



A NEW accolade sponsored by the Manchester Evening News is being added to the Chief Constable's next Excellence Awards.

The award for Community Focus will go to the officer who has made the most outstanding contribution to the lives of people on his or her patch.

Readers of the M.E.N. and its chain of weekly newspapers in Greater

Manchester, together with Channel M viewers, will be invited to vote for one of six nominees.

Three finalists will be chosen and the winner will be announced at the sponsored awards evening at the Midland Hotel in Manchester on February 29.

The deadline for nominations from within GMP by internal post or e-mail for this and the seven other

Excellence Awards is October 26. Forms and criteria are on the Force Intranet.

The other categories are: Individual Achievement, Outstanding Leadership, Outstanding Team Performance, Outstanding Communication, Police Staff Employee of the Year, Partnership Working and Communications Officer of the Year.

13,800 people to be asked.....

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Survey will collect opinions on Neighbourhood Policing

IN the largest survey ever undertaken by GMP, thousands of people across Greater Manchester are to be asked to rate the success of Neighbourhood Policing.

The views of 13,800 people will be sought on issues such as fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and whether Neighbourhood Policing Teams are dealing with the problems that matter to communities.

The wide-ranging survey was announced by ACC Justine Curran, who described Neighbourhood Policing as the 'bedrock and foundation of our policing services.'

She said: "We are commissioning quarterly surveys of every neighbourhood to measure how our communities feel in terms of reassurance, confidence and the quality of life.

"This will become an important way of understanding where we are being successful and will capture communities' confidence in Neighbourhood Policing, the problem-solving activity that comes out of our work and the reassurance our communities get from the fact that we listen to and respond to their needs.

"The views of communities will help us shape our priorities

to meet *their* priorities."

From this month, three areas of Greater Manchester have been selected to take part in a pilot scheme testing the most effective method of surveying the public. The areas are Charlestown on North Manchester Division, Denton South in Tameside and Stretford on Trafford Division.

Face to face

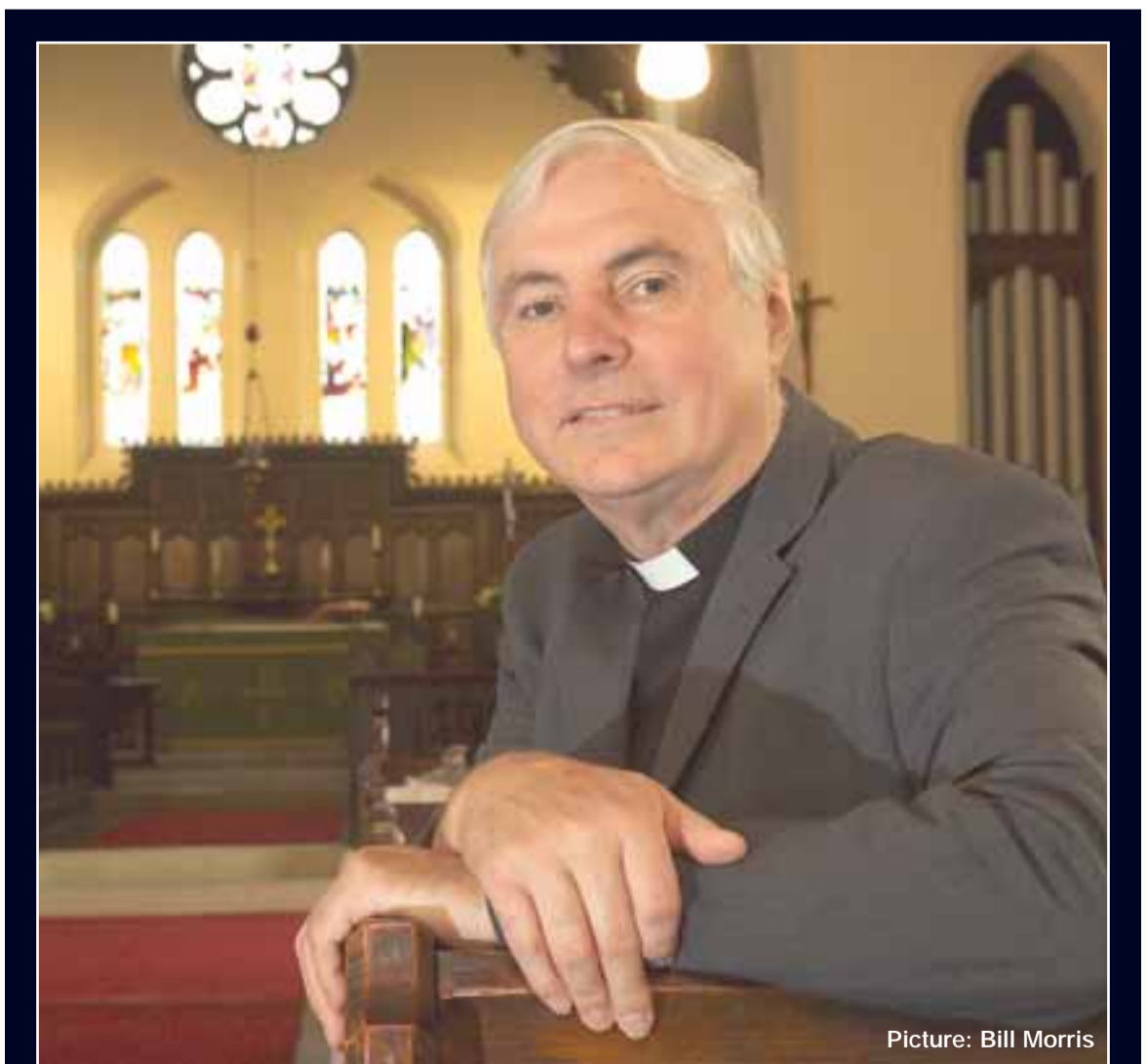
Sam Frenz, Service Head, Corporate Research and Consultation, said: "In each of the three areas, we will be selecting people from the electoral register and interviewing them face-to-face, over the phone or by postal questionnaire.

"From the new year, we will begin the work to survey all 276 neighbourhood communities in Greater Manchester."

ACC Curran said the questions asked in the survey would link to core performance.

"Arresting prolific offenders and bringing people to justice who blight communities is part of Neighbourhood Policing," she said.

"All of us should be asking how our role supports Neighbourhood



Picture: Bill Morris

Sgt Les is now a Rev

Where are they now? - Page 9

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THE VIEW FROM THE TOP

DESPITE all the other challenges we have had in the first few months of this year, you have made some tremendous achievements in fighting crime and protecting people.

Crime levels are being reduced and more offenders are being caught – ensuring that communities don't just feel safer, but *are* safer.

Neighbourhood Policing is central to ensuring our success continues, with loads of examples of good work taking place around the Force in addressing the things that really matter to the people of Greater Manchester.

This is not just about detections (though they are very important), but includes looking at all those things which provide a good quality of service. After all, changing someone's perception of crime in their neighbourhood cannot be improved overnight, but involves members of GMP really getting into the

community and working with partners to solve problems over time.

This, for me, forms a large part of the work that will be celebrated in the second year of the Chief Constable's Excellence Awards.

In March this year, I called the awards night 'GMP's version of the Oscars' - for it was a time when the star performers got a chance to shine.

Again, I know there will be many more examples of colleagues who have shown commitment, innovation and dedication in providing strong leadership and a high-quality approach to their work.

The Chief Constable's Excellence Awards 2007 is your chance to applaud these successes and be proud that GMP is a world-class police service.

Michael J. Todd

ROAD RAGE PAIR JAILED

Tactical vehicle officers hold two thugs who left victim with brain damage

WITHIN hours of a brutal road rage attack, two men were found and arrested by GMP's Tactical Vehicle Crime Unit.

The violence followed a minor bump between two cars.

The two men in one of the vehicles followed the other driver home and broke his car windows.

They threw a concrete block through his living room window, hitting his girlfriend's 14-year-old

son, before smashing their way into the house.

Then they battered the 30-year-old man and his girlfriend with iron bars, leaving the man with brain injuries.

Dean Matley, 29, of no fixed address, was jailed for 12 years at Manchester Crown Court for wounding with intent, two counts of assault and dangerous driving.

Anthony Ryan, 26, also of no fixed address, was jailed for seven-and-a-half years for wounding and assault.

Speeding

In the early hours of the morning following the Stretford attack, officers from the Tactical Vehicle Crime Unit saw the men's red Mondeo speeding along Brookhouse Avenue, Salford.

An off-duty GMP officer had seen the car being driven erratically a short time before the assaults the previous evening.

The TVCU officers tried to stop the car, but it sped off.

They followed it through several streets before Matley pulled up and reversed 18ft into the TVCU car, causing extensive damage.

The Mondeo moved forward and Matley again put it into reverse, but it stalled.

Footwear

He tried to restart the engine, but there was no escape. In a violent struggle, the officers detained him and his passenger Ryan.

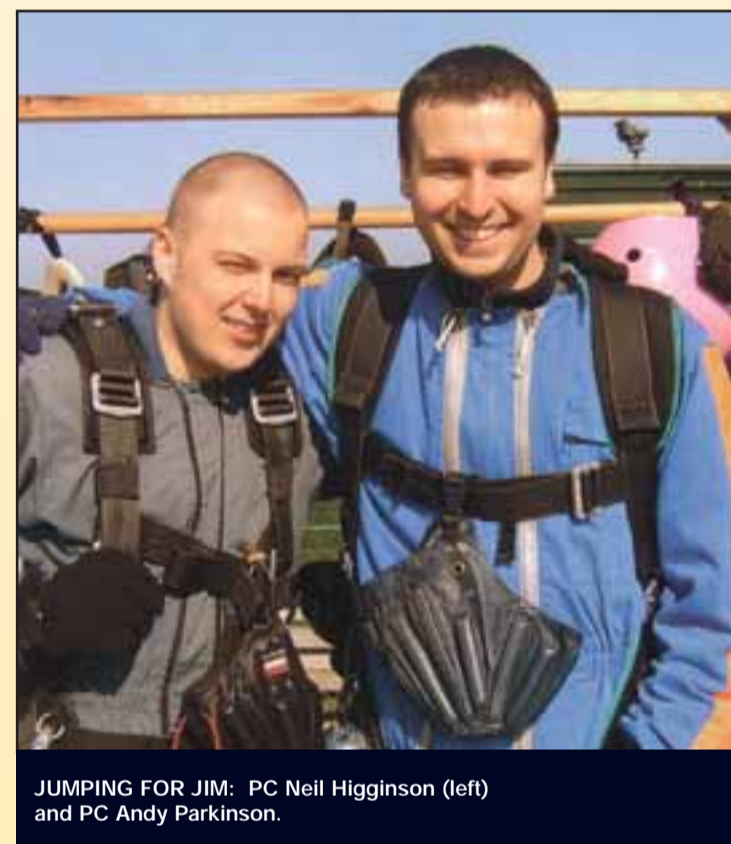
Forensic tests matched both men's footwear with marks found on the kitchen lino at the scene of the assaults.

The court was told that the man they attacked had been left with a paralysed left arm, memory loss and psychological trauma.

Det Insp Dave Warren, of Trafford CID, said: "We are pleased with the sentences the men received. We hope the result will help the victims move on with their lives."



THE ATTACKERS: Dean Matley (left) and Anthony Ryan. Between them, their sentences total nearly 20 years.



JUMPING FOR JIM: PC Neil Higginson (left) and PC Andy Parkinson.

Colleagues aid paralysed officer

A CAREER break ended tragically for PC Jim McKune.

He took time off from GMP while his wife had medical treatment and ended up in hospital himself for five months.

The Swinton officer suffered spine injuries in a motorcycle accident that also left his wife Hayley with a broken neck and pelvis.

Jim, 31, is now paralysed from the waist down and in a wheelchair, but hopes to return to work on special duties this autumn.

In the meantime, Greater Manchester Police Federation and colleagues have been rallying round to help.

The Federation gave £7,000 to buy Jim a wheelchair and also paid the £200-a-head entry fees for two Eccles officers, PC Andy Parkinson and PC Neil Higginson, to make a fundraising parachute jump.

Andy said: "After visiting Jim at his home, we decided we would like to do something that would assist him in his daily life."

The two officers made the sponsored jump – their first – at Grange-over-Sands in Cumbria.

Thanks to colleagues, relatives and friends, they raised £1,615.

It was enough to buy Jim a second wheelchair, a three-wheeler that is worked by hand.

brief

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SAYING IT WITH FLOWERS: Emma Flannigan.

Flood of thanks for call handler Emma

IF a member of GMP puts in an extra effort to help someone, the good deed is often acknowledged with a letter of thanks.

But for call handler Emma Flannigan, the appreciation took a different form – a bouquet of flowers delivered personally to her at work.

Mrs Doris Pritts, 78, was so grateful for Emma going out of her way to assist her that she made a special trip to GMP headquarters to hand over the flowers.

The cellar at Mrs Pritts's home in Stretford had flooded, her husband was too ill to help and other agencies she called were unable to do anything immediately.

When Emma took a desperate call from Mrs Pritts in Trafford Operational Communications Room, she knew it was not something that the police could routinely deal with, especially at such a busy time.

So she decided to deal with it herself.

She contacted the council and United Utilities, explained the couple's plight and got agreement that the case would be treated as a priority.

It was. Council workers made a rapid reassessment and spoke to United Utilities – and in record time, the flooding problem was solved.

Emma thought that was the end of the matter. But a few days later, she was told that someone was waiting to see her at the headquarters reception desk, next door to her workplace.

The caller was Mrs Pritts, who had been so impressed with the service she received that she had arrived unannounced with flowers to say thank you to Emma.

"I was pleased to have been able to help her," said Emma. "But really, any one of us would have done the same in the circumstances."

* **Improved call handling** – Page 8.

* **Letters of appreciation** – Page 17.



PARENT POWER 1: A mother confiscated her son's door keys, cut off his allowance and took him to a police station in Sicily for staying out late. Her son is 61.

PARENT POWER 2: An armed robber who targeted burger bars was frog-marched to a police station in Prague, Czech Republic, by his mother after she recognised her 20-year-old son from CCTV footage on the local version of Crimewatch.

BANK CHARGES: A bank manager who switched £1.5 million from the accounts of wealthy customers into those of people struggling with debt was jailed for three years in Germany on 168 counts of embezzlement.

CANDID CAMERA: Two robbers had a bet on whether they had been caught in the act by security cameras in a computer store. They returned to the shop in China to find out if their crime had been recorded and were promptly arrested.

RAINED OFF: A Robocop crime-fighting machine equipped with video cameras and sensors broke down on its first day on display in Russia. Rain caused it to short circuit.

CLUELESS: Irish police were handicapped when it came to searching for a stolen van. They could not issue a description because it was a Special Branch vehicle and they didn't want the public to know what it looked like.

CASHPOINT: A mysterious philanthropist who delivered envelopes stuffed with cash to various addresses in Tokyo was being sought by police last month. First a woman received a million yen (£4,122), then £7,400 turned up in the mailboxes of residents of a block of flats.

BLIND SPOT: Police in Estonia stopped a man who was driving erratically and found he was blind. The 20-year-old was being helped by instructions from his passenger, 16. Officers at first thought he was drunk, but realised he was blind when he kept missing the tube for the breath test.

IN THE PINK: Police officers in Thailand who commit infringements such as arriving late for work or parking in the wrong place have to wear a pink armband for a few days. It features a cartoon character called Hello Kitty, a favourite with young girls. "It will stop them repeating the offence, no matter how minor," Police Colonel Pongpat Chayaphan said.

INVESTIGATION LEADS TO PAY-OUT FOR ROAD DEATH VICTIM'S MOTHER

by Derek Hornby

FOLLOWING an intensive GMP investigation, the mother of a Chinese student killed in a hit-and-run in Salford has been awarded compensation.

It is one of only a handful of cases in the UK where 'reverse dependency' (dependency of an elder family member on a younger one) has been accepted.

Shuo Feng, 27, who was studying at Salford University, was killed in 2004.

The computer programmer was hit by a Nissan Pulsar GTI, but despite an investigation that went on for two years, the car driver was never identified with enough certainty to launch criminal proceedings.

Shuo's mother, Li Bai, 56, who lives in China, has now received compensation of more than £100,000 under the Motor Insurers' Bureau Untraced Drivers Agreement, which will give her financial security for the rest of her life.

The retired civil servant, a

widow, had made huge sacrifices to allow her only child to pursue his Masters course in Information Systems at Salford University.

She had borrowed money to pay for his education and was depending on him to repay the debt and support her financially when he graduated.

The driver suspected of killing Shuo was questioned and subjected to detailed investigation, including an identity parade.

“At least there is some form of justice”

But he refused throughout to say anything.

Though he owned the car, it was not registered to him.

Checks on the use of his mobile phone just before the incident were also inconclusive, the Crown Prosecution Service decided.

The investigation was led by

Det Sgt Caroline Raistrick, assisted by her then Salford CID colleagues Det Con Justin Dale, Det Con Andy Fallows and Det Con Paul Mitchell and, from Traffic Network, Insp John Comerford and PC Glyn Olive.

Det Sgt Raistrick, now working in GMP's RIPA Unit (Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act), said:

"We treated it as a manslaughter investigation and there was total commitment from everyone involved.

"We felt the case should have been put to a jury, but it was not to be.

"At least the police investigation helped to achieve the compensation result in conjunction with Mrs Bai's legal team.

"It may also go some way to giving hope to officers involved

in this type of investigation that there is some form of justice."

Last October, a coroner's inquest concluded that the student had been unlawfully killed.

With the assistance of GMP officers, the case was pursued by Manchester-based solicitors Irwin Mitchell.

Shuo's mother said in a witness statement to the Motor Insurers' Bureau: "Following my husband's death in 1994, Shuo was my hope for the future and also my spiritual supporter.

"I put all my energy into working so that I was in a position to send him to an overseas university, where I knew he would have the best opportunities and chances of realising his true ability.

"In addition to losing my son, I lost my spirit and my economic future."

Mother and son had been planning to move to Canada after his graduation.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIVISIONS

BURGER AND STRIPS:

Fourteen teenagers from Willows, Bolton, have been able to join in Sunday League soccer thanks to the donation of a football strip by the town centre McDonalds.

The boys, aged 13 to 16, had told Bolton Central Neighbourhood Policing Team that they couldn't find a sponsor to donate kit – so the team put them in touch with McDonalds, who offered to sponsor them.

£3 MILLION FAKES:

Counterfeit goods worth more than £3 million were seized by North Manchester officers and 13 people arrested at four premises on Bury New Road and Jury Street.

Trading Standards officers and brand managers accompanied police on the raids and were able to identify the illegal products.

Fake sportswear, including Adidas, Reebok, Timberland, Rockport, Nike and D&G, was seized. Two 40ft containers were needed to take the goods away.

ON THE RECORD: Officers are using head cameras in Sale town centre at weekends.

"We are always looking to use new technology to prevent crime and to make local streets safer," said Insp Brendan O'Brien, of Sale Neighbourhood Team. "The head cameras not only help us deter alcohol-related disorder but also provide us with vital evidence if any incidents do occur."

As well as disorder, the cameras are also being used to record incidents of under-age drinking in parks.

SEIZED: Five unlicensed gaming machines were seized at four fast food outlets in Manchester city centre and South Manchester in raids by police, Customs and Revenue officers and the Gambling Commission.

DISPERSAL: A Dispersal Order at Horwich saw 11 teenagers detained for burglary and causing criminal damage.

Five of them were held for returning to the dispersal area after being ordered to leave.

The six-month order, which started in July, led to 52 teenagers being challenged under 'stop and account' powers in one weekend.

CAMPAIGN: Swinton officers started a summer campaign, Operation Enterprise, against anti-social behaviour, inappropriate or illegal use of mini-motos and off-road bikes, under-age drinking and drug use.

A mobile police station was parked in Swinton precinct for people needing help or information.

The Mayor of Salford, Councillor Val Burgoyne, went out on patrol with Salford North Neighbourhood Policing Team, led by Sgt Michael Southern, to see how officers target anti-social behaviour and carry out alcohol seizures at weekends.

"It was a valuable experience and I am encouraging other councillors to get out and about in their neighbourhoods like this," she said.

DOWN: A 10-day crackdown on burglary and drug offences in Rochdale led to 44 arrests and a reduction in burglary of nearly 50 per cent compared with the same 10 days last year.

Under Operation Intrepid, officers made 24 searches and seized drugs and more than £10,000 in cash.

RESPONSE: A six-month Dispersal Order started in East Oldham last month in response to long-running problems of youths causing annoyance in the Waterhead and Moorside areas.

Other measures included sending letters to parents and getting repeat offenders to sign

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts.

Similar restriction orders are also running in Chadderton, Failsworth and Hollinwood.

RAIDS: Ten people were arrested in North Manchester in the second phase of Operation Gladiator for drug offences, money laundering, assault and criminal damage.

In raids on 15 homes, officers seized drugs, a bullet, three machetes, balaclavas, more than £32,000 in cash...and a safe.

This followed 19 arrests and 54 property searches in the first phase of the operation. In addition, there have been 40 other arrests for drug-related offences since Gladiator started.

WALK: Local people joined police officers, PCSOs, councillors, youth workers and business people in a 'community walk' at Tonge Fold, Bolton, to pinpoint problems and trouble spots.

Insp Tony Kenyon said: "Through this walk and others that will follow, we hope to get a feel for the scale of these problems and agree those that need to be prioritised."

INITIATIVE: Supt Mark Powell presented a Raid-control certificate to Ken Boustead, owner of Heyside Spar and Post at Royton, Oldham. Raid-control is a national programme that reduces the risk of store robbery and includes staff training, the use of time-delay systems and cameras and keeping a minimum cash balance.

FESTIVAL FUN: A grant of £5,000 was made by the Greater Manchester High Sheriff's Police Trust to Tameside's Mossley Festival last month. Sgt Steve Lovatt said the money had been given to help counter anti-social behaviour during the festival and beyond.



Brave deeds win medals

A WOMAN who intervened when she saw a man being savagely kicked has received a silver medal from the Association of Chief Police Officers in the latest Provincial Police Awards.

Mrs Anne Croft, 67, of Eccles, was driving her 11-year-old grandson home from church at the time.

After locking the boy in the car, she approached the attacker and shouted for other people to help.

The man threatened her, then turned, kicked the victim again

in the head and ran.

Mrs Croft (pictured receiving her award from Ch Insp John Faulkner) was able to identify the man, who was arrested by GMP officers and jailed for three years and nine months.

Medals also went to Leigh jeweller Roy Bibby and a friend, Robert Ralphson, who fought and restrained an armed robber in Mr Bibby's shop.

Earlier this year, the two men received commendations from Chief Constable Michael Todd.

The robber is held under the Mental Health Act.

Fines and points for drivers who ignored Highways Agency staff

TWO of the first three drivers to be prosecuted for ignoring directions by Highways Agency traffic officers appeared in courts in Greater Manchester.

At Bury Magistrates' Court, a motorist admitted driving without due care and attention after using the hard shoulder of the M62 at Birch to avoid a rolling road block put in place to protect officers removing a lane closure.

The driver was fined £500 with six penalty points on his licence.

That followed a similar case at Tameside Magistrates' Court

when a motorist admitted ignoring lane closure signs on the M60 as Highways Agency staff carried out a rolling road block.

The driver was fined £60 and received three penalty points.

In the first case of its kind earlier this year, a driver in Kent was fined £500 with three licence points for failing to comply with the directions of a Highways Agency officer.

He drove on the hard shoulder of the M25 as crews tried to hold back traffic to enable colleagues to cone off an accident.

Jail for one-man crimewave

A MAN who was responsible for a 67 per cent increase in burglaries in Rochdale in less than a year was jailed for six years last month.

During five days in custody, Stephen Smith, 46, admitted committing 201 burglaries.

He specialised in sneaking into

the homes of elderly people and taking whatever he could find.

Some of his victims had blamed family and friends over missing items.

Smith was spotted on CCTV stealing a laptop. Questioned about the theft, he asked: "Which one? Where?"

GARY'S HAPPY RETURN TO HOSPITAL

BACK to hospital went Gary Etchells, the PCSO who was stabbed on duty in Stalybridge last December.

But this time, it was a far more relaxed occasion than the day when two emergency operations saved his life.

Four months after the attack, Gary and his wife Andie were guests of honour at a GMP dinner-dance at Sedgley Park Centre marking the fourth anniversary since PCSOs first went on patrol in Greater Manchester.

There was a raffle and auction during the course of the evening and Gary was invited to choose a good cause to benefit.

He nominated Tameside General Hospital and in particular a day room used by families visiting the men's surgical ward.

The TV set in the room, according to Gary, had seen better days and he promised he would try to get it replaced.

The Sedgley Park event raised £400, with a further £100 being



Gary Etchells with colleagues and nursing staff at Tameside General. A framed commemorative notice was presented to mark the event.

added by a Stalybridge resident who was grateful for Gary solving a local problem before the attack on him.

Gary then arranged a discount on the price of the 32-inch digital TV through a relative and he

returned to the hospital with his wife in the summer for a formal presentation.

He was joined by the organiser of the PCSO dinner-dance, Moira Fewster, of Sedgley Park admin staff, Ch

Insp Fiona Butt (head of the Initial and Continuous Professional Development Unit at Sedgley Park), PCSO trainer PC Roy Dennett and colleagues from Stalybridge Neighbourhood Policing Team.

How are we doing?

- from Page 1

Policing and be enthusiastic about delivering a quality of service we would expect members of our families to receive."

In a webchat on the GMP Intranet last month, ACC Curran said ways of recognising and rewarding the skills of neighbourhood officers who supervise Police Community Support Officers and tutor colleagues were being developed, with a minimum tenure of two years for such roles to ensure relationships with communities were well established.

She also highlighted how feedback on the work of PCSOs had been 'incredibly positive.'

She said: "We have a very clear position about the role of the PCSO.

"It is to be visible and known to communities, to build relationships with our communities and to be an important part of understanding the needs of our communities and responding to them."

Law move backed by GMP will curb street traders

THE first GMP officer to give evidence to a House of Lords select committee spoke in favour of toughening the rules against pedlars and street traders in Manchester city centre.

Ch Insp Mark Lee was cross-examined by five Law Lords on the reasons for a proposed Manchester City Council Bill.

The Bootle Street officer, currently on a 12-month secondment with HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, said there were 'real public concerns' about street trading, which the Bill would address.

On Saturdays, 20 or more traders could be on the move around the city centre, bringing problems of obstruction, overcrowding and public safety, he said.

There were also problems relating to counterfeit goods and

the sale of unofficial merchandise and posters at large-scale public events.

The Bill would update local by-laws on street trading, which is governed by laws passed in 1871.

Inundated

Andy Scragg, senior compliance officer in the city council's Licensing Unit, told the committee that the Bill was 'extremely important' for the city.

"We are inundated with pedlars and unlicensed activity and we are struggling to keep a lid on it," he said.

"Bringing this Bill forward is going to change radically the way we work.

"It is going to make us much more effective. At the moment, we are spending large amounts of time for little

benefit at the end of the day.

"This particular Bill is going to cut down the amount of time we need to spend enforcing the legislation.

"Over recent years, we have noticed a significant increase in the activities of the pedlars and non-authorized traders in the city centre to such a degree that we are getting up to 25 a day turning up on Market Street alone.

"We have no control over the number.

"It is sucking in a lot of resources and it is a daily process to go out and challenge people who are offering services or trading on the street to find out whether they are pedlars or not authorised in any way at all."

* In a typical week, a total of 368,000 people use Market Street, reaching a peak of more than 80,000 on Saturdays, the committee was told.



OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT: Ch Insp Mark Lee and Andy Scragg (Manchester City Council) after giving evidence to a Lords select committee.

CRIMINALS PAY THE SALARIES OF INVESTIGATORS WHO TARGET THEM

SPECIALIST financial investigators are now based on divisions across GMP – paid for out of cash confiscated from criminals.

The development follows the introduction by the Government three years ago of the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme.

This meant that GMP and all other police forces could keep one-sixth of cash collected from confiscation orders and half of the cash from forfeiture orders.

Last year, GMP's financial detectives won orders relieving career criminals of more than £4 million in cash and assets.

The Force invested some of these funds in the employment of 12 new divisional financial investigators.

Nine are now working at divisional level following training by the Financial Investigation Unit and the remaining three will be in place shortly.

Their main function is to confiscate the assets of convicted criminals on their divisions who have benefited financially from their crimes.

HITTING THEM WHERE IT HURTS

£ There have been several successful cases this year in Greater Manchester under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Bolton's Divisional Financial Investigator, Tony Wood, led in a case in which a former magistrate was ordered to pay back £120,000 he stole to give to a prostitute he was infatuated with.

Michael Lee, 59, of Bromley Cross, was supposed to have banked the cash for his employer, but gave it to the woman instead.

He was jailed for two years for swindling the company, Alec's Three Piece Suites, Great Lever, over five years.

Lee had already spent £161,000 of his savings on the woman, as well as £60,000 he borrowed on credit cards.

A judge at Bolton Crown Court ruled that Lee had to repay the £120,000 or serve a further two years.

The impact of the order means that Lee will have to sell his house and forego part of his pension rights.

Everyone subjected to confiscation orders has to pay up eventually, even after serving an extra sentence.

£ A recent case at Oldham showed how a simple move such as pulling over a motorist can lead to financial pay-back. Javid Khan was stopped after he was seen using a mobile phone at the wheel. Officers smelt cannabis, which resulted

in the vehicle being searched and cocaine, heroin and more than £1,000 in cash being found.

Khan was arrested and charged with possession of drugs with intent to supply. He has been jailed for four years.

Financial investigator Lara Moynihan calculated that Khan's benefit from drug dealing was more than £100,000 and she also established that:

* He was claiming Job Seeker's allowance and income support with little in the way of declared earnings

* More than £13,000 of unexplained cash had been deposited in his bank account

* He had bought a black cab

* He owned a house that was mortgage-free despite a lack of legitimate income.

Result: a confiscation order against Khan of £116,500.

£ A gangster jailed for 12 years for his part in a vicious kidnap in which a man was shot and pistol-whipped had £350,000 in cash and assets confiscated.

When Barry Graham, 50, was arrested, police found £10,000 worth of heroin at his home in Dukinfield.

Officers from GMP's Financial Investigation Unit worked for weeks to establish how much he had netted from his crimes.

"He was a career criminal," said Det Con Caroline Skitt, who led the FIU investigation.

"The case sent out a clear warning to others that we don't stop at a prison sentence."

Who's who in GMP's team of divisional financial investigators

North Manchester	-	Lisa Craine, ext 63824.
South Manchester	-	Steve Pearson (not yet deployed).
Metropolitan	-	Lara Moynihan, ext 64139.
Salford	-	Alison Bentley, ext 65491.
Tameside	-	Dave Gwilliam, ext 69236.
Stockport	-	Bob Hilton (not yet deployed).
Bolton	-	Tony Wood, ext 65993.
Wigan	-	Frances Shedwick (not yet deployed).
Trafford	-	Laura Potter, ext 67718.
Bury	-	Carole Holland, ext 68040.
Rochdale	-	Janet Taylor, ext 68454.
Oldham	-	Janet Robinson, ext 69058.

How to help uncover ill-gotten gains

Senior Divisional Financial Investigator Graeme Wallis says operational staff on divisions can assist their financial investigator by:

- Gathering financial intelligence from the search of premises, such as details of bank accounts, credit cards, mortgages or property including houses, vehicles, jewellery and

expensive electrical goods owned by the subject

- Gathering financial intelligence from prisoners (details of debit cards, credit cards or club memberships, etc).
- Submitting appropriate intelligence in respect of people who have a PNC 'assets sought' marker against them.

Confiscation

Prosecutors at Crown Court make an application for a confiscation order after a person has been convicted of a crime from which they have benefited financially. The order is for the amount the court

decides the person has made from criminal activity. Even if a longer prison sentence is served in default, the sum still remains outstanding. Police forces can keep one-sixth of sums recovered in this way.

Forfeiture

This is the process that follows when police make a cash seizure of sums over £1,000 and suspect that, on the balance of probability, it has come from criminal activity or is to be used to further a criminal offence. Initial court proceedings can follow within 48 hours of the

seizure. There does not have to be a specific crime and the suspicions of officers may be based on circumstances as they see them.

Under the Home Office's 'incentivisation' programme, 50 per cent of such seizures are returned to the police force concerned.

New referral procedures

IN an effort to ensure that appropriate cases for confiscation are considered and referred, a new Proceeds of Crime Act form has been introduced nationally – the MG17.

In GMP, it has been amended to meet local processes and is available in various formats. It has to be completed for all prisoners and, where necessary, faxed to the Economic Crime Section.

Be prepared!

MORE than 500 retailers and other business people in Greater Manchester are to be shown how to be prepared for a terrorist attack.

Officers from GMP's Counter Terrorism Unit, together with fire and ambulance experts and civil contingency officials, are carrying out specialist training.

Following a series of pilot days, the first large-scale event attended by 50 people was held at the Reebok Stadium, Bolton, in July, followed by a second at Exchange Quay, Salford, last month.

Training lasts a day and includes taking observers through a simulated terrorist attack on DVD.

A further eight events are to be held this year, with more planned for next year.

ACC Justine Curran, who opened the first session, said:

"These events provide a unique opportunity for retailers to find how they should respond and what their incident management and contingency plans should be so that staff, customers and company assets are safeguarded."

New look for annual report

FOR the first time, GMP's annual report has been published in 12 different versions, one for each division.

Previously, a single report was produced covering the whole of GMP.

The new-style version contains information relevant to each local area, with an emphasis on Neighbourhood Policing.

A centre section details Forcewide developments.

"This format gives us the opportunity to increase the amount of information provided to local people about the developments in their area," said Amanda Coleman, Deputy Director of Corporate Communications Branch.

Each edition also has a local page giving contact details for neighbourhood inspectors.

Copies of the report covering the period 2006-07 are being distributed to police station enquiry offices, council offices, libraries and community centres.

All 12 versions can be viewed on the GMP Intranet.



On-the-spot fines of £80 have been introduced by police in Wigan and Leigh for acts of criminal damage.

The estimated cost of damage in the first six months of this year - £73,000 - included wrecked bus shelters, car tyres being slashed, abandoned cars being set on fire, fences kicked over, vehicle wing mirrors snapped off and graffiti.

Criminal damage now accounts for around a third of all recorded crime in Wigan and Leigh. Officers believe the

figure could be even higher since many people don't report it.

Insp Gareth Hughes (Leigh) said: "The use of fixed penalty notices is a good way for us to hit offenders where it hurts - in the pocket.

"They also risk being arrested and DNA registered."

* Police in England and Wales are issuing on-the-spot fines at a rate of one every three minutes for disorder offences, destroying property and shoplifting, according to a report in The Times last month.

Remembering the fallen

SGT Darryl Codling will light a candle at the National Police Memorial Day in Edinburgh this month for all English police officers who have lost their lives on duty.

Each year, a relative is asked to perform this symbolic gesture.

This year, it will be carried out by Darryl, who is based in GMP's Leadership and Diversity Development Unit.

As he steps forward to light the candle, Darryl's thoughts will go back 18 years to the morning his father, Insp Raymond Codling, was shot dead at the Birch service area on the M62.

Under arrangements made by Greater Manchester Police Federation, GMP sends the largest contingent of officers to the memorial day among all the 43 police forces in England and Wales.

This year, a party of around 90 - mostly officers - will be going to the ceremony on Sunday, September 30.

"It is a very moving event which brings home the reality of what it means to be a police officer," says PC Eric Clegg, Constables' Federation rep on Oldham Division.

In July, Eric represented the GMP Federation and Deputy Chief Constable Dave Whatton represented the Force at the fifth annual Care of Police Survivors (COPS) weekend in Staffordshire.

Families and colleagues of officers killed in the line of duty came together to remember them at the National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield.

Around 200 family members along with representatives from 44 police forces were there.



ACC Rob Taylor with pupils and students who completed the Natural Born Leaders course.

Taking the lead

by Kirsty Haken

GMP's Black and Asian Police Association and South Manchester officers joined forces with 35 pupils and students for a programme designed to develop leadership skills.

Natural Born Leaders, funded by BAPA, gave the group, aged 15 to 17, the chance to spend time with GMP as they work towards an Open College Network qualification.

The week-long course was mainly classroom based. But on

the third day, the group visited GMP's specialist firearms, dog and mounted units and the operational control rooms.

The participants were from Whalley Range High School for Girls and Xavarian College.

Supt Nadeem Butt co-ordinated the scheme for the third year running.

"The course is mainly aimed at students from minority ethnic backgrounds and is designed to provide them with a chance to develop or enhance their

leadership skills," he said.

"The feedback from previous students, their parents and the schools involved has been fantastic and has allowed the course to expand to other areas of the country."

Example

PC Charles Crichlow, who chairs BAPA, said: "The programme is an excellent example of the police service taking a positive approach to

engaging with young people across the region."

Three one-day workshops are to be held over the next 12 months as part of the course, in which students can further develop leadership skills with GMP's support.

One will involve Manchester pupils changing places with West Yorkshire Police students.

Though the course is partly run by GMP, it is not police specific. The skills learnt will be useful in any organisation.

Station duty

PCSOs started a special two-week campaign last month at the reopening of the upgraded Metrolink across Trafford Division. Twenty were on duty at six stations from 7am to 9.30am and 3pm to 6pm Monday to Friday and from 10am to 1pm at weekends giving passengers crime prevention advice, with an emphasis on ways of avoiding falling victim to vehicle crime.

Three rings and you're in!

"The way in which GMP responds to calls for help from the public is being transformed. In this first of a series of features, we share GMP's call-handling success and explain how projects within the Force are changing the way we respond to some of the vast numbers of incidents reported to us"

- ACO Lynne Potts, ACC Dave Thompson and ACC Justine Curran

FOLLOWING a two-year call handling revolution in the Operational Communications Branch, it is now easier than ever before to contact GMP by phone.

Responding to mounting public criticism and a critical HMIC assessment, OCB leaders and members of staff in Operational Communications Rooms have worked together to speed up the response to the number of 999 calls - 750,000 - that GMP receives each year.

An increasing tide of non-emergency calls resulted in a staggering 2.2 million calls to GMP's switchboard last year.

In a further performance improvement, GMP now answers 95 per cent of that huge volume within 30 seconds, thanks to increased staffing and improvements in technology.

The new technology means that non-emergency calls transferred to an OCR are now answered by the next available call handler in any of the four OCRs rather than queuing in the OCR nearest to the caller's location.

The new system provides reassurance messages while calls are waiting to be answered and this has contributed to the number of abandoned calls falling from 15 per cent to just three per cent.

Confidence

ACO Lynne Potts said: "It is vital that the public have confidence in the Force's ability to respond to calls for help and assistance, and getting the first part of this service right is crucial.

"If we don't pick up the phone promptly and get the correct details, how can we possibly expect to get to the incident promptly and give the type of response needed?"

"Although there is still a lot of work to be done, members of staff within the OCB have



done a marvellous job supporting the changes that have been necessary to make such great progress.

"One message that keeps coming through from our staff is the need to keep them in the loop and consult them as things develop. I'm really pleased that the OCB is now working with a specialist communications coordinator to do exactly that.

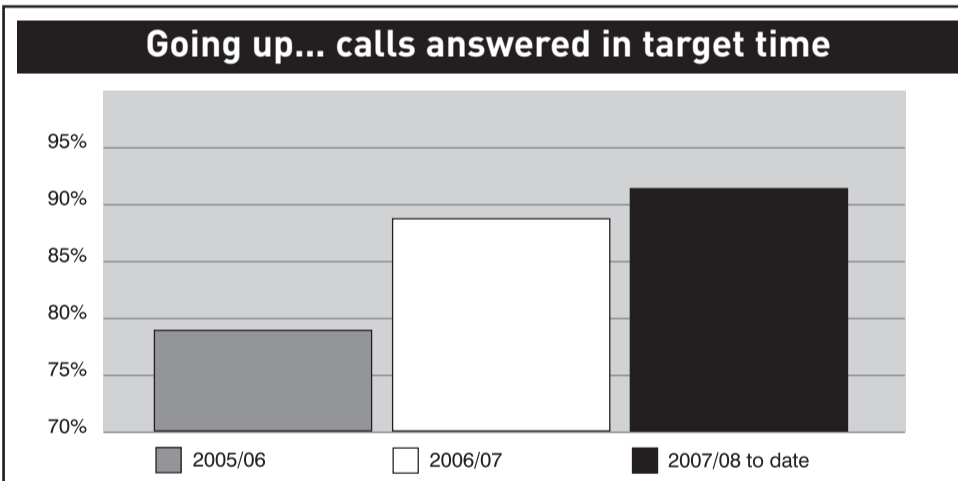
"As changes do take place, it is also essential to refresh the knowledge of OCB staff and ensure that they are up to date with developments throughout the Force.

"Last year alone, the OCB training staff, working with the Learning and Development

incidents reported to the Force each week.

In a specially-commissioned survey on call handling last year, one of the things that members of the public said was that the speed of response to non-urgent incidents was less important than the certainty that an officer would attend at a given time.

A new scheme being piloted on Stockport and Trafford Divisions aims to give people that service by offering a range of possible solutions to callers, including dealing with the matter by telephone, arranging an appointment for an officer to attend, referring the



Branch, delivered almost 3,000 training days, and there will be more this year."

Responding to the public's needs

A NEW approach to incident management is set to transform GMP's response to the thousands of non-urgent

matter to a partner organisation, arranging for attendance at an enquiry counter or police surgery or referring the matter to a Neighbourhood Policing Team for action.

Officers based on divisions will be able to schedule these methods by taking advantage of new IT facilities provided by the most recent GMPICS developments.

The new GMPICS facilities allow divisional officers to access and control the allocation of incidents from divisional deferred incident queues.

This means radio operators in OCRs are able to concentrate on incidents needing more rapid deployment.

ACC Justine Curran, the Force's lead on the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing and the Citizen Focus Agenda, said:

"Experience from other forces has shown that a more flexible approach to dealing with non-urgent incidents has led to an increase in public satisfaction and better management of demand.

"It goes without saying that if we get the right response first time, we will improve our ability to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour."

Public meetings

Ch Insp Mark Kenny was seconded to the Force Call Resolution project - a part of which is introducing the new service - as the result of his experiences as an area inspector on the Metropolitan Division.

"When I attended public meetings on division, I saw first hand the frustration that our current way of working was causing to the public," he said.

"The customer satisfaction survey, coupled with an objective look at our service, has helped us see that some of the ways we work actually hinder rather than help us deal with calls from the public.

"The trial of the new service is a fundamental shift in the way we do business.

"I look forward to frontline officers and radio operators getting the benefit of this smarter way of working. The more efficiently we all work together, the better the service to members of the public will be."

The pilot scheme will be evaluated in January. For more details, contact Ch Insp Mark Kenny on extension 68303.

Survey

A survey completed last year asked members of the public to comment specifically on their views and experiences of GMP's call handling service - and Ch Supt Andy Lang, head of OCB, is keen for the views of the public to contribute to the development of future services.

"Not only do we want to answer calls and get officers to incidents quickly, we

want the service we provide to be what the public wants," he said.

"The results of the survey are helping us to design our service to meet the public's needs. The work being done on Command and Control will go a long way to ensuring we use our resources in the most efficient way possible when we attend incidents or provide advice or support over the telephone"



"THE introduction of call signs was a key step in improving a radio operator's ability to command and control resources and ensure that emergency incidents are dealt with promptly. In next month's Brief, I will explore some of the difficulties officers face in dealing with the huge volume of calls to service and the plans we are putting in place to overcome them"

- ACC Dave Thompson.

Where are they now?

Derek Hornby catches up with three former officers

LES GOES FROM POLICE OFFICER TO PREACHER



CAREER DEVELOPMENT: The Rev Les Rees at his Swinton church

WHEN Les Rees retired from GMP, he had no doubt where his future lay.

During his final year as a police officer, he had spent every Monday night on a training course in Manchester for would-be priests.

He was ordained last year, and ex-Sgt Rees is now the Rev Rees, curate at Holy Rood Church, Swinton.

After his retirement in 2004, Les continued training and was awarded a BA in theology and pastoral studies from Leeds University, from

where he had obtained a law degree in 1972.

He had first thought about leaving the police for the church in the early 1990s.

But any plans he may have been making fell through when his wife became ill and died, leaving him with two sons to bring up.

He remarried, but it was only later that he revived his hopes of entering the church.

Les's final posting before his departure after 27 years with GMP was in the Civil Litigation Section.

There is, however, one

big difference between being a police officer and his current role.

For the moment, despite being a full-time minister, Les, 57, receives no salary, only his expenses, a situation that he says is far from rare in church circles.

One early benefit of his new career, he says, was being able to conduct his niece's wedding ceremony last December.

He will be doing the same for one of his sons this month.

* Former colleagues can keep in touch through the church's web address, www.holyroodchurch.org.uk

And the toast is....ex-Ch Supt Brian

UNLIKE most people, Brian Wroe enjoys public speaking and had plenty of practice as a divisional commander in GMP.

Now he is putting his skill to use in another direction as a red-coated toastmaster and master of ceremonies.

Brian graduated from the UK School of Professional Toastmasters in January after attending a five-day course in Norwich.

So far this year, he has officiated at six wedding celebrations and has bookings almost two years ahead for functions such as weddings and corporate events.

Brian's day job is as Salford's Assistant Director of Community Services, which he started the day after his retirement from GMP in 2004 as head of Salford Division.

"I had a rest overnight," says the former chief superintendent, who was in the police for more than 30 years.

Why did he take up toastmastering?

"I enjoyed speaking in public, I'd shared platforms with Cabinet ministers and peers, I'd done TV work and was experienced in planning and organising," Brian said.

"Becoming a toastmaster and MC was something I knew I would take to straight away.

"The great thing is that you are playing a part in a happy occasion, helping people to enjoy one of the



A DIFFERENT UNIFORM: Brian Wroe

most important days in their lives.

"It is satisfying to help the day run smoothly and, where possible, add a touch of humour."

* Brian offers discounts to GMP officers and staff. More details can be obtained from his website: www.toastmasterandmc.co.uk



OFF TO WEST INDIES: Dave Ryder

Dave takes on a tropical beat

THREE years after retiring from GMP, Dave Ryder is making a return to policing...but far away from his previous territory.

Next month, he takes up a two-year appointment as head of a new police unit in the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands in the West Indies.

He will have the rank of superintendent and will lead a team of 21 officers in a tactical unit aimed at combating armed crime and public disorder.

Since retiring from GMP in 2004 after 31 years' service, the former head of Trafford Division and one-time traffic officer has been Network Operations Manager with the Highways Agency in the North West.

That has involved transferring a number of responsibilities from motorway police officers to Highways Agency patrols in the region.

"Now I'm completing the circle by going back into the bobbies," he said.

When Dave leaves for the tropical islands, he says he will be 'exporting' a range of good practice and solutions from his time with GMP.

As well as running his new unit, Dave will also help the Turks and Caicos police in managing evidence and property after he was asked for details of GMP's current approach in this field.

Dave and his wife Karen, whose daughter Emma is a PCSO at Bolton, will make their new home in

Providenciales, urban centre of the 40 islands, of which eight are inhabited.

The population of the islands, a British protectorate, is 33,000, two-thirds of whom live on Providenciales, and there are 300 officers in the police force.

Main industries are tourism and financial services.

Both are on the increase, bringing a need for raised levels of policing provided by the new unit that Dave is to lead.

The big Manchester march.... a special c

SMYTH HARPER reports

How I stopped leading a double life

OUT

MORE than 25 years ago, a young police constable stood in a phone box pouring out her heart to a voice on the other end of a lesbian helpline.

The constable was gay, but no one in her workplace or family knew and she didn't know where to turn.

Twenty eight years later and that same officer could not be more open about her sexuality.

Sgt Julie Barnes-Frank founded and coordinates the Force's Lesbian and Gay Staff Affiliation.

She was speaking about her journey – and that of GMP – at a high-level conference for 'diversity champions' organised by gay lobbying group Stonewall at Manchester Town Hall.

The meeting, where a top civil servant and a leading BT manager also spoke, was addressing the issue of being out in the workplace and attracted dozens of high-level gay members of staff from some of Manchester's leading companies and organisations.

'It was like Life on Mars'

Sgt Barnes-Frank told the conference: "I have to be honest and say that when I joined the police in 1979 it was just like Life on Mars.

"Female officers were either 'bikes or dykes' and I didn't want to be either – I just wanted to get on with the job.

"But that meant I had to live a double life. It goes against the grain to deceive when you are a police officer but that is what you are doing when you live a double life and that is what I did."

She said that when she went out to gay bars, she would always look up and down the street before entering in case she was spotted by someone she knew.

When she met Linda, the partner she has now been with for 20 years and with whom she has a civil partnership, they kept their 'affair' secret.

"Linda had lost her job

Sgt Julie Barnes-Frank: "Big strides have been made in recent years."



because she was gay and we wanted to keep our relationship quiet," she said.

"Looking back now, I'm not proud to admit it, but I kept 'my affair' secret because I felt that's how it was, sordid and secret."

Fictitious names

They even invented names for each other – Steve and Keith – so that when they spoke about each other at work, people would think their partners were male.

It was personal tragedy which first caused Julie to realise she could not maintain the deception.

"I first came out at work to my inspector in 1994," she said. "Linda had just lost her mum and my dad got lung cancer. Because I wasn't out at work and couldn't talk about what we were going through, I had no way to cope."

Her inspector was supportive, gave her some time off and encouraged her to confide in her colleagues.

Several years later in 1998, she attended a workshop for gay and lesbian staff in GMP. One other person attended. In 2001, Sgt Barnes-Frank, together with two others, founded LAGSA.

Sgt Barnes-Frank was keen to stress that she had a positive

message to give, and that the Force has moved forward in big strides in recent years for members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities who work in GMP.

"Since forming LAGSA we have gone from strength to strength," she said.

'Proud to be out'

"One of the most positive days for GMP staff was on August 23, 2003, when we marched through the streets of Manchester (during Pride) wearing our uniforms and saying we were proud to be out."

She added that many in GMP were supportive of that public display – from the Chief Constable down – and every year since then, the police presence on the Pride parade has grown.

"Laws against discrimination are good, but they aren't as good as supportive people," she said. "I've come a long way since I stood in that phone box and so has GMP."

For more information about LAGSA, visit its intranet site at [General Information > Staff Associations > Lagsa](#).

• Julie is one of the nominees for Stonewall's Hero of the Year awards in London on November 1.



A RECORD number of police officers and staff took part in the Manchester Pride parade last month.

This year, for the first time, the GMP Band along with members of the Cheshire and Merseyside police bands took part in the festivities.

Representatives from police forces across the country, including several senior officers, joined GMP to swell the numbers to well over 100.

Darren Haslam, who chairs GMP's Lesbian and Gay Staff Affiliation (LAGSA), said: "This was the fifth year we had taken part in the parade and each year it goes from strength to strength.

"We get new people every year wanting to be a part of it. This is a clear and public demonstration of the real moves GMP has made in recent years to become a force which is both representative and supportive of all the communities we serve.

"We were grateful for the bands' participation this year. We always get a warm reception from the tens of thousands of people from Greater Manchester and beyond who watch the parade.

"The bands really added something special this year and I'm sure everyone who took part would agree their excellent performance was a highlight of the day."

conference.... one officer's experience....

Pictures by BILL MORRIS

ON PARADE



SAME-SEX DOMESTIC ABUSE

RESEARCH suggests that domestic abuse is as common and as severe among same-sex couples as among heterosexual couples.

GMP's Lesbian and Gay Staff Affiliation (LAGSA) held a one-day conference to discuss the issue.

The event, which coincided with LAGSA's annual general meeting, was opened by Chief Constable Michael Todd, who emphasised the 'zero tolerance' approach the Force takes to domestic abuse in all forms.



Conference speaker: Claire Turner

Two women a week and 30 men a year die as a result of domestic abuse, and it is claimed one in four women and one in six men will be affected by some form of partner abuse in their lifetime.

While in the past, same-sex partner abuse was not recognised as a major issue by either the lesbian and gay communities or the police, the conference aimed to demonstrate that it is being taken seriously

and that those in abusive relationships can receive help.

Support

The conference had a number of prestigious speakers, including Dr Kate Cook, a renowned criminal justice system expert who currently lectures in criminal law, criminology, gender and the law and law reform at Manchester Metropolitan University. She has also written extensively on the issue of domestic abuse.

Claire Turner, from the organisation Loving Me, which provides support for lesbian domestic abuse victims, ran a workshop on the subject.

As well as GMP officers and staff, representatives from other North West forces and organisations, including

Manchester City Council and the Lesbian and Gay Foundation, attended.

Darrelle Lynch, from GMP's LAGSA, said: "We wanted to highlight the issue of same-sex domestic abuse so that those who are affected by it know they can get help and support from both the police and others.

"It is fair to say that victims of domestic abuse have been let down in the past, but times have changed and so have the police. GMP LAGSA is ensuring that this issue is raised at the highest levels within GMP."

As well as the Chief Constable, several other senior officers attended the event, including recently-retired ACC Vincent Sweeney, who was given a presentation for the support he had given LAGSA since it was founded in 2001.

CSI pair take prizes as the best in the country

WHEN it comes to awards on the scientific side of crime investigation, you can't get much better.

Two of GMP's crime scene investigators were top of the list when this year's accolades were announced by the National Training Centre for Scientific Support to Crime Investigation.

At the forensic awards day at Durham Castle, Bonnie Hopkins became the first CSI in the country to receive the new Vocational Skill Award for crime scene managers.

Bonnie, a senior CSI on Oldham Division, joined a pilot course for two weeks at the centre last year and was

then assessed in-house before qualifying for the milestone award.

Matt Wilkinson, a CSI on Bolton Division, was judged the best of the students from around the country working for a Diploma in Crime Scene Investigation, for which he received the Ustinov Award.

Bonnie and Matt were joined at the awards day by Scientific Services Director Dr Peter Hall and Angela Gelder, Training and Development Co-ordinator with the CSI Unit.

"Both the awards are highly prestigious and a great credit to Bonnie and Matt and to GMP," Angela said.



Crime scene investigators Bonnie Hopkins (first winner of a new award) and Matt Wilkinson (top diploma student) with Dr Peter Hall, Director of Scientific Services, at Durham Castle awards ceremony.



PRIZE DAY: PC Paul Berry, Attorney General Baroness Scotland and Trafford Centre General Manager Gordon McKinnon, who received a duplicate of Trafford Division's award.

Winning lines

Officer's report brings award (and £5,000) for his division

A REPORT by PC Paul Berry has led to Trafford Division winning £5,000 and an award from the Association of Chief Police Officers.

The cash and the Secured by Design plaque are in recognition of the division's successful crime reduction work in and around the Trafford Centre.

The new Attorney General, Baroness Scotland, presented the cheque and the award to Paul when she visited the centre to see at first hand what is being done to deter criminals.

One thing being done is that every vehicle entering the complex of 280 shops and 10,000 parking spaces is checked under the automatic number plate recognition system.

It was this technological extra, coupled with safer parking facilities and an overall security strategy, that won the award.

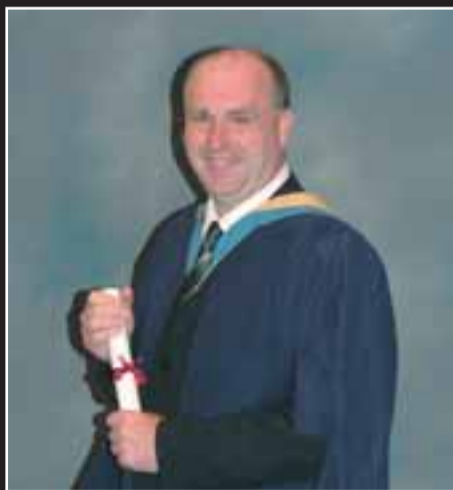
Last year, ACPO announced that a total of £30,000 in prize money was being made available for police forces this year for their involvement in crime-cutting design projects.

Stretford-based Paul, who works with the Safer Trafford Partnership, wrote a 1,200-word synopsis on the public-private crime reduction work that had been going on and how ANPR had recently been extended.

In conjunction with GMP's Architectural Liaison Unit, the Trafford Centre had already won anti-crime design awards since opening nine years ago.

It was the extra measures now in place, overseen by Paul and the Safer Trafford Partnership, that secured the award...and brought £5,000 for Trafford Division to spend on further crime reduction projects.

BY DEGREES



Honours degree: Det Sgt John Tuer

Three years ago, three officers from GMP's Hi-Tech Crime Unit became the first in the country to gain post-graduate degrees in Computer Forensics.

Two more officers from the same unit, Det Sgt Paul Clayton and Det Con Andy McConville, have now achieved the same degrees, again from Cranfield University



Graduates: Det Con Andy McConville (left) and Det Sgt Paul Clayton

(the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, Wiltshire).

And to make it another triple academic success for the unit, one of their colleagues, Det Sgt John Tuer, has also graduated recently, gaining a BSc (with first class honours) in IT and Computing from the Open University.

Show-stopper

Could I point out an error in the August edition of Brief? The yellow Hummer vehicle was cleaned to show standard and kitted out in GMP livery and roof blues by the workshop staff at Openshaw. They adapted current vehicle livery and roof electrics to make it look bespoke to a Hummer vehicle and made it the show-stopper it was.



Tony Clitheroe, Vehicle Workshop Services Manager, Openshaw Complex.

* The Brief item said the Hummer had been dressed in GMP livery by the vehicle suppliers, General Dynamics.

PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

In GMP's Public Protection Section, the name of the Family Support Unit has changed. It is now the Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons Unit.

PATRICIA JONES looks at what it does.

THE unit has a range of responsibilities in safeguarding vulnerable people.

They include domestic abuse, setting policy on safeguarding children, forced marriages, honour-based violence, vulnerable and intimidated witnesses, reviewing child deaths, conducting serious case reviews where abuse or neglect is a factor and attending case conferences on children who are on the 'at risk' register.

And in the near future, the unit is taking responsibility for conducting domestic homicide reviews.

Children

One of the key areas of work is safeguarding children.

With some 1,500 children on the child protection register at any one time, the unit works closely with multi-agency partners through case conferences to ensure that children identified as being at risk of significant harm are protected and cared for.

Det Insp Jane Little, who heads the unit, said: "Case conferences are a valuable

tool in ensuring that a child's wellbeing and development are promoted.

"This is a vital part of our work in terms of prevention and intervention for children at risk of significant harm.

"Eight members of my team and three research officers attend and supply information to 3,000 conferences per year across the Force."

The unit undertakes all the necessary checks when Social Services need to place a child as a matter of urgency.

"We liaise regularly with divisional Public Protection Investigation Units and other forces as well as with local children and family services to ensure accurate information is shared so that the potential risks to children can be identified," said Det Insp Little.

The unit also analyses the circumstances of all unexpected deaths and serious injuries involving children under 18 to assess if a formal multi-agency review should take place.

Domestic abuse

Nationally, domestic abuse accounts for two



PROTECTORS: Head of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons Unit Det Insp Jane Little (front, second from left) with Det Ch Insp Carol Ashworth (on Jane's right) and colleagues.

murders a week.

Det Insp Little said: "GMP is tackling domestic abuse on several fronts.

"All divisions hold monthly Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) to discuss intervention strategies for the highest risk domestic abuse cases and several areas have sanctuary schemes in place.

"In conjunction with the housing department, the homes of victims and their families can be made safer by the use of additional security on windows and doors, putting in cameras, homelink alarms and in some cases 'safe rooms'.

"A number of enforcement campaigns have targeted the Christmas

period and high-profile sporting events, where research shows higher levels of domestic abuse occur.

"This reinforces our proactive and zero tolerance approach to this area of policing.

"There are also four specialist Domestic Violence Courts in the Greater Manchester area.

"More than half the children on the 'at risk' register live in homes where domestic abuse is a regular feature, and while a lot of good work is happening across the Force, we need to continue to increase public confidence in reporting abuse and therefore protect more vulnerable people."



THE LAST INTAKE: Large-scale recruitment of Police Community Support Officers by GMP has come to an end.

In the past four years, a total of 828 have joined, but posts will now be filled only when a PCSO leaves.

Originally, the Government set a target of 24,000 PCSOs for England and Wales. That has been reduced to 16,000.

This summer, GMP's final 60 recruits gathered together for the last time at a ceremony at Sedgley Park Centre before taking to the streets.

Some of the group are pictured in a photo by Colin Moxon, of the Audio Visual Unit at Sedgley Park.

A sponsored Copshop

A MOBILE police unit for Trafford Division's Copshop team has been sponsored by house-building companies Redrow and Bryant, which have both given £5,000.

Connected to mains electricity, a telephone network and IT, the new mini-police station has special outdoor lights for night work and space for officers to take statements.

"It is a one-stop shop where people can report an incident, speak to an officer about a crime-related matter or get crime prevention advice," said Supt John Graves.



Copshop officer Sgt Debbie Rasmussen with Insp Simon Wright, of Altrincham Neighbourhood Team, Supt John Graves and sponsored vehicle.

A secure deal

IN a 'first' for GMP, an existing police vehicle on North Manchester Division has been sponsored.

The yellow Iveco van features Strata Security's branding after an agreement was made between PC Stuart Pizzey, Crime Reduction Adviser for the city centre, and the company's chief executive, Geoff Churchman, a former Cheshire superintendent.

Supt Mark Burtonwood presented a GMP plaque to Strata chief finance officer, Paul Smith, a former South Yorkshire police officer, at the Bootle Street handover.



AGREEMENT: Supt Mark Burtonwood and Strata Security's chief finance officer, Paul Smith, with the sponsored vehicle

Management Of Police Information

AFTER the murders five years ago of 10-year-olds Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman in Soham, Cambridgeshire, it emerged that the killer, Ian Huntley, had slipped through child protection checks.

Intelligence failings allowed him to get a job at a school in Soham as caretaker, despite a string of sexual allegations against him in Grimsby, Humberside, in the 1990s, including

four rapes and four cases of under-age sex.

The Bichard Inquiry into the case recommended a number of reforms, including a better system of information management, particularly between police forces.

Here, GMP's Management of Police Information (MoPI) Co-ordination Team answer questions on the implications and developments.

What is MoPI?

It is the Government's response to the public inquiry headed by Sir Michael Bichard after the tragic events in Soham. It is a code of practice and guidance that must be applied to the way all police information is handled.

What is police information?

Any information that is used for a policing purpose, protecting life and property, preserving order, preventing the commission of offences, bringing offenders to justice and any duty or responsibility arising from common or statute law. This can be in any format - digital, electronic, audio, video or paper.

What has happened since the Bichard recommendations?

The first stage was a capability assessment of GMP, which was completed in June last year. From that, we drew up an action plan to reach the compliance stage in six 'high risk' areas: custody, intelligence, crime recording, domestic violence, child abuse and firearms licensing.

What happened next?

From June last year until March this year, we were putting plans and policies in place in relation to the code. Certain policies had to be amended. IT has been developed to ensure that the processes required can be carried out effectively and

in accordance with the MoPI guidelines. The new Force Intelligence System (FIS) will enable GMP to improve and maintain standards in the intelligence field.

What about the historic intelligence that may not be MoPI compliant?

The Data Improvement Team, based at Chester House, is currently working its way through 70,000 records of MoPI Group 1 nominals, reviewing all their records and removing duplicates, inappropriate wording and information that is no longer held for a policing purpose. MoPI Group 1 nominals are the most dangerous members of society as defined in the MoPI guidance.

Is there a deadline for compliance?

We have to be MoPI compliant by March 31, 2010.

One of the main recommendations of the Bichard inquiry was a national police database, PND. This will, in addition to holding convictions, have an intelligence function. It is scheduled to come on line after the 2012 Olympics.

What does this mean for operational officers?

The new Force Intelligence System and the forthcoming PND will make policing easier. Intelligence on one person will be in one place under one name (Golden Nominal). The practice of several records being created for a single person and the confusion that several Single Reference

Numbers on an individual causes will cease. PND will make sure that any intelligence that another force has on that subject will be available to officers.

In the meantime, while we wait for 2010 and 2012 to arrive, there must have been other developments?

One of the most important and successful is something called INI or IMPACT Nominal Index (IMPACT stands for Information Management Prioritisation Analysis Co-ordination Tasking), which is now operational in child abuse investigation units throughout the UK and is proving invaluable.

By the end of April this year, nearly 152,000 information searches had been conducted nationally using the INI, leading to more than 15,000 requests to other forces for further information.

This is an index of names only. All UK Home Office forces have supplied the names along with Scottish, military and other civilian forces. It is the first step towards PND.

It enables officers to access intelligence from other forces on individuals suspected of serious offences. Protection of vulnerable people is one of the most important themes in the Bichard inquiry.

Who is on your MoPI co-ordination team?

Supt Mark Robinson, Insp Andrew Harty, PC Gill Emerson, police staff member David Kynaston and administrator Stephanie Smith. We report to the Information Management Directorate headed by Jen Mulcahy.

Custody officer training goes high-tech

A NEW course for custody sergeants involving high-tech simulation training on the Hydra system has been launched by Learning and Development Branch.

The old five-day course has been replaced with one that gives eight days of classroom-based training covering the Safer Handling of Detained Persons (SHoP) doctrine, followed by two days of custody suite simulation using the Hydra Suite.

The Hydra Suite is a nationally-recognised system specialising in decision-making and critical incident training.

It provides a simulated custody environment through the use of high-tech video supported by audio and paper documents.

Custody officers enter the exercise in a syndicate room that uses large-screen projection to provide the view of custody operations as experienced by a custody sergeant.

Virtual detained persons, officers and defence solicitors enter the custody suite and present themselves to the custody sergeant, who is required to exercise skills, judgement and decision-making to resolve situations and problems.

The Hydra exercise has been developed by GMP's Hydra Team with the support of Hydra teams at nCalt and Merseyside Police and will be added to the national custody officer programme to the benefit of police forces nationally.

The exercise has attracted high praise from custody sergeants who have been through it.

Among their comments: "I can only rate it as excellent.....about as real as it gets without being in a live custody office.....very realistic and gives lots of credibility....an excellent exercise which highlighted many gaps in applying knowledge."

The Hydra Suite also delivers critical incident training in Firearms Command, Police Pursuits Management, Operational Incidents, Management of Serious Crime and a number of other areas.

- STEVE BUTTERWORTH,
Head of Immersive Learning & Design.

TURKEY LOOKS TO GMP STANDARDS



ACC Ian Seabridge (Serious Crime and Professional Standards) and the leader of a Turkish delegation to GMP, Al Kerem, who chairs the police inspection board at Turkey's Ministry of the Interior, equivalent of the British Home Office.

AS part of Turkey's preparation for European Union membership, a high-level delegation that included police officers, a judge and a mayor visited GMP last month.

Their purpose was to learn how the Force, or more specifically the Professional Standards Branch, deals with complaints from the public and matters of misconduct.

The Home Office chose GMP to demonstrate this aspect of policing.

The group also visited the Metropolitan Police and Leicestershire Police as well as the North West office of the Independent Police Complaints

Commission and the Home Office.

After greeting the 10 visitors at Force Headquarters, ACC Ian Seabridge explained the tradition of policing by consent, Det Insp Martin Reddington spoke on countering corruption within the Force and Det Insp Lesley Beech described GMP's complaints system.

Det Supt Mike Freeman said that while having a system for dealing with complaints against the police, Turkey was looking to establish an independent scheme on the lines of the IPCC.



Cutting energy bills

A farewell message from Janet Ackary, GMP's first Environmental Manager

THE annual electricity and gas bills for GMP total around £2.5million – or nearly £200 a year for every officer and police staff member.

To encourage better energy management, budgets for all utilities have now been devolved to individual divisions and branches. So it's vital everyone knows how they can help reduce energy consumption.

GMP is committed to a 10 per cent reduction in energy and water consumption by the end of next year and 20 per cent by the end of 2010.

You can help by.....

Turning off equipment when not in use. A photocopier left on overnight wastes enough energy to make 5,300 A4 copies. A computer and screen permanently left on costs £44 a year.

Switching off lights in empty or well-lit rooms and corridors, particularly at the end of the normal working day, and making the most of daylight by keeping windows unobstructed.

Reducing water consumption by fully turning off taps, reporting leaking taps and pipes, and keeping water in a fridge rather than running taps for cold drinking water.

Screens account for two-thirds of a computer's power consumption and can be turned off when you leave your desk.

In PFI buildings, lighting, heating and cooling are designed to operate most efficiently when doors are closed.

Monthly consumption figures and comparison data will be published on the Facilities Branch Intranet site so that everyone can see how their buildings are performing.

Janet Ackary left GMP last month to take up a new job.

FUND-RAISER IN MEMORY OF CARL

TWO musical colleagues of Sgt Carl Pilling, who died last year shortly before his retirement date, are organising a charity fund-raising evening in his memory in November.

Sgt Phil Davies (Greenheys, guitar and piano) and Sgt Dave Clarke (Wigan and lead guitar) have known each other since schooldays and have played in various bands together over the past 11 years.

With three musician friends, they will be playing a live set ranging from Arctic Monkeys to Van Morrison and Coldplay to The Beatles.

Also during the evening there will be an auction of sports memorabilia.

Tickets for the event on Friday, November 2, cost £10 and are limited.

All proceeds will go to the Christie Hospital in Manchester, where Carl was treated.

Tickets can be obtained by contacting Carl's son-in-law, Sgt Mark Hepplestone (Wigan), at charityfundraiser@mac.com.

Anyone who can't attend the event but who would like to make a donation to the fund should also contact Sgt Hepplestone.

The Wigan venue for the evening is Highfield Cricket Club and parish hall.



RIFLE CLASS: Back row, from left: Instructors Jason Smith and Roy Briscoe, Keith Warhurst (Lothian and Borders), Iain McKie (Dumfries and Galloway), Alan Poole (Glos), Ian Smith (Hampshire) and instructors Brian Carolan and Jerry Slater. Front from left: Darren Breslin (Cleveland), Brian Todd (Glos), Steve Sheppard (GMP), Andy McManus (GMP), John Lamb (Cleveland), Chris Wood (GMP), Darren English (Hampshire) and Andy Wolstencroft (Staffordshire).

This summer, GMP's Firearms Training Unit ran its first national police rifle course. Instructor PC JERRY SLATER reports

THOUGH we had run similar courses in the past 10 years, this was the first where we had advertised for applicants across the country as part of the drive for income generation and getting GMP recognised nationally as a centre of excellence for firearms training.

Within weeks of the advert appearing, the course had been sold out - even before the training prospectus had come from the printers.

Officers came from as far away as Hampshire in the south and Lothian and Borders in the north.

It was different from previous courses in that it had to be fully compliant with the National Police Firearms Training Curriculum.

On top of that, we also had to include subjects such as rifle options in relation to dealing with deadly and determined attackers and planning for anti-sniper high-profile urban events,

such as conferences and royal visits.

It was also different in another way - it poured with rain for most of the course.

Most previous courses were based on covert rural operations, but with the changing threats facing the UK, we now have a 50-50 split between rural and urban exercises.

The highlight for the officers seemed to be the week we spent in Cumbria on long-range rifle shooting at Warcop military ranges and navigation exercises in the Lake District.

After five tough weeks, the course reached a successful conclusion, having brought officers with little or no knowledge of the subject up to an advanced standard and with all 12 passing the course.

When the feedback came in, we realised that what we already knew was a cracking course had gone way beyond the students' expectations.

These were some of the messages we received afterwards.

"The experience, enthusiasm and knowledge displayed by all members of staff was second to none, a real credit to GMP"

- PC Ian Smith, Hampshire.

"An excellent course and one I would recommend to other forces."

- PC Darren Breslin, Cleveland.

"I found it to be a well laid out and constructed course, which was taxing for the students throughout."

Firearms instructor PC Iain McKie, Dumfries and Galloway.

"Excellent planned in all respects."

Sgt Brian Todd, Gloucestershire.

Letters of Appreciation

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

MY REGRETS – AND HOW YOU BROUGHT ME BACK FROM THE BRINK

E-mail sent to PC Nigel Brown and PC Chris Twohig, of Urmston Neighbourhood Team

I HAVE just got in from the magistrates' court after being bailed to appear at Minshull Street Crown Court in September for sentencing, and I wanted to say how grateful I am for the manner in which you have treated me throughout this whole dreadful affair.

At every turn, you have treated me with the utmost respect and dignity, even though at times I haven't felt worthy of this. You are both a credit to the police force and any doubts I may have had about the force have been completely blown away by your handling of my case.

Your advice and guidance has been a huge

support to me and indirectly to my partner and friends, and I can safely say that in the early days of this saga, your calm words brought me back from the brink. For this I will forever be indebted to you both.

I also greatly appreciate the fact that you have gone beyond the call of duty in certain areas, especially with your help in finding me a good solicitor.

I hope I have shown you both how truly remorseful I am, even though I know this will never pay back the stolen money.

Though I am realistic to acknowledge that the outcome of this case will probably mean a time in custody, I hope that the courts will see that I am of far more worth to society as a free man.

I want desperately to draw a line under everything

and get on with my life, and although this would seem the easy option for me, I think this is how best I can repay my debt to society.

If there is anything I can ever do in the future to help you make sure other people don't make the same mistakes as me, please never hesitate to contact me.

I am sure you are both the sort of people to say 'We're just doing our jobs', but you do that job extremely well, and I hope your senior officers realise how lucky they are to have you on their team.

B.H.

Manchester.

(Editor's note: The case involves fraud amounting to £49,000 at a Trafford Centre store, where the defendant was senior sales manager)

E-BAY FRAUD SOLVED

THANKS to PC Angelo Di-Salvo for his help with an e-bay fraud. We can only commend him on the speed with which he dealt with it.

He really has all the ticks in the right boxes with his people skills, thoughtful attitude, wanting to see things through and care for what is happening in our community.

Dave and Pauline Black,
Bryn,
Ashton-in-Makerfield.

A CREDIT

WITH a colleague, I attended a road traffic accident involving a 12-year-old boy who unfortunately died. I would like to express our thanks to PC Andy Monaghan for his help during the incident.

He travelled to hospital in the ambulance, during which he assisted me with CPR, and his control, focus and professionalism was a credit to him and his training.

John Garlick,
Stockport Ambulance Service.

WELCOME INTERVENTION

AS a foster carer, I was trying to collect a young person who had been missing. He became quite aggressive and ran away from the car.

PC Nigel Fleming (Tactical Aid Unit) was off duty shopping with his partner when he saw what was happening, identified himself, ran after the young person and calmed him down.

I was very impressed, and thanks to his intervention, the young person is now back home.

Mrs B.R.,
Bolton.

COMMENDABLE

WE had been unable to contact my father by phone at his home in Hale when PC Colin Teasdale broke in and found his body on the kitchen floor. The way the officer handled the distress caused to my wife and me was highly commendable for such a young man. He showed compassion and understanding way beyond his years.

On a more practical note, he caused the minimum amount of damage during the break-in and even cleaned up afterwards.

Robert Hughes,
Mottram St Andrew,
Cheshire.

HELPFUL

MY car was broken into and my bag and other possessions

stolen. PC Ben Rigby was very helpful, allowing me to use his phone to block my mobile phone and talk to my insurance people. He also attended my house in about 10 minutes and made me feel a lot better that day.

Louise Stockden,
Salford.

LIFE-SAVER

I RANG the police for advice after failing to get a friend to answer his door or phone in Didsbury. I spoke to Andrew Pomphrey (Tameside Operational Communications Room), who was kind and understanding and thankfully took me seriously.

He arranged a visit from a local officer, which proved vital. My friend, a diabetic, was experiencing difficulties and had it not been for the arrival of police and ambulance, would probably have died.

Rosi Smith,
Stalybridge.

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

I HAD been supervising an inquiry team in relation to the murder of a 16-year-old in Blackpool, which led us to the Salford and Bolton areas to trace and arrest the suspect and identify potential witnesses.

A number of my detectives conducted enquiries in the Farnworth area and were greatly

assisted by PC Steve Dixon. He is obviously well respected in the community and was able to introduce us to a number of residents who assisted in identifying crucial witnesses.

Det Sgt Andy Lawless,
Blackpool Central.

IMPRESSED

I WOULD like to bring to your attention the work of officers at Grey Mare Lane.

I am Senior Civilian Enforcement Officer based at Manchester Magistrates' Court with responsibility for the enforcement of community penalty and financial arrest warrants in the city area.

I was contacted by Sgt Chris Flint and PC Andy Costello, who were involved in two separate operations and asked if I and my team would like to take part.

From our viewpoint, the operations were a tremendous success and the professionalism and commitment of your officers impressed us greatly.

The enforcement officers in Manchester are, in the main, 30-year retired police officers who are not easily impressed.

Tom Fitzgerald,
Manchester Magistrates' Court.

(Other officers involved were PC Asif Hussain, PC Mike Bramald, PC Dave Chrisham, PC Rob Preston, PC Andrew Jackson, PC Gary Gardiner, PC

Alex Day, PC Darren Cooper, PC Blake Rogers and PC Mark Corrigan).

A KIND GESTURE

I WOULD like you to know what a great kindness PCSO Nigel Kirk extended to me and my family.

He stopped the traffic and removed his cap to enable my husband's funeral cortege to pass smoothly towards Peel Green.

I happened to see him later and thanked him, but I really want his superiors to know that this simple but humane gesture gave me and the family such joy and helped us realise that there truly is goodness out there on the streets.

Mrs Iris Broughton,
Winton, Eccles.

PERSISTENT

THANKS to PCSO Ann Bell for her persistence in getting gates erected and locked at night and weekends at Durnford Street Adult Education Centre in Middleton.

We had been plagued by youths playing football in the yard and on three roofs which are at different levels and overlook our bungalows, leaving those of us living alone feeling vulnerable.

I had approached my local councillor to see if gates could be put up, but nothing came of it.

Mrs R. C.,
Middleton.

NQSC People Count

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

SPECIAL THANKS

IN recent months, we have had many complaints about drivers illegally plying for hire, particularly on weekend evenings. Warning letters were sent to private hire drivers, but they had little or no effect.

Exercises were undertaken with special constables posing as customers (council staff are often known to private hire drivers and are therefore unsuited to this covert work).

Several specials took part in the project, often standing outside for prolonged periods in miserable weather.

All were helpful and professional in their approach, and their role was vital to the operation, which has resulted in the preparation of several prosecution files.

*Ian Saxon,
Environmental Enforcement,
Tameside Council.*

WORKING TOGETHER

I HAVE worked with **PC Bernie Miller** for a few years now in relation to young people who are sexually exploited.

She has worked proactively in a multi-agency arena, providing information at short notice and attending various meetings.

In addition, she participates in the delivery of child protection training regarding young people who are at risk of sexual exploitation, talking about the police perspective in Bolton and about the Sexual Offences Act 2004. Delegates who have attended these courses find this input invaluable.

It is an excellent example of multi-agency working.

*Andrea Duerden,
Leaving Care Team,
Bolton Council.*

OFF-DUTY AID

AT a Halfords store in Chorley, I saw a member of staff challenging a male, who I then arrested in the exit foyer.

He was a prolific shoplifter and drug addict and was violent and resisted arrest for a considerable time.

While struggling to restrain him on the floor, I was joined by **PC Graham Pendlebury**, who identified himself as a GMP officer based at Wigan and who immediately offered assistance

until other officers arrived.

I would like to thank him for coming to my aid while he was off duty.

*Sgt Alan Baron,
Road Policing Unit,
Lancashire Constabulary.*

HEARTFELT

AFTER the breakdown of my relationship with the father of my children, I was the victim of a long campaign of harassment, which lasted a year and was very frightening.

My cars were damaged and I was repeatedly threatened. My ex made attempts to take my children out of school and even took them off me in the street.

When I reported the incidents, the matter was dealt with by **PC Jonathan Quigley**, from Atherton Police Station, and I would like to pass on my heartfelt thanks for getting me through a difficult stage and ensuring my children and I remained free from harm.

PC Quigley went the extra mile for us (even walking me to my car after the court hearing) and is a credit to GMP.

*K. S.,
Leigh.*

TIME FOR THANKS

MORE often than not, we put pen to paper only to complain and forget to say thank-you when service is good.

After a burglary at my home, **PC Michael Crossley** and **PCSO Sue Hoyle** were efficient, friendly and very helpful. I was also pleased with the follow-up visits by the police and Victim Support.

*Mrs C. S. Dean,
Royton,
Oldham.*

WHEN I GROW UP.....

PC Gareth Greaves (Hyde) and Riley the police dog came to my house.

Riley had caught a burglar in our garage. PC Greaves gave me his autograph and did his report in my house.

I was very excited because I want to be a policeman when I grow up. I have wanted to be one since I was three. Thank you very much for PC Greaves and Riley the dog.

*Jake Britner, aged seven,
Audenshaw.*

Museum Matters



by
Curator
Duncan
Broady

THE museum volunteers have been awarded a grant of £1,000 from the Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund. Grants are made to assist volunteer groups in their work, and the fund's panel had been particularly impressed with the dedication, enthusiasm and innovation of our volunteers.

Part of the grant will be used to buy photographic archiving software that will be used by the volunteers to complete a digital archive of the museum's photographic collection.

WE were able to assist with the GMP programme Charting The Way. In order to help formulate the response of Specialist Operations Branch, Ch Insp Roger Hart visited the museum archive to research the standards and values required of police officers in times past, using instruction books and training manuals in our collection dating back to 1830s.

Extracts from these documents were then presented to focus groups within the department, initially without the dates of the extracts being given. Then an officer wearing one of the museum's replica Peeler uniforms joined the group and revealed the historical nature of these extracts, which opened up the discussion and debate considerably.

A BATTERED parcel arrived after a long sea voyage from Australia. Fortunately, the contents were undamaged and comprised a police uniform and equipment from the state of Victoria.

Former Manchester Airport police officer John Hyde, later a PC in Victoria and now a Victoria magistrate, sent the items to us following his museum visit last year.

A copy of the Victoria Police journal, Police Life, was included, giving an insight into issues facing the force over there – including the intriguing new 'hoon' legislation, which enables the police to seize vehicles from 'hoon' drivers.

In the first year of operation,

OBITUARIES

PC Paul Parks, 51, who worked on the Public Assistance Desk in Trafford Operational Communications Room, died on July 27 at his home in Bromley Cross, Bolton. He joined GMP in 1986. PC Parks left a widow, Janice, and two daughters and a son, aged 17 to 25.

Former **PC David Brown**, 65, of Droylsden, died last month, leaving a widow, Marlene. He joined Cheshire Constabulary in 1966, later transferring to Fife and retiring from GMP in 1994.

Former **PC Mark Blackwell**, 58, of Stockport, died in July, leaving a widow, Jeanette. He retired on health grounds from GMP in 1991.

Former **PC John Davies**, 68, of Preston, died in July, leaving a partner, Hillary. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1965 and retired from GMP in 1992.

Former **PC William Jones**, 47, of Chorley, died of cancer in July, leaving a widow, Barbara, a daughter and a stepdaughter. He joined GMP in 1983 and was based at Leigh before retiring injured in 1992.

Former **Insp Garrett Mullins**, 57, of Droylsden, died last month, leaving a widow, Jenny. He joined Manchester City Police in 1970 and retired from GMP in 2000, returning as a police staff member of the Force Intelligence Bureau before retiring a second time.

Former **Sgt Leonard Shaw**, 84, of Rochdale, died in June, leaving a widow, Maria. He joined Bolton Borough Police in 1951 and retired from GMP in 1981.

Former **Insp John Stewart**, 81, died in Ontario, Canada, in July, leaving a widow, Shirley. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1947 and retired from GMP in 1976.

A fare offer

GMP has announced a new scheme that will reduce the cost of bus travel for staff to as little as £5.14 a week.

It applies only to police staff since police officers already benefit from free bus travel.

How it works

The Force has negotiated a discounted annual bus pass with Stagecoach and First Bus for GMP staff to use in travelling to and from work.

To take advantage, you will be required to agree to a reduction in your salary of the total cost of an annual pass. This is known as a 'salary sacrifice.'

The cost of your bus pass is then paid from your gross pre-tax salary in 12 equal monthly payments direct to your bus provider.

First Bus - annual pass £427.56 or £35.63 per month

Stagecoach - annual pass £390.00 or £32.50 per month

Savings

Because your bus pass costs are paid from your gross salary (before tax & National insurance), you will further reduce your travel costs.

Example: A staff member earns £15,000 a year, is in the Police Staff Pension Scheme and uses Stagecoach to travel to and from work. Their salary will reduce by £32.50 each month. They will save £7.15 a month in tax and a further £3.06 a month in National Insurance – a monthly total of £10.21, reducing their monthly bus pass costs to £22.29.

Over the course of a year, their bus pass is reduced to £267.48 – which works out at just £5.14 per week

Bus Pass

Stagecoach and First Bus will post a monthly bus ticket to your home address. With the first ticket, you will also receive a Travel Identity Card, which you must complete with a recent passport-sized photo.

The monthly ticket will be valid from the first of the month until the end of the month and can also be used outside working hours, including weekends.

**Amanda Venables,
Human Resources Branch,
extension 61151.**

more than 2,000 vehicles had been seized in Victoria.

A 'hoon' is a person who drives fast and dangerously (known as hooning around) and for a first

offence, officers can impound a vehicle for 48 hours and up to three months for a second offence.

A third time? Total confiscation.



When Specialist Operations Branch said it was running pre-course fitness tests for female officers interested in becoming members of the High Risk Detainee Escort Team, Press Officer **MELISSA GILL** decided to have a go and duly reported to Claytonbrook to be put through her paces.

NEVER one to turn down a challenge, I felt duty bound to do what I could for womankind in the Force when I heard that more than 90 per cent of the High Risk Detainee Escort Team were men.

It couldn't be all that difficult... could it?

I had no idea what to expect, but I was assured by the trainers when I enquired that it was easy.

A bleep test to level nine followed by a push-pull test where I had only to average 40 on the push and 41 on the pull.

What? They might as well have been

talking a foreign language.

I'd never had to do any sort of recruit fitness test before and I didn't understand what this all meant.

So I decided it would be easier just to turn up on the day and see what developed.

As it happened, I quite enjoyed it. Running between two lines, getting faster and faster each time, is a little challenging, but considering I had done no targeted training whatsoever and still got as far as level six on my first attempt (level 5.4 being standard for officer recruits), I don't think I did too badly.

Similarly, I managed to average 36 and 37 on the push and pull, 34 and 35 being officer recruit standard.

So I didn't quite make it to HRDE standard on my first attempt, but apparently I could be a police officer.

Personally, I think that with some targeted upper-body training and a few sprints in my fitness regime, I would be confident in my ability to pass this test if I re-took it.

But before I could be asked to prove it, I decided to move on from GMP. It wasn't the test that put me off. Honest.

A DAY THAT COUNTED

FOR the past two years, Finance Branch staff have been working in two separate places, Claytonbrook and Chester House.

So to help with team-building and communication, they recently got together for an away day at Hough End Centre.

Finance Director Ray Thomas explained:



"Working in separate locations brings challenges for managers and staff alike, especially when it comes to building up working relationships.

"The day was designed to encourage the wider team to get to know one another in a fun way and to take on roles that were new to them."

The day opened with Ch Supt Janette McCormick, head of Trafford Division, telling the audience how Finance Branch figured in her life as a divisional commander.

There was a quiz and a garden design competition, and the afternoon was given over to the man known as the SUMO guy, speaker and author Paul McGee (pictured), who described how to deal with problems and identify solutions in a process he calls Shut Up and Move On.

It was a return visit to GMP by Mr McGee - he addressed 350 senior leaders in GMP last year under the Leadership Programme.

DURING the summer, the Chief Constable visited North Manchester Crucial Crew, a multi-agency event part-funded by the Trust for 10-year-olds.

Mr Todd addressed the youngsters before the start of the safety awareness morning, which was packed full of short, interactive workshops covering a range of safety issues such as internet crime, drug and alcohol dangers and the consequences of railway trespass.

He advised them to take advantage of the 'crucial' information on offer because it could possibly save their own or someone else's life.

Mr Todd then participated in each workshop, at one point crawling on his hands and knees through make-believe smoke during a display by the Fire Service.

Organiser PC Lindsay Collins said: "The reason Crucial Crew has been such a success for the past 10 years is that the interactive workshops get quickly to the point and are designed for the pupils to learn according to their own attention span.

"This ensures that the information is remembered, often years into the future, so it is never wasted.

"It is widely recognised that by engaging with young people before it's too late, we can instil in them a sense of the consequences on their actions and allow them to make informed choices."

An unexpected dimension to the morning came during the police workshop when a mugger suddenly struck and snatched someone's mobile phone.

The attacker was quickly apprehended and we were relieved to discover he was an actor



Greater Manchester High Sheriff's Police Trust

by Janet Wilcox

from the Northern Kids Theatre Company.

So there and then we learnt how fast these things can happen, as well as realising the need to ensure we get as full a description as possible to give to the police.

We were then taken through a series of possible measures to reduce chances of being mugged.

PC Collins told us that after one North Manchester Crucial Crew event, a young girl had been able to give her mother first-aid, which ambulance personnel said had probably saved her life.

* Those who worked on Crucial Crew with GMP included First Bus, Greater Manchester Fire Service, NHS Primary Care Trust, Northwards Housing Wardens and the Northern Kids Theatre Company.

* Crucial Crew needs transport and is looking for bus or coach companies to provide in-kind sponsorship. If you know anyone who can help, contact PC Lindsay Collins by e-mail at Plant Hill Police Station.



PC Lindsay Collins organised the event.
Picture: Ian Charles Photography.

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



BRIEF SPORT




The GMP team: back row from left, Jim Ainscough (capt), Dave McCulloch, John McNeil, Warren McGuire, Alex Patel and Steve Roberts. Front from left, Glyn Edwards, Alan Marsh, Gary McCoy, Paul Barrett and Andy Pendlebury. Elsewhere when the photo was taken, Mick Wright.

CRICKETERS SCORE £2,000 FOR GOOD CAUSES

(and GMP wins the match)

A CHARITY cricket match last month between GMP officers and an All Stars XI that included cast members from Coronation

Street and Hollyoaks raised £2,000 for the Young Oncology Unit at Christie Hospital and the Down's Syndrome Association.

In the Friday evening match at Monton and Weaste Sports and Social Club, GMP batted first and scored a respectable 122 in 20 overs.

Top scorer on 25 was Steve Roberts, with helpful contributions

from captain Jim Ainscough, Alexis Patel and Gary McCoy.

In a close finish to the game, the All Stars needed six to win off the last ball, but fell short at 117 for 7.

Star bowlers for GMP were Mick Wright, Paul Barrett, Andy

Pendlebury and Gary McCoy.

The match was followed by a concert that included Cole Paige, Mustard and Mike Sweeney and the Thunderbirds.

* GMP currently has no regular cricket team.

No 1 CopperPot Credit Union Lottery winners

JULY

£2,000
Ilan Nicholson, retd
£1,000
John Simpson, retd
£500
Liam Ashall, GMP
£250
Lynda Edwards, retd
Robert Kinnear, retd
£100
Nicholas Marlow, Leics
Carole Scott, retd
Anne Riddell, Cheshire
Sarah Prince, GMP
Ilan Mansfield, retd
£50
Paul Blyth, GMP
Stephen Huntbach, retd
Michael Cooney, retd
Paul Beckwith, GMP
David Rogers, retd
Sean Lynch, Leics
Frank Burton, GMP
Robert Jones, retd
John Evans, SOCA
Malcolm Horrocks, retd
Graham Markham, Thames Valley
Martyn Robinson, Leics
Keith Newland, retd
Neville Cave, retd

AUGUST

£2,000
David McMahon, GMP
£1,000
Alan Flavell, Leics
£500
Paula Dunkerley, GMP
£250
Shan Swann, retd
Carl Sturman, Northants.
£100
David Brown, Cheshire
David Richardson, retd
Bonnie Hopkins, GMP
Paul Fisher, GMP; Derek Davies, retd.
£50
Joseph Phippard, Sussex
Philip Laing, N Wales
Geoffrey Smith, retd
Richard Green, GMP
Sarah Torrance, GMP
Howard Harvey, retd
Cyril Duncan, retd
Andrew Pegg, GMP
Pamela Mc Nicholls, retd
Michele Peckham, retd
Gordon Mutch, retd
Andrew Davies, N Wales
David Marsden, GMP
Lian Smith, member's relative
Kenneth Panter, retd.

Retirement cheque



IN a series of events, the Greater Manchester branch of the British Horse Society raised £500 to help make life comfortable for GMP's retired horses.

The cash has been shared between the International League for the Protection of Horses and the Horse Trust, both of which support and stable retired police horses.

Fundraising events included an equestrian sale in Urmston, a pub quiz in Carrington, a pleasure ride in Leigh, a summer ball at Lancashire Cricket Club and a horse trailer-driving course.

Ch Insp Lynn Roby, head of GMP's Mounted Unit, is pictured with BHS branch treasurer Mary Lennon. The character between them is Ely.

Marathon man

Det Con Steve Riddle (Astley Bridge) will be running in the New York Marathon in November in aid of the Marie Curie Cancer Care.

"After the death of my father two years ago, I resolved to support the

charity and have joined such things as cycle rides and walks to raise money," he said.

Steve is looking for contributions, which can be made to www.justgiving.com/sriddle. He can

be contacted on extension 60064.

The Marie Curie organisation provides free high-quality nursing for terminally-ill people who choose to die at home supported by their families.