitness coach, a professor at Salford University, about another charity John O'Groats to Land's End event he'd been involved in when between them they came up with this idea.

"That was four years ago and the

event has been 18-months in the planning and involved some extremely tough training," he said.

"But the enthusiasm and dedication of the teams has been unbelievable."

CHARITY

They are hoping to raise money for the children's charity 'When You Wish Upon a Star' which helps grant the wishes of youngsters with life-threatening or terminal illnesses.

This might be meeting a celebrity, visiting Santa Claus in Lapland, or a trip to come face to face with Mickey Mouse at Disney.

"All the effort will be worth it if what we have done puts a look of amazement and wonder of the face of one child as they realise their greatest wish is about to come true," said Tony.

Anyone wishing to support the team should visit their website: <http://www.justgiving.com/trichallenge>



Letters of Appreciation

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

SENIOR officers from forces across the country attended the funeral in Warrington of Sgt John Quick, a GMP trainer of international renown who died suddenly while on holiday, aged 53.

His wife Janet was moved to send this message to his friends and colleagues at GMP.

"It is a cliché to say that I can't put into words my feelings, but in this case it is definitely true.

"I would like to thank each and every person individually but this is of course

impossible. I didn't even know most of the people in church but the very fact that they came showed the love and respect so many had for John. It made myself and my sons, Steve and Dave, very proud.

"The efforts behind the scenes from the day the news was received was nothing short of incredible, and I know that John would have been grateful that you looked after his wife so well.

"I have nothing but admiration for you all and know that you too will miss a very special man."



PC Chris Hart died in a road traffic collision in January, aged 40, while driving a police van in Openshaw, Manchester. His parents wrote the following letter.

WE would like to thank the many members of GMP who took such pride and professionalism in providing our son with a funeral of which we - and the Force in general - must be justly proud.

Furthermore, the care and consideration given to our grandson, Luke Andrew, at such a traumatic time in his short life and under such difficult circumstances were and remain immensely appreciated.

We would like a special thank you to be passed on to Chief Insp **Jenny Dixon** at Bury whom we understand was in charge of the official police arrangements, a task that we know could not have been easy to organise, control and co-ordinate without the close co-operation of other members of her team as well as the support of her senior officers.

A further thank you is offered to Chief Supt **Jon Rush**, together with all the personnel from Bury police station, in particular '**A**' **Scale** who were Christopher's very close colleagues, and the motorcycle and mounted units who played vital roles at the funeral.

A special mention must be made of the help, understanding and support provided by **Canon Noel**

Proctor.

Our Family Liaison Officer, PC **Kevin Graham**, has been thoughtful, understanding and caring. He is a police officer any chief constable would be proud to have in his Force.

Finally, we would like to say that without the support received from all members of GMP, I cannot imagine how we would have coped."

Many thanks. We remain forever grateful.

*Dorothy and Michael Hart,
Ulverston, Cumbria*

GAME FOR A LAUGH

Our thanks and praise go to two of your PCSOs **Moe Ijaz** and **John Cannon** who came round to my house hard on the heels of police officers, just hours after I had been burgled.

My daughter and I appreciated the way they did their utmost to reassure us when we were feeling very shocked and vulnerable.

They even managed to make us laugh when that was the last thing we felt like doing. It lifted our spirits and made such a difference.

They provided us with window and personal panic alarms, even contacting another police station to set up a visit to my elderly mum when I mentioned my concern for her.

Thank you so much for the wonderful service.

*Pam and Leanne
New Moston
Manchester*

TALKING TO CHILDREN

We had to ring the police to report a young person missing from a children's home. PCs **Richard Sewart** and **Richard Atherton** were excellent in both manner and professionalism.

They left the home and returned shortly afterwards with the young person in question.

The officers engaged positively with him, taking into account his age.

Thanks for handling the situation brilliantly.

*NN
Dukinfield*

BANK ON US

I was a victim of an armed robbery at a building society in Hazel Grove, Stockport. After being held at knifepoint I was obviously very distraught and frightened.

PC **Ali-Ahad Chughtai** arrived within a minute and took control of the situation, acting in a professional manner.

Luckily there were no casualties but the staff were very shocked and upset.

Pc Chughtai calmed us all down and made us feel safe.

*CL,
Stockport*

YOUTHFUL NEGOTIATIONS

I have had problems with youths for some time and called the police when they vandalised my shed.

PC **Rhys Ibbotson** visited the morning after and his approach and understanding

were very useful and supportive.

He quickly identified and visited a youth and spoke to his parents, negotiated with the youth to stop his friends meeting near my property, and has continued to keep me informed of the situation.

We cannot thank him enough for his support.

*J McGrath
Rochdale*

CITY COMMITMENT

The 14th Security 2000 Exhibition and Seminar was held recently in Manchester and well supported by the police.

The event was the brainchild of PC **Stuart Pizzey** and during the 15 years I have known him and worked with him he consistently shows complete commitment to supporting the business and local community of the city centre in his desire to increase crime awareness and to reduce crime.

I feel his excellent service should be recognised.

*Ian Kerr, Chair
Manchester City Centre
Crime Prevention Panel.*

HEART-WARMING

After visiting the Alexandra Hospital, Cheadle, to see a friend who had undergone a serious operation, I came out to discover my car's passenger window had been smashed and some of my belongings taken.

I know I should not have left

them on show, but as both my friend and I are suffering from breast cancer I can only say I am rather absent minded.

Members of the public and staff intervened and your officers PCSOs **Mark Windram** and **Simon Dooley** were soon on the scene.

Everyone was wonderful and it was heart-warming in this day and age to be helped so much in stressful circumstances.

My bag was even returned with only the loss of a Palm Pilot, which pales into insignificance in the great scheme of things.

*HO
Congleton, Cheshire*

WEEKEND BREAK

During the past three years we have had increasing trouble from youths in our road in Moston, Manchester.

It comes in waves and each time we have sought help from the police and received it.

A recent Friday Saturday night initiative has been a great comfort and we've had no trouble on these nights since it began.

PCSO **Tony Novotny** has been really helpful, calling round and offering advice whenever we've needed help.

We feel a real presence from the police now and we hope that together we can make the area a good and safe place to live.

*Angela and Dominic
Moston
Manchester*



DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING

Acting Chief Constable Dave Whatton took a personal interest in GMP's new policy to introduce random testing for drugs and alcohol by putting himself under scrutiny.

"This is a significant change for the Force but one for the better," he said. "It is a change that will protect all of us as well as further improve the excellent service we deliver to our communities."

"I am aware that some officers may be concerned about the impact these policies will have on them and I wanted to not only reassure them of the process but also of the commitment from myself and the Command Team."

"It is important that if I am expecting officers to be tested that I am too."

Testing will be for officers in safety critical roles, including firearms officers and commanders, police search advisor (POLSA) officers, force duty officers and those

authorised to use exemptions under the Road Traffic Act. Officers working in vulnerable posts such as drug units are also subject to testing.

After his test Mr Whatton said: "The process was explained fully and was easy to do. Very importantly for me it was painless, apart from feeling very self-conscious about sucking a cotton bud, but nobody else will have to do it while being filmed."

"It took no longer than 20 minutes and was done extremely professionally. After going through it I feel assured that the impact on officers has been carefully considered and the tests will be done in a way that minimises disruption and puts a strong emphasis on welfare needs."

His drug test came back negative and his alcohol level was zero.

Further information and an edited video of Mr Whatton's test can be found on the Professional Standards Intranet pages.

WOMEN IN POLICING

TWICE as many female police officers across Britain resign as men.

And while 43% of recruits are now women only 11% are reaching the rank of chief inspector and above.

These and scores of other issues were discussed at this year's Senior Women In Policing Conference at which 12 senior female officers and staff from GMP joined more than 300 others over three days.

The conference provided both professional and personal development opportunities to encourage and support women in the police service.

GMP's Leadership Programme manager, Janet Campbell Smith, said: "Several suggestions were made about how the under-representation of women in the workforce can be addressed and what actions we can take individually to change things."

"The conference recognised that the women's perspective on policing is different and only by engaging female views and experiences can the service develop a more representative agenda internally and externally."

"The ideas came from diverse sources and dealt with issues over working hours and conditions, childcare, professional contact during maternity leave, recognition of quality of output, work-life balance, networking, mentoring and breaking down barriers."

"The conference was summed up by one speaker who encouraging us all to be MAD – making a difference. But we must evaluate if that difference is positive or negative. All leaders and managers need to check that their attitudes and behaviour are not holding others back in their operational performance or career aspirations."

High rise rescue drama

THREE officers dangled precariously out of a fourth floor window as they struggled to save a woman's life.

She had leapt from a ledge and they were clinging to her arms as she swung free above a 50-foot drop, but the narrowness of the window and her resistance prevented them pulling her to safety.

Instead, as seconds turned into minutes, they found themselves being pulled towards the void.

Frantically, they managed to get a radio message back to stress the dire life-threatening situation they were in and a Tactical Aid Unit arrived to help pull them all to safety.

And now the trio – PCs Alison Henderson, Mark Laird and Rob Greening – have all received a Chief Constable's High Commendation and a Royal Humane Society Testimonial on Vellum for their 'bravery and determination'.

"It may have only been a matter of two or three minutes but it felt like an eternity," said PC Henderson

It was 8am on a Saturday morning when they responded to a report of an altercation at a block of flats at Cavendish Mill, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Inside they found three women arguing in one of the upstairs flats and one opened a window and clambered outside on to a 10-inch wide ledge,

threatening to jump.

During their attempts to reason with her she suddenly slipped but managed to halt her fall by grabbing the ledge and clinging on by her fingertips.

PC Greening reacted first to clutch her wrist while the others leaned out to take hold of her arms.

"Obviously, we had no option but to try to save her and we all acted accordingly, but then it suddenly became more complicated," said PC Henderson, 35, from Stockport.

"We were each afraid to let go because she might fall, but at the same time her struggles and the fact it was a small window meant we couldn't haul her back in."

"The adrenaline kicked in to give us the strength to hang on but it was very difficult and we were frantically trying to get to our radios without letting go to get the seriousness of the situation over."

PC Laird, 36, from Oldham, added: "Fortunately, TAU officers arrived and between us we pulled her to safety."

"It didn't really occur to me while the incident was underway that we were in danger, but afterwards it became very clear what could have been for all of us."

The woman involved was subsequently detained under the Mental Health Act.



Picture: Bill Morris

PCs Henderson and Laird are pictured at the block of flats, PC Greening has transferred to Devon and Cornwall Police.

TV STARDOM AT A CANTER

GMP's Mounted Unit is about to reveal itself to the world in a new 13-part documentary that has been 18 months in the making.

Recognised nationally for its innovative use of horses in crime fighting and in the training of officers and staff, details of what goes on behind the scenes and in the saddle will be shown to millions.

The programme, 'Mounted Branch', will be screened from 10 June on the Animal Planet channel (Sky 525).

"It has been a big opportunity for everyone involved," said the unit's head, Chief Insp Lynn Roby. "We have opened our doors so we can show people exactly what the unit does and what it achieves on a daily basis, and I think the results are well worth it.

"I am delighted that the programme really gives an insight into the work we do and what we can achieve as well as showing the hard work and training needed to keep it running.

"We take a different approach to using horses in GMP, with officers spending most of their time targeting hotspots and areas identified through the tasking process.

"The programme shows there is much more to the unit than policing football matches."

Programme makers Oval Films have had exclusive access to the 35 horses, 31 riders and the grooms at the Hough End stables to make the series of half hour episodes.

PC Mark Ainscough, who also features, said: "The most frequently asked questions to mounted



officers are: 'What do you actually do when you are not at football and what can you do on a horse?'

"These programmes will show members of the public and our fellow officers the impact that the horses have on divisions and our role in policing, assisting divisions within their crime hotspots, dealing with anti-social behaviour, and involvement in burglary and robbery initiatives.

"We are also often used for organised events such as the Manchester Pride March, demonstrations and

the annual Band Contest in Rochdale.

"Recently five officers from C relief conducted an afternoon patrol in the city centre, attending numerous incidents.

"One man was arrested for possession of a large kitchen knife, another for theft and Section 5 public order, and a third for illegal street trading.

This shows the variety of work that the mounted officers do on a day-to-day basis."

The first two episodes will be shown back-to-back from 8pm on Tuesday 10 June.

SAY HELLO, SAY GOODBYE

A GENTLE giant has trotted into the front line of policing just as his best friend rides off into the sunset.

Warwick is the newest and, at less than four years old, the youngest horse to be put into service by GMP's Mounted Unit.

But at 16.3 hands – and still growing – he may end up being the biggest.

And he will certainly be the last horse trained by the Hough End Stable Manager, Kim Bailey, who is

leaving after five years in the post.

Warwick, also the Force's first skewbald (brown and white) gelding, grew too tall for his previous owners and their farrier suggested he might make a good police horse.

"He is far younger than most horses that come our way, but he has a superb temperament for the job and absolutely loves it," said Kim.

"He'll stand out from the crowd because of his colouring and the fact that he has a

trademark moustache."

Kim, 39, has been a keen horsewoman since she was given a donkey called Bimbo at the age of three, and has owned and trained several thoroughbreds at her home in a village near Nantwich, Cheshire,

She joined GMP from a manager's position with a major pharmaceutical firm after spotting an advert in Horse and Hound magazine.

Now, with the long commute keeping her away from husband Phillip and their two Westies, Winston and Penny, she has decided to work closer to home with the charity Headway, that specialises in helping people with head trauma.

PRIDE AND ENJOYMENT

"I have thoroughly enjoyed GMP and I am proud of what we have achieved at the stable over the years," she said. "It's been hectic but excellent."

Unit head Chief Insp Lynn Roby said: "In the five years Kim has been with us she has been a great asset to the unit and really helped to support the progress of the operational work we do with her professional management behind the scenes.

"Recently, she has enjoyed helping to start Warwick off with his early training in anticipation of a long and eventful career in the unit.

"I am sad to see her go but I am sure her work for the charity will be as successful as it has been in GMP."



Kim & Warwick kiss goodbye

Keeping up appearances

A major drive has been launched to ensure uniformed staff are fit for duty by being smart, presentable and following uniform policy.

Over the next few months line managers will be asked to monitor their staff. They will be making sure they are following the correct dress code, carrying the appropriate equipment – in the right way – and are wearing body armour when they should be.

Staff should ensure that their uniform is clean and ironed; ties or cravats are worn at all times; issued headgear is worn outdoors; only approved jewellery is worn; plain clothes are only worn when there is an operational requirement; hair is neat and tidy and not touching the collar, and women's long hair is secured and not worn in a pony tail; combinations of uniform and plain clothes are not worn unless travelling to or from duty; there are no tattoos to the face, neck or hands; warrant cards are always carried when on duty and, if possible, off duty

More detailed information can be found in the Uniform Standards Policy And Guidance document

within the Force Policy pages of the Intranet.

Assistant Chief Constable Justine Curran said: "We expect staff to present themselves smartly and professionally at all times. Image is extremely important and helps to reassure the public that we intend to provide them with the best possible service.

"GMP rightly has a reputation for providing staff with the best uniform and equipment and this should be kept clean, tidy and well maintained. The majority are following policy but unfortunately there are also many staff who aren't. Line managers have a very important role to play in this by ensuring their staff are presented in the right way.

"Officers and PCSOs will see a major push on this in the coming weeks. We need to raise our game and ensure we are presenting ourselves in the way that communities expect us to."

Further advice on uniform standards can be obtained from Acting Superintendent Robert Lomas on ext 63263.



BELT AND BRAKES

A REVIEW of operational police driving practice in GMP has been carried out to better protect both officers and members of the public.

As a result, a new policy has been published that will affect all drivers. It covers three major elements: red lights, speed limits and the compulsory wearing of seatbelts.

Before going through a red light, Standard drivers must either stop at the line and give way to traffic or be in a position to stop.

And Standard drivers should not exceed a speed greater than the posted limit plus 20mph.

Further, where the posted speed limit plus 20mph equates to a speed greater than the 60mph national speed limit for single carriageways or the 70mph limit for dual carriageways and motorways, the national limits will apply. If the policy is not adhered to disciplinary action will be considered.

Advanced drivers will remain empowered to use their professional judgement.

Although staff driving or riding in vehicles being

used for police purposes are exempt from the legal requirement to wear a seatbelt, they must wear seatbelts.

While this is already Force policy, there will be new disciplinary actions if drivers fail to comply. Supervisors will actively monitor the wearing of seatbelts and varying levels of warnings and suspensions will be handed out to drivers not complying.

Assistant Chief Constable Dave Thompson said: "Traffic Network Section and I have had extensive discussions with the Police Federation over the policy, and representatives have worked closely with us during its development. We want to ensure that our officers are protected and they are responding to incidents in a safe way.

It is also important that all our drivers are seen to be driving appropriately and courteously, providing a good example to other road users."

The new policy can be found on the Force Policy pages of the Intranet.



A FRIENDLY FACE ON FACEBOOK

MAKE GMP your 'friend' and help tackle crime.

The Force has become the first in the country to use the social networking website Facebook as a crime-busting tactic.

The hugely popular site invites people to become 'friends' able to place information on easily accessible pages.

Now GMP is offering an application to bring its messages, up to the minute news and advice to the multi-million strong Facebook population.

The special application developed by the Force's Web Unit allows site members to install it on to their profile for regular updates.

The GMP Updates application provides users with real-time mini feeds about local news, appeals or missing persons stories.

Each news story can be shared with the users 'friends' via a bespoke messaging service and comments can be posted regarding the news stories or about the application itself.

In addition there is a homepage that

features videos from GMP and other information links.

Assistant Chief Constable Rob Taylor said: "Greater Manchester Police is proud to be the first force in the country to use this new technology and it demonstrates our commitment to exploring all avenues available to us to help fight and detect crime.

SPREAD THE MESSAGE

"Facebook has 59 million users, seven million of whom live in the UK,

so we realised that this was an excellent way of spreading our messages to people on a more personal basis.

"This application allows us to further raise awareness of incidents taking place within our local communities in a bid to gain more intelligence and bring offenders to justice."

The application can be shared amongst a user's friends or can be added directly from <http://apps.facebook.com/gmpupdates>.

Frontline Manual 2008

As a result of feedback from officers following the publication of the Frontline Manual in September last year, a number of additions have been incorporated into the second, 2008, version.

The 104-page pocket-sized guide to operational policing is designed to provide a quick-reference view of policies and procedures ranging from crime investigations to responding to firearms incidents or reports of missing people.

A total of 5,000 copies of the Manual have been produced with a substantial part of the costs being met thanks to sponsorship from the Post Office.

Force Internal Communications Manager Michael Smith said: "Following suggestions and feedback from officers, a number of new sections have been included which should hopefully make the manual of even greater assistance to operational officers.

"These include providing Counter Terrorism Intelligence, Police National Computer warning markers, and a revised section on the minimum standards for investigating volume crime."

For further information about the manual, visit the Solve It intranet site and click on Toolkit.

A CENTURY OF



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7



Force Museum Curator Duncan Broady looks back at the history of police instruction manuals - including the first pocket-sized guide for Manchester officers produced exactly 110 years ago.

Constable was on 15 September 1899 and the book in the photograph (No 1) – the original Blue Book – is a collection of those readings.

He mentions in the preamble that he wants the education level to rise to the point where all officers could compose and submit their own reports, and the book breaks down fully the responsibilities and duties of every rank in the Force.

The Constables' Guide (No 2) dates from 1898. This was the first codified manual of duties and responsibilities of every rank in the Force. It also included local byelaws and an A to Z of relevant topics.

Every officer in the City of Manchester received this booklet. It was commented on nationally at the time as being a wonderful document and it was wished that other forces were as generous in providing such a document.

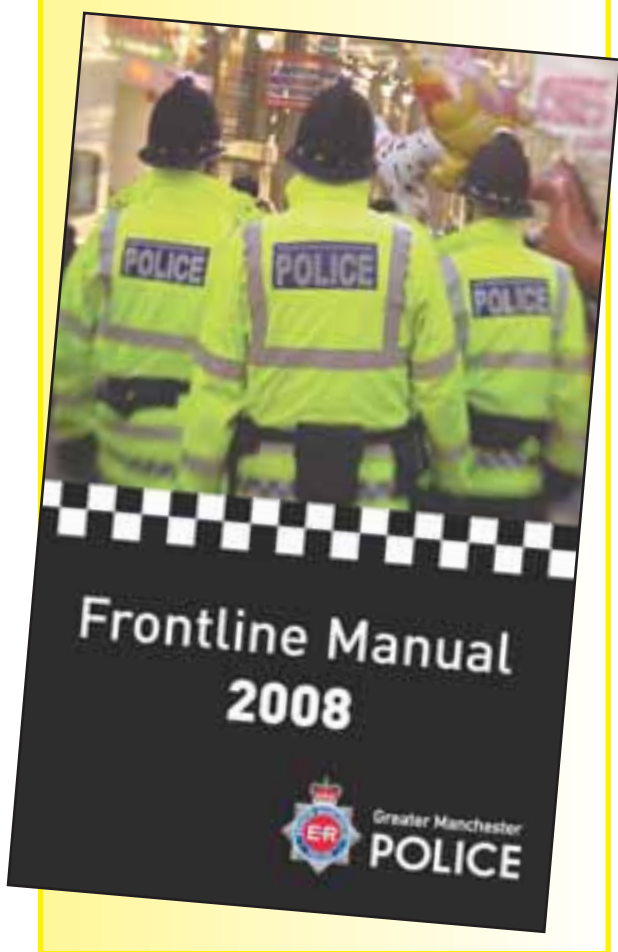
It lists the equipment you receive and how you should carry out your duties. For example, to walk on the outside of the pavement during the day to be visible, and to walk on the inside of the pavement during the night so you would be concealed in the

ROBERT Peacock, who was Chief Constable of the City of Manchester from 1898 to 1926 was instrumental in the professionalisation of the police service.

His aim was to raise education and training standards, and he introduced classes for police officers to bring reading, writing and arithmetic up to an acceptable level.

He also gave readings at the town hall which were delivered to police officers.

The very first educational class given by the Chief



OF MANUAL LABOUR



shadows and could look out for burglars and ne'er-do-wells.

This was at a time when constables wore a night uniform with black buttons, badges and belt buckles, worn with a cape. The day uniform, on the other hand, had nickel-silver fittings.

There was an obsession in this period with people persistently throwing orange peel on to the footpaths, causing accidents – so officers are given explicit advice on what to do. Interestingly, the fine for throwing orange peel - £2 - is the same as for indecent exposure.

A revised system for recording crime introduced in 1939 provided another pocket notebook-sized guide for Manchester City officers (**No 3**).

At the time of this publication, John Maxwell was the Chief Constable, the only Chief Constable in Manchester to have risen all the way from PC without serving in any other force.

This book was designed to reduce the huge discrepancies in recording crime by ensuring the process was uniform – in effect, a precursor of the National Crime Recording Standard. This was also the era of the police telephone boxes – blue and

white striped in Manchester - and mobile patrols.

By following the advice in the booklet, crime reports and offender descriptions would be structured for giving out over the telephone lines and wireless. At the time, Manchester City Police prided itself on being able to use telephone and radio to transmit details of a wanted bank robber around the Force in half an hour.

The next guide (**No 4**) was produced by Lancashire Constabulary detailing the murder investigation duties of the first officer at the scene – including identifying the order in which to contact senior officers. This is undated, but probably produced in the late 1960s.

Hopkors (**No 5**) was a privately-produced publication and detailed 'points to prove' for various offences. It was produced by a former sergeant in the Metropolitan Police, first issued in 1912 and produced up until the 1960s.

At four inches thick, this 1983 version (**No 6**) was the largest Blue Book ever. Graphically, it represented a low point in terms of the design of the Force crest seen on the front cover.

Ever more amendments were issued and included

in this ring binder. It was seen as very useful for sergeants on nights, although the joke was that it was so detailed it even told you which way you had to turn when driving out of Chester House car park (left, not right).

The following Blue Book (**No 7**) was issued in 1993 and was considerably slimmer than the 1980s version.

Officers covering areas of Greater Manchester which came under Lancashire Constabulary in the early 1960s were issued with a pocket-sized guide (**No 8**) which contained photographs and descriptions of criminals, such as pickpockets, known to frequent race courses. This was produced in a loose-leaf format for inserting new photos.

In the 1930s, Manchester City Police introduced the Crime Report Memorandum Card (**No 9**). It takes officers through the 11 steps required to ensure information about a crime is properly recorded, advises on when a caution can be administered and also instructs officers to look out for any marks or traces that can be subjected to 'chemical, microscopical or photographic examination.'

TOGETHER AGAINST HATE CRIME

GMP and the Crown Prosecution Service have together drawn up a special agreement in a joint effort to stamp out hate crime.

The two organisations have drawn up a Service Level Agreement (SLA) that sets out what each must do when dealing with offences motivated by ethnicity or religious/faith practice, sexual orientation or disability.

In the past, incidents against disabled people or those from the gay community were rarely reported or prosecuted.

And it is only in recent times that race-hate has become more readily reported by victims.

This agreement sets out to ensure that these victims - and potential witnesses - have confidence that such offences will be investigated sensitively, but with vigour, and similarly prosecuted in court.

TRANSPARENT

The SLA states that the response of GMP and the CPS to hate crime needs to be both effective and transparent.

It is important that the high priority given to these investigations and the progression of cases through

the criminal justice system - as well as the support provided for victims - is all seen to be done.

At all stages the police and the prosecutors will consult with each other, and the police will ensure that the victim receives continued information about case progression and any developments.

The Witness Care Unit (WCU) will communicate with victims in accordance with its obligations, and Victim Support and Witness Service will also be utilised.

DEFINITION

A hate crime is defined as: Any incident, which constitutes a criminal offence, perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate.

A hate crime prosecution is defined as any hate crime which has progressed to a charge decision or later notification, where a prosecutor has assessed that there is evidence provided that could be put to a court when an offender is being sentenced.

Its importance is that this will allow for the hate aspect to be taken into account as an aggravating factor, thus increasing the sentence.

Det Supt Tony Mole said: "These agreements are important as they are the foundations in the development of a hate crime tracking system that Diversity Command are in the process of developing.

"The SLAs ensure we are applying common aims, objectives and responsibilities using agreed definitions. The tracking process will allow us to analyse and track all hate crime prosecutions from point of charge to finalisation, ensuring we consider all relevant legislation in relation to the different motivations we deal with.

"It is Diversity Command's intention, once the tracking system has been developed, to work with the national lead to further develop SLAs with the Probation Service, Youth Offending Teams, HM Prison Service and Victim Support.

"The intention of these additional SLAs is to offer a consistent and high level of service to victims to improve opportunities in our investigations and reduce re-offending."

The GMP SLA is very specific about how police officers and staff should react when faced with potential hate crime situations and the processes they should follow.

Full details are available on the Force Intranet.

PROSPECTS ENTERS FOURTH YEAR



Twelve officers and staff form the latest intake of Prospects, GMP's programme of enhanced learning and development.

More than 40 members of the Force applied to join the scheme, which is now in its fourth year. The successful applicants for Cohort Four (pictured with Programme Manager Janet Campbell Smith and Director of Leadership and People Change Cathy Butterworth - front) were chosen following a

Faith hate takes centre stage

RELIGIOUS leaders from a number of faiths including Christian, Jewish and Muslim are to discuss faith-based hate crime at a conference hosted by the Lesbian and Gay Staff Affiliation.

Ruth Hunt from Stonewall and the Bishop of Manchester, the Right Rev Nigel McCulloch, will provide the keynote speeches.

The event, being held on Wednesday 25 June at Manchester Conference Centre, Sackville Street, Manchester, starting at 8.30am, is open to all GMP officers and staff.

LAGSA members can attend without taking leave if they get consent from their supervision.

Other speakers will include Dr Kate Browne from the University of Brighton, Rev Andy Braunston, Rabbi Yitzchok Rubin, Howard Lawrenson, chair of GMP's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) Independent Advisory Group and representatives from a number of community support groups.

The event, which also includes LAGSA's AGM, will be followed by a social evening at Eden on Canal Street.

LAGSA executive member Darrelle Lynch said: "Hate crime is a very important issue to people in the LGBT community and it is really

important that GMP gets its response correct.

"We wanted to host this conference to discuss this important issue to ensure that our members and community support networks could share their views and pass them on to the relevant people within GMP and local councils.

CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH

"LAGSA has always taken a constructive approach to issues affecting the LGBT community and this conference will be no exception.

"We are glad that it won't just be our members attending, but senior figures from within the Force, and community and business leaders from across Greater Manchester, so that people can share their experiences and learn about what GMP is doing about this important issue."

For contact details and more information, visit LAGSA's intranet site at General Information>Staff Associations>LAGSA.

The AGM will be the last with Sgt Julie Barnes-Frank as the LAGSA coordinator as she is retiring from the Force early next year after more than 30 years' service.

rigorous selection process.

Cohort One - the seven members of the Force who joined the scheme in 2005 and have completed all three years - attended a graduation ceremony at Sedgley Park.

PROGRESS

Assistant Chief Officer Andrew Marston said: "I am delighted by the progress made by all

those in Cohort One of Prospects.

"They have been instrumental in helping the Force to develop the Prospects programme into the ground-breaking scheme that it has become - a scheme which is the envy of many other organisations."

"I am immensely proud of their individual and collective achievements which have more than justified their initial selection for Prospects."

SOUTH AFRICA TRAINERS TOP OF THE CLASS



Pictured from left to right are: PC Neil Hasford, Musa, Thobani, Jhabulo, Sienda and Sgt Mark Warner.

A TEAM of specialist GMP trainers has left an indelible memory in the hearts and minds of 1,200 people in South Africa.

The eight-strong group from Sedgeley Park were invited to fly out to teach volunteers in KwaZulu Natal the

basics of community policing, and both trainers and their audience were moved by the experience.

PC Colin Wilbraham said: "Everyone was so passionate about the programme."

Sgt Gary Edwards added: "It was a

very humbling experience, Visiting the townships left many of us in tears."

And PC Roy Dennett spoke for the team when he said: "The overwhelming feeling was that we had actually done what we first joined the police to do, made a difference to people's lives."

And the gratitude of the students was summed up in a moving speech by one called Toulani who said: "If I cry when I say this they will be tears of joy for what you have done for us. You came here and won us over.

"You didn't see black, you just saw people. You didn't see race, you saw characters. You didn't see prejudice, you saw individuals.

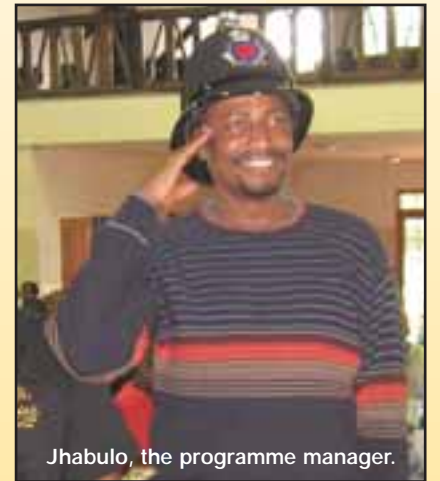
"You taught us respect, principles, ethics and standards that we can all strive to achieve.

"Who would have thought that the sons and daughters of slave owners and the sons and daughters of slaves could sit together with so

much mutual respect?"

"All thanks to our English trainers who left their families to come and teach us their values.

"I will never forget what they have taught us, what they have done for us, the respect they have shown us, and the hope they have given us."



Jhabulo, the programme manager.

SERIOUS SUCCESS FOR FIVE-YEAR PROJECT

THE SERIOUS Crime Division is halfway through a unique five-year plan of re-organisation, restructuring and re-unification designed to make it the leading set-up of its kind in the country.

"We have made progress but there is still much to do," said Det Chief Supt Steve Heywood.

"I set out to change the way we work, to move away from distinct silos,

where units contributed to their own priorities, towards an environment where everyone plays a part in contributing to the Division's priorities. We are now seeing some of the benefits from the changes we are making."

In April 2007 the Serious Crime Division took on the investigation of all murders committed in Greater Manchester, and in September a 'Category C Murder Unit' was formed to

support the Major Incident Team.

The new 'Cat C' unit is expected to be fully resourced by September 2008 and will deal with around 30 cases a year, submitting prosecution files to the CPS within six weeks of charging a suspect under new time limits imposed by the courts.

SIGNIFICANT

All other murders in GMP are now fully investigated by the Major Incident Team and the result has been significant. At the end of the financial year the detection rate was 91%, compared to the previous year's figure of 79%.

At the start of 2008 the SCD launched six separate murder investigations over a period of just 50 hours.

"This level of demand was a considerable challenge even for a metropolitan force of GMP's size," said Det Chief Supt Heywood.

"But with a greater emphasis on teamwork and with a more flexible structure in place, the Division was able to successfully manage and resource all of these investigations.

"Measuring performance in the SCD is still evolving, and getting staff to understand and talk about how they contribute to the Division's goals is part of the journey.

"I've taken a more consultative approach by talking to staff about the issues so that they themselves are involved in the decision-making process rather than having decisions come only from the senior leadership team."

While concentrating on changes within the SCD, he sees Neighbourhood Policing as central to the fight against

serious and organised crime.

"Divisions are able to concentrate on the important local issues affecting them but by us working together, the Force can achieve the local priorities as well as achieving the wider ones."

The SCD is already recognised within GMP for its excellence and there are many examples of successes in the investigation of murders, rape and major drugs and gang-related inquiries, but now forces across the UK are also drawing on the expertise of detectives in GMP. Det Chief Supt Heywood said the work achieved in the last two years meant the Force's qualities are being more widely recognised.

"For a long time managers have seen themselves as investigators first and leaders second but we are beginning to turn that around so that individuals see themselves as leaders first.

VALUED

"We are also breaking down the thinking that some systems are in place 'because we've always done it this way' to an environment where people are valued for the contribution they make.

"As we gain more and more police staff there is now a general acceptance within the SCD that we are one team. It is no longer an 'us and them' situation.

"The sum of the parts should be greater than the whole and teamwork should be driven by the fact that people's various abilities can be mixed together to create a flexible workforce. This is what we are doing and it is working for us."

CRIME DOWN, DETECTIONS UP.

GMP has continued to drive down crime during the past 12 months, reducing the number of victims in the county by 32,744.

The latest figures released to Greater Manchester Police Authority (GMPA) show total crime to the end of March 2008 was down by nearly 10 per cent.

The statistics for 2007/8 also show that domestic burglary was down 11.1 per cent, equating to 2,699 fewer victims; robbery was down 9.4 per cent with 799 fewer victims; vehicle crime dipped 19.1 per cent producing 10,377 fewer victims; and violent crime fell by 9.1 per cent, achieving a reduction of 3,138 victims.

There was also an increase of 4.4 per cent in the number of offenders brought to justice, lifting the detection rate to 25.3 per cent.

Assistant Chief Constable Dave Thompson said: "I am delighted that we have been able to make Greater

Manchester safer. The results of the past year have only been possible with the hard work and dedication of everyone in GMP and with the support of our partner agencies.

"We are committed to driving crime down even further and making a difference to neighbourhoods across Greater Manchester.

"There is still work to do and we have further challenging targets for the next year, but the achievements of the past 12 months are something I am proud of and I know that, with our partners and the support of local people we can build on them."

ACC Thompson added that he was delighted with the improvement in the detection rate. "It is encouraging that not only have there been fewer crimes but more of them are also being detected," he said.

Full details of all crime statistics are being collated and will be published later this year.

Improving local policing

Frontline officers will be better supported and better trained as a result of the Force's work to improve the service it provides to individuals, families and communities.

Chief Superintendent Steve Hartley, involved in the Local Policing programme of Charting The Way, said the public will see a higher quality service to ensure they feel safe and are safe; and officers will see many of the day-to-day frustrations they face swept away.

He said: "This work is all about making a difference to the people we are providing a service to. That difference will be many, many people saying their experience of the service they received was good, that we did our best, and we were professional and courteous.

"Officers will feel better supported, better trained, more valued, and see slicker systems and less bureaucracy. Running throughout that, officers will retain that sense of pride that they are doing the right things in the right way for the people who need our

help – and they'll continue to do it because they care and want to make a difference.

"We have a wealth of talent out there, a wealth of good ideas, and established best practice. This is about bringing those three things together in a way which enables frontline officers to receive the support they need to do their job well."

Key areas which are being looked at as integral to improving local policing include: intelligence-led policing, Neighbourhood Policing, patrol and response policing, crime investigation and criminal justice, and protecting vulnerable people.

And linked to all these areas is the need to use problem-solving more effectively to reduce demand on policing services.

Officers have already been given assistance in the way they manage crimes with the publication of such products as the Volume Crime Management Model Guidance for Supervisors, while in the autumn a new Local Policing Improvement Branch will be formed to provide additional support to the frontline.

Chief Supt Hartley added that existing ways of working will also be looked at – particularly those seen by officers as getting in the way of the citizen-focused approach they want to provide.

It also means achieving crime reduction and detection objectives – which will follow on from doing the right things in terms of arresting criminals and preventing crime through working with the Force's partners and the public.

"We're well aware that officers are frustrated by things like perceived over-compliance of the National Crime Recording Standard where perhaps unnecessary tasks have been allocated, and frustrated by issues around the criminal justice system where bureaucracy is getting in the way. These issues need to be resolved.

"As seen in Sir Ronnie Flanagan's Review of Policing, there has been a shift in policing nationally away from counting figures (compiling statistics often for no clear reason) and towards doing the right things for the right reasons.

Eyes in sky watch over city

CRIMINALS using vehicles - including suspected terrorists and those involved in organised crime - are facing a new police tactic in the intelligence-led battle against them.

GMP has installed a dozen automatic number plate recognition cameras (ANPR) around Manchester to track their movements in and around the city.

And the technology has already proved its worth in providing much more information than was ever possible before.

ANPR provides the rapid reading and identifying of number plates from either fixed site cameras or mobile, in vehicles or using laptops.

The nine fixed-site systems in Manchester city centre and others on major routes are all attached to leading edge computer technology that stores all details of a vehicle's location and direction of travel and the day and time of the journey, and records an image of the number plate and a picture of the vehicle.

Officers can therefore plot the regular journeys of known or suspected offenders, providing valuable intelligence.

Det Chief Insp Alan Lyon of the Force Intelligence Branch who is leading the ANPR project said: "Previously, the search capability of data from GMP cameras was very limited and searching for one vehicle registration mark took several hours.

"Our new computer system, known

as a Back Office Facility, allows us to search and analyse the data from the cameras much quicker – as fast as two a minute – making us more effective in providing intelligence on vehicle movements."

The new fixed site cameras are unmanned and provide coverage on a 24-hour basis, upgrading both the quality and quantity of data.

There are also a number of Traffic Network Service vehicle cameras in use which can be deployed at any site for an unspecified period of time, but they require a TNS operator.

Mobile ANPR technology has been used by TNS for several years to identify vehicles that are being used illegally, are unroadworthy or uninsured, but it is now recognised that it is an effective tool for combating terrorism and serious crime and can provide early lines of enquiry in major investigations, helping to identify and locate suspects and witnesses.

"The Operational Communications Branch has agreed with the Force Intelligence Branch that the Operational Communications Room will monitor serious 'hotlists' on behalf of the Counter Terrorism Unit and the Force Intelligence Branch 24/7," said DCI Lyon.

"Already this has shown benefits such as the monitoring by the OCR of vehicles that might have been involved in terrorism or serious crime.

"Throughout the UK, ANPR cameras linked to the Police National Computer

will leave a footprint whenever a vehicle passes a camera that has either a police report or a DVLA marker.

"There is a huge amount of ANPR intelligence available on the PNC

victims, or even potential witnesses in a reactive investigation is highly effective.

"Proactively ANPR can be used to research movements of a target vehicle for surveillance or to inform an



DCI Alan Lyon in Manchester City Centre

which many officers are not aware of and I am hoping that by raising the profile of ANPR we will improve the use of intelligence from it.

"Our intention is to embed ANPR as a core policing tool that should be considered for all investigations that involve vehicles.

"The system's ability to identify vehicles being used to commit crime and provide intelligence on the movements of potential suspects,

arrest plan as well as intercepting suspect vehicles before a crime is committed."

Key users of the system across GMP have been identified and trained, and a list of them and further information about ANPR can be found on the Force Intelligence Branch Intranet site. ANPR Manager Helen Fotheringham is also available for questions on extension 66725.

THREE SIDES OF NEWLY LAUNCHED F.I.B.

THE FORCE Intelligence Bureau is now a branch in its own right, known as the Force Intelligence Branch

Its separation from the Serious Crime Division reflects the function it provides for all GMP's branches and departments and the crucial role it plays for the whole Force

It has three main categories of business, which are Serious and Organised Crime, Volume Crime, and Intelligence Coordination and Development

With around 120 staff, the FIB is the means by which intelligence is shared between GMP and other Forces, fills the intelligence gap often created in cross border offending and provides support to the Force-level theme groups such as Xcalibre and Vanguard.

The three areas of business each subdivide into specialist desks. The Serious and Organised Crime desks support the Force priority groups, providing a secretariat function, and are also geared towards actively investigating level two criminality and are often instrumental in the formation of operations which are subsequently passed to investigative teams for further investigation and prosecution.

The Volume Crime area specialises

in support for high volume criminality both locally and cross border. This area also houses the resource desk, which manages all requests for Force resources including the Dedicated Surveillance Unit. Its portfolio also directly supports the monthly Force tasking process and is the home for NIM Compliance for GMP.

Lastly, the Intelligence Coordination section has many small units which provide various functions, ranging from Prison and Corporate Intelligence to International Intelligence and the management of sensitive intelligence via the COPU system.

This section, together with IT partners, also drives the delivery of many key projects such as ANPR, the Force Intelligence System due to go live in July, and the Prison Intelligence System, which is currently being rolled out.

Amongst other elements within FIB is GMP's level two Source Handling Unit, which comprises staff who deal with CHIS's providing cross border intelligence. In addition FIB is home to GMP's Confidential Unit which deals with the Force's most sensitive intelligence.

Branch Commander, Det Supt Russ Jackson said: "The FIB has undergone major changes over the past year and I am proud to work alongside such a professional team.

FRONTLINE POLICING

"Our aim is to support front line

Force Intelligence System

A NEW system has been developed that will transform the way GMP captures, searches and evaluates intelligence.

The Force Intelligence System (FIS) to be launched at the beginning of July will mean officers and staff only have to enter intelligence on to one system, creating a standardised system across the Force.

It will replace 5x5x5 forms and the intelligence aspects of GMPICs. Within the system, staff will be able to link intelligence to many more different search criteria - not just people and vehicles.

Det Supt Russ Jackson said: "FIS is the product of months of hard work between FIB and the Opus project team to develop a modern up-to-date computer system. It not only simplifies the process for capturing intelligence, but also makes it much easier to search and analyse information.

"The system will mean we have greater control over the quality of intelligence submissions as well as being able to restrict who has access to what piece of intelligence, helping us to protect sources.

"We have also run a number of pilots to ensure the system is as user friendly as possible and operationally effective. The feedback we have had from these pilots has been extremely positive with many staff looking forward to its introduction."

An nCalt training package has been developed to train staff on how to use the new system. Every officer and staff member involved in the submission, searching or evaluating intelligence, will need to complete the package by 30 June.

The package is located on the nCalt e-learning system and contains six chapters, each taking around 20 minutes to complete.

policing in every way we can.

"This is a very exciting place to work and one in which every single member of staff can make a real difference for colleagues and GMP.

"I am really looking forward to

watching the Branch develop this year and am confident that many of the products and services we will be rolling out over the coming months will really add value to colleagues across GMP and thereby the community we serve."

Mongolian adventure

IT'S ENOUGH to put other kinds of extreme tourism in the shade.

Two pals are planning to travel from Manchester to Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia - the hard way.

THE ROUTE: Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Iran, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Mongolia.

THE TERRAIN: five mountain ranges, two vast deserts, the biggest lake in the world and endless barren and inhospitable lands.

THE DISTANCE: more than 8,000 miles.

THE VEHICLE: an 18-year-old Mitsubishi Pajero 2.5TD called Bruce that they picked up for £700.

It could be a bumpy ride.

GMP IT specialists Paul King and Stephen Elliott, based at ELJ Hall, Chester House, have signed up for the Mongolian Charity Rally, a pan-Continental drive that departs the UK on Saturday 5 July.

They have been given 10 weeks off to complete the journey at which time they will donate what's left of the car to a local charity and hopefully return to

collect cash from various sponsors for Save the Children (Mongolian Projects) and Manchester Kids.

"This all came about one day in the office when Stephen and I were talking about traveling," explained 25-year-old Paul, from Oldham.

"We got talking about Jack Osborne doing a rally on his TV programme so we looked into it. Both of us have always wanted to travel and this way we can do it while raising money for good causes.

"The route is a matter for us as long as we cross the Gobi Desert and reach our destination, but we favour the southern one where we drive around the Caspian Sea rather than have to cross it. The final decision will be dependent on the granting or otherwise of visas for the various countries.

"The import of the vehicles is handled by the Children's Development Protection Fund and the cars are either used by the CDPF, transferred to other charities, or sold on the open market with the proceeds used by the charity.

"Our plan is to stay in hostels or camp, depending on where we are. But



Long haul - Paul (left) with Stephen and 'Bruce' ready for the off.

once we're out of Europe we're into the unknown."

The pair are hoping that by the time they set off Bruce will be virtually unrecognisable as he'll be covered in sponsorship stickers.

A specialist Mitsubishi garage in Denton agreed to service the vehicle for nothing in return for having their name featured on the side.

Stephen, 31, from Manchester, added: "I've done a bit of traveling around New Zealand and the USA, but nothing quite as adventurous as this.

"My parents are a little concerned with the more questionable countries,

but going with a positive attitude I'm sure we'll be fine.

"I see this as an opportunity to go to countries that you simply would not visit for a holiday and am really looking forward to the varying cultures."

Around 100 teams are involved and it is not a race, just an endurance test for people and machines, which is brought home by the somewhat disturbing fact that the finishing line is open for 60 days.

More information can be found on their website, www.outermancunians.co.uk, and the official rally website www.mongoliarally.co.uk.

GOOD MORNING VIETNAM

A DETECTIVE'S anti-drugs message has been delivered nearly 6,000 miles to an audience that could reach six million people.

Earlier this month six Vietnamese nationals were sentenced following police raids on cannabis farms in Bolton, Lancashire and West Yorkshire.

Their discovery came about through Operation Dragonfly which was set up specifically to locate such farms, usually set up in rented properties.

In just nine months it seized cannabis worth more than £25 million and discovered a regular link to the Far East.

Many of the 'industrial' farms set up in rented houses were being run by Chinese 'Snakehead' people traffickers who smuggled Vietnamese men into Britain to work as 'farmers' who would live on the premises

and cultivate the drug.

On the back of the case, which concluded at Bolton Crown Court with the gang being sentenced to a total of 10 years, Det Chief Insp George Fawcett, based at Astley Bridge, decided to expand Dragonfly's media policy and contacted the BBC to ask if they could run the story on their Vietnamese website.

WORLD SERVICE

"After a couple of phone calls I was contacted by the BBC World Service who prepared and published quite a lengthy article," he said. "It's interesting to read yourself being quoted in Vietnamese."

"I was informed that an article on the BBC's Vietnamese website can receive more than six million hits from within

Vietnam and from ex-pats across the world.

"The BBC also asked for a pre-recorded radio interview, the intention being to broadcast at prime-time across Asia.

"During the interviews I pointed out that, unlike in some villages in Vietnam, the cultivation and production of high grade cannabis is treated very seriously in the UK and that offenders would be arrested, given custodial sentences, have their assets seized and then usually deported.

"I also outlined the poor conditions some of the gardeners live in and how they can be exploited by organised crime gangs, while also finding themselves in huge financial debt to the gangs who assisted them into the country.



"I hope the message gets out and goes some way to continue to deter the influx of cannabis cultivators and protect many of the naive workers who are tempted to try and make profits from drugs, but find themselves exploited by gang leaders and then imprisoned in a foreign land."



Stage Squad at rehearsals

IT'S SHOWTIME AGAIN

All THE world is a stage and PCSO Sean Kennedy is very much a player on it.

For when he is not carrying out his duties in south Manchester, he's working out comedy sketches and routines for the GMP theatre troupe he founded four years ago.

And next month he will once again be producing – and starring in – his latest extravaganza, 'The Ironing, the Witch and the Wardrobe Department'.

Currently in rehearsal, it will be performed at the Anderton Suite, Hough End, on Friday and Saturday 20 and 21 June, followed by a late bar and disco.

Stage Squad was formed after Sean, 33, met professional dancer Paul Judge when he auditioned for a role in a production of Moulin Rouge that Sean was putting together for the main stage at Manchester's Mardi Gras.

Since then GMP has been treated to a series of 'adult' cabarets and pantomimes – none of which could possibly be described as 'mainstream'.

Starry Wars was certainly far, far away, while Cinderella's Fairy Godmother was straight out of Little Britain, and Sleeping Beauty featured Beaker and Bubbles from the Muppet Show.

"There is nothing amateur about the group and nothing dramatic," declared Sean. "It's just a bunch of exuberant types having a fabulous time putting together shows that make people howl laughing and want to get up and dance."

He has been involved with theatre productions since the age of 16, writing and producing nearly 20 pantos and stage managing about 150 other shows.

Sean and 39-year-old Paul - who has danced all over the world and was part of comic Jim Davidson's touring pantos - devise the cabarets together, then Paul directs and choreographs the 30-plus members who make up the cast in the overall production.

Tickets priced £10 for the adults-only show are on sale directly from Sean on 07720 537733.

Brief steps in-house

THIS month's edition of Brief is the first to be printed in house by GMP's newly acquired Xerox iGEN3 90 digital colour production printer.

The machine is the fastest, highest capacity digital print engine in the industry with the ability to print up to 5,400 sheets per hour with only minimal set up time.

Its arrival will bring about significant savings by printing Brief internally at the Design and Print plant at Openshaw, and improve the newspaper's quality by allowing an increase in the number of full colour pages in each copy.

D&P Manager David Wright said: "The colour quality and image resolution is of such a high quality, the finished printed product is virtually indistinguishable from traditional offset printing.

"The press measures the colour consistency between every single impression from sheet to sheet and employs revolutionary printing

technology that produces a single point of image transfer to paper on the finished product.

"It is controlled using Xerox DocuSP workflow software with built in 'intelligence' which takes into account the stock attributes of each sheet that passes through the press, dynamically adjusting the operation to optimize image quality.

"The state-of-the-art technology behind the machine also improves our ability to react quickly to urgent operational requests such as Crimestoppers posters, operational orders, training manuals, annual reports and crime prevention requests.

"In short the iGen gives Design and Print the capability to produce print on demand to assist front line policing."

"The machine is eight feet high and 23 feet long which makes it something of a monster, not only in size, but in its appetite to eat up work."



D&P Manager David (centre) standing with some of the members of the Design & Print team in front of the new iGen printer

LEANNE'S DOG 'COLLAR'



Quick-thinking Leanne pictured with her Red Setter, Freeway.

A FAMILY pet was drafted into frontline police duty as a counterfeit canine when a dogged cop needed back up.

Responding to a 'thieves on' call, PC Leanne Murphy spotted two teenage suspects fleeing along a stream but, before she could intercept, they saw her and changed direction to make good their getaway.

At that moment a woman walking her Labrador appeared and Leanne coolly asked if she could borrow the pooch for a moment.

She took hold of the lead and then, in her sternest voice shouted: "STOP, OR I WILL RELEASE THE DOG!"

The runaways turned to see Leanne with the now very excited chocolate Labrador bitch barking and pulling on the lead, and meekly gave themselves up.

TRICKED

"You should have seen their faces when I gave the lady her dog back and they realised they'd been tricked," said 24-year-old Leanne.

Several officers responded to the call to the mill on Greenbooth Road, Norden, Rochdale, where four youths were thought to be breaking in.

When two police cars arrived, two of the teenagers took off in one direction and the other two in another.

One 15-year-old pair fled along a stream which ran underneath Edenfield Road, and Leanne, who had been listening to radio traffic about the pursuit, parked her car on the bridge above.

OUT OF SIGHT

"I saw they were out of sight of the chasing officers and shouted at them as they started to run up the embankment," she explained.

"But they took one look and went to run in the opposite direction and if I was going to catch them I'd have to negotiate a wall and a fence first, so that didn't seem likely.

"That was when I saw the lady walking the dog and the idea came to me out of the blue. I have a Red Setter called Freeway myself, so I know how to handle them.

"She was mildly startled but handed me the lead straight away. The dog must have realised something was happening and became very excited, jumping up and looking agitated, but actually she was completely soft.

"When the youths were handcuffed and stuck with a comical expression on their faces, the woman took back the dog lead and walked off before I had a chance to thank her properly, but I'm sure she's enjoyed telling the story since."

Policing by numbers

STOLEN mobile phones are playing an important and growing role in the gathering of intelligence.

There are more mobile phones active in Britain today than there are people, and their usage has been utilised in various ways in the investigation of crimes.

But a new way has been established to build up intelligence from what may appear to be relatively minor crimes that can impact upon major criminals

Most people don't know that their handset has a unique 15-digit International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number - independent of their SIM.

A database of all those numbers - the National Mobile Phone Register (NMPR) - is being built up for a similar purpose to the PNC which holds details of motor vehicles.

Nationally and within GMP, officers and staff are being urged to assist in the collection of this information which has already been used to solve a number of crimes, particularly muggings.

The theft of a mobile phone occurs in a quarter of the average 540 street robberies committed each month in Greater Manchester, the largest single common factor.

At one level the ability to check IMEI numbers, so proving whether a phone is legitimate or stolen, will impact on the sale of such stolen goods by cutting demand for them.

Equally, on an individual basis, should a stolen mobile be recovered, it can be tracked back to the rightful owner and provide a line of inquiry to help find the person responsible.

But at the same time it helps intelligence because each stolen phone

will link the carrier with the crime that caused it to be stolen, so helping in the process of building offender profiles.

The IMEI number is printed inside the phone, usually behind the battery, but can also be seen on screen by dialling *#06# (star, hash, zero, six, hash).

Whenever a victim reports their phone stolen, the officer taking the crime report needs to obtain the IMEI number. If the victims of phone thefts do not know their number they can find out by calling their service provider. Their numbers are in the box below which officers are invited to copy or cut out and keep with them for future reference.

Whenever officers are conducting appropriate stop and searches they should bear in mind the ORCA mnemonic: Obtain the IMEI number, Record details in their pocket book, Check the National Mobile Phone Register, Act on the information provided.

REASSURING VICTIMS

Chief Supt Stephen Hartley said: "This tactic is vital in terms of detecting crime and reassuring victims. There is no question that if we as a Force up our game and make these checks and - as importantly - record them on the database, we will have considerable success against criminals who rob and steal across Greater Manchester. We will be measuring activity in order to assess whether we are making progress.

Full details of Tackling Mobile Phone Crime are on the GMP Intranet under Operational Information.

Operator	Contract	Pre-pay
Orange	07973 100150	07973 100450
Vodafone	07836 191191	08700 776655
O2 UK	08705 214000	08705 678678
T Mobile	08454 125000	08454 125000
Virgin Mobile	08456 000789	08456 000789
3 Mobile	08707 330333	08707 330333
Onetel	08009 571100	08009 571100
Fresh Network	08701 115000	08701 115000
Tesco Mobile	08709 004455	08709 004455
BT Mobile	08000 322111	08000 322111



Police, camera, action!

ATINY specialist unit, unique to GMP, is being copied by other forces in Britain and abroad.

Just two officers man the Video Intelligence Unit, but their recent successes have attracted interest as far away as Australia.

Their simple but highly effective direct involvement with criminals – particularly young ones – has paid dividends in terms of intelligence, early intervention and arrests.

Now word is spreading and they have been asked to give presentations to a number of other forces and sections of the Home Office and ACPO. West Midlands Police have gone further by making a request to 'shadow' the unit to gain first hand knowledge and experience of how it operates.

HOT SPOTS

The VIU began with the idea that crime hotspots – in the first case Stretford Arndale Centre - could be videoed overtly to randomly identify suspects when volume crime happened.

However, this served primarily to disperse the crime, with the shoplifters and pickpockets moving elsewhere, leaving the footage of little use.

Then a decision was taken which was to prove crucial. This was to move the focus from the problem areas to the problem people and edit footage of them for other officers to view.

Now the two Stretford-based PCs, Elaine Garrigan and Chris Topping, take their video camera to the estates where the suspects live, catch them as they are being released from prison or check them out at their bail hostels.

BENEFITS

"The way it has developed has produced a number of benefits," said Elaine.

"Firstly, there is the psychological effect of them knowing they are being watched, of having us right in the centre of their comfort zone. They find it unsettling and might think twice before committing an offence.

"Then, for intelligence purposes, we have a perfect, up-to-date moving image of them, showing the clothes they were wearing that day, their demeanour and even the way they walk.

"Often, stills don't capture a good image and, of course, young people change. Video is much better quality, provides a wider range of description and ours is constantly being updated."



Chris and Elaine take to the streets

Recently, another force contacted GMP saying they believed a gangster from Manchester was responsible for an attempted murder on their patch. When informed the unit had filmed him that week they were along in a flash to view the footage.

The clothing he was wearing was a perfect match for the description provided by witnesses and formed a significant part of the evidence against him, resulting in an arrest.

Elaine added: "We also try to build bridges with parents of suspects, most of whom are keen to keep their children out of trouble. We ask them which people they believe are the main malign influences on their sons and daughters

and promise to tell them when we see their kids in that bad company

"We send the information by text and when the youngster returns home he or she can be confronted with the fact they have been seen in the company of a particular individual. They can't deny it because we have the video evidence."

The unit was set up to work within Trafford but has benefited neighbouring divisions in identifying cross-border criminals who come into the area to commit crime, the up-to-date images of travelling criminals proving a very useful tool for Trafford officers to identify suspects.

And now the effect of its work is set to be felt far and wide.

CCTV for Safer Sale

by James Williamson

GMP is at the fingertips of folk in Sale – thanks to a new interactive CCTV system.

Four electronic 'Help Points' have been installed in the town centre to provide people with instant, 24-hour access to police assistance.

A press of the button automatically focuses a camera on that Help Point and alerts an operator who can immediately talk to the individual.

If they are in trouble or fear for their own safety, the camera will stay

with them and record what happens while officers are despatched to the scene.

And if they're reporting a crime the operator can direct the camera to the area where the incident has been spotted. The control room, staffed around the clock, has been set up at Sale Town Hall with an open line to the GMP communications suite.

Chief Supt Janette McCormick said: "Help Points are yet another way of reducing the fear of crime in public areas and increasing people's capacity to use and enjoy town centre areas.

"We have listened to Trafford residents and they have told us that CCTV makes them feel safer and the Help Points' communications capacity make them an even more effective tool."

Designed by Chubb Initial Systems, the four £2,000 Points have been paid for by the Safer Trafford Partnership, a local strategic body involving 100 key organisations in the public, private, voluntary and community sectors, which is designed to enhance the quality of life in the borough.

Instantly recognisable in their black and yellow casing, they boast a robust design to prevent damage and vandalism, ensuring they remain

functional at all times. However, they are also self-defensive, and if someone attempts to damage one, an internal alarm focuses the nearest CCTV camera on to the scene.

The four have been strategically placed between CCTV cameras to ensure maximum coverage of Sale town centre, while another point has also been provided on Ayres Road, Old Trafford.

Inspector Brendan O'Brien of the Sale Neighbourhood Policing Team added: "The use of this technology is another example of the measures we have implemented to enable people to feel safer.

GATHERING EVIDENCE

"In an emergency, police can be alerted to an incident immediately. Plus, in the time before the police arrive, the incident can be monitored so that evidence can be gathered or further assistance can be provided if required."

Help Points were first launched in Manchester city centre last year for the Safer Routes scheme that provided a route between bars, clubs and restaurants that was completely covered by cameras.



Inspector Brendan O'Brien at Help Point

SPORTS · BRIEF · SPORTS · BRIEF · SPORTS · BRIEF



Rochdale (in red) heading for defeat against eventual champions Pamplona of Spain.

POLICE football teams from Russia, Germany, Spain and Scotland took part in an international competition at Hopwood Hall College, Middleton.

The six-a-side tournament, held over two days, also involved teams from across the UK including Bedfordshire, Cheshire, Merseyside, Nottinghamshire and Northumbria as well as local teams from Rochdale, Bolton, Bury and Stockport.

In line with European competition, a group stage was followed by a knockout quarter-final and semi before the final game.

The Spaniards of Pamplona were the eventual winners to claim the Gary Waine No. 3 Region, International Police Association Trophy, with South Shields runners up.

The highest finishing GMP side was

Rochdale who were defeated by the eventual champions in a quarter-final.

Organisers Neil Baldwin and David Tetlow who worked very hard for 12 months preparing this competition said that No. 3 Region of the IPA, which covers the whole of the north of England, will be organising another in the future.

The event included a social side with a welcome at Werneth Cricket Club, Oldham, where a buffet was followed by a chance for the Scots and Russians to support Rangers and Zenit St Petersburg, respectively, in the UEFA Cup Final on TV.

Anyone wishing further information about the IPA can contact Neil on 0161 620 3193 or by e mail at: neilbaldwin@talktalk.net or David at: david_tetlow@hotmail.co.uk

HAT-TRICK HERO ANDY SECURES A 'DOUBLE'

By Steve Orr

SALFORD twice triumphed over Rochdale in two nail-biting thrillers to win first the GMP Football League Cup and then the Challenge Cup in matches staged a week apart.

In the first tie, placed at Trafford FC, Salford started the brighter with early efforts on goal, keeping Rochdale in their own half.

As Rochdale improved, they left openings for the Salford forwards to counter attack, and in the 25th minute the pressure brought a breakthrough for Salford with a penalty for handball despatched by striker Andy Ellis.

Rochdale picked up their game and their opponents were rescued by Salford 'keeper Gary Bishop in the 40th minute when he

dived acrobatically to his left to save a Rochdale penalty.

Within minutes, scorer Ellis broke forward and slid a hard low shot across the Rochdale keeper into the bottom corner to double the lead.

Rochdale started the second half the brighter and had efforts to reduce the score, including a corner requiring a clearance off the line.

And in the 55th minute a cross from the right was headed in by Rochdale's Lee Leonard.

This opened the game for a short time with both sides making last ditch clearances.

Late in the game Rochdale began pressing Salford back, but in the final minutes Salford counter attacked and man-of-the-match Ellis completed his hat-trick

for a 3-1 scoreline.

The following week, at Curzon Ashton FC, the same teams lined up with both sides starting well and creating half chances but neither side taking their opportunities.

Rochdale started to take a hold of the game and put pressure on the Salford defence but at the start of the second half Salford broke quickly and won a free kick which was headed in by Mark Newman.

Rochdale continued making chances and pinned Salford into their own half for the last ten minutes but Salford clung on for their second victory.

By way of small consolation, Rochdale's Alex Dodd was named man of the match.

Match referee, Dave Moriarty was the League Referee of the Year for 2007-2008.

Granada TV



Charlie's Double Cup of Cheer

A FORMER GMP superintendent was caught on camera making off with some priceless silverware.

Charlie Coxon, now the security co-ordinator for Manchester United, travelled to Moscow for the European Champions' League Final to play his part in helping keep the peace between rival fans.

But as he landed at Manchester Airport on the way back he was pictured by Granada TV news cameras walking alongside manager Sir Alex Ferguson, the two men happy to carry the burden of extra luggage in the shape of the Champions' League and Premiership trophies.

Charlie, who is also seconded to GMP as security co-ordinator for Operation Protector, the massive operation to ensure the safety of delegates at September's Labour Party Conference to be staged in the city centre, is a lifelong Reds fan.

He said: "I felt very privileged, as any supporter would, to get to touch the cups, particularly in the company of Sir Alex.

"But it was also very gratifying that the match against Chelsea went ahead without any trouble between the fans and everyone came home safely.

"If, you like, that was my 'double'."

No 1 COPPERPOT CREDIT UNION WINNERS

MARCH DRAW

£2,000 Jeffrey Pearcey, GMP.
 £1,000 Dawn Ashton, North Wales.
 £500 Angela Reed, relative.
 £250 Robert McColl, GMP.
 Gina O'Gorman, GMP.
 £100 Keith Sharpe, retired.
 Andrew Richardson, GMP.
 Maxine Young, retired.
 Peter Cowden, GMP.
 Anthony Kane, retired.
 £50 Glyn Winstanley, retired.
 Duncan Warren, retired.
 Paul Crewdson, retired.
 Mike Jackson, Lincolnshire.
 Peter Coulson, retired.
 David Gallagher, retired.
 Matthew Meade, Humberside.
 Toni-Marie Morgan, resigned.
 William Roberts, retired.
 Jacqueline Smithies, GMP.
 James Allsopp, Leicester.
 Alan Hepburn, retired.
 Denise Scott, retired.
 Paul Collier, retired.
 Jason Ashton, resigned.

APRIL DRAW

£2,000 Helen Adshead, retired.
 £1,000 Michael Chandler, Leicester.
 £500 John Williams, North Wales.
 £250 Andrew Burgess, GMP.
 Alvin Salmon, GMP.
 £100 Margaret Creese, Leicester.
 Karl Maurins, Leicester.
 Derek Prior, retired.
 Paul Beckwith, GMP.
 Michael Jepson, Cheshire.
 £50 Jennie Anderson, resigned.
 Judith Roberts, North Wales.
 Neale Laurent, GMP.
 Mark Hughes, North Wales.
 Sandra Woodcock, GMP.
 Brenda Meinertsen, GMP.
 Brian Green, retired.
 James Purves, GMP.
 Steven Bales, Leicester.
 Gari Jeffreys, South Wales.
 Maxine Young, retired.
 Alan Armstrong, retired.
 Ian Appleton, GMP.
 Alan Sturgess, retired.
 Russell Bolton, GMP.