



New Deputy Chief Constable

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Preparing for the worst

Centre pages



What GMP is doing to reduce bureaucracy

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As Manchester hosts Labour conference, GMP gets ready for ...

TOP SECURITY TEST

PLANNING for one of the biggest security operations ever undertaken by GMP – the Labour Party Conference in Manchester in September – is well under way.

Up to 18,000 people accredited to the conference are expected, and at least 1,000 officers and police staff will be involved in Operation Protector each day.

A secure 'island site' will be created in the city centre, encompassing Manchester International Convention Centre, the adjacent G-Mex and the Midland and Radisson Hotels.

No one without official accreditation will be allowed into the secure area after the cordon is imposed during the night of Friday, September 22.

It will not be lifted until after the conference has ended on Thursday, September 28.

Everyone who works inside this zone is being checked and will need accreditation to enter and leave.

GMP's security measures will also cover an outer ring containing 400 offices and shops.

In addition to the main five-day conference, there will be hundreds of lunchtime and evening meetings and rallies to be policed – as well as protests and campaigns on the streets.

Inside the conference itself, Group 4/Securicor staff will be on duty to support the security operation.

Supt Bryan Lawton, who is heading the Operation Protector planning team, said:

"Security has to be robust enough to take account of the fact that the seat of Government will move from London to Manchester for the week.

"But we are also conscious that wherever possible, the impact on core policing must be minimal."

Training cancelled

All non-essential training is being cancelled for the week of the conference and the week before, and no more than five per cent of GMP members will be allowed to take leave in conference week.

Sedgley Park Centre will become a command-and-control operational base.

Key task commanders covering 17 specialities such as the island site, public order, firearms, roads policing, intelligence, communications, protection, searches and the media have been appointed.

The cost of the security operation will be met by the Home Office and a detailed bid has been submitted for consideration.

ACC Specialist Operations Stephen Thomas will be Gold Commander for the event. Silver Commanders will be the head of North Manchester Division, Ch Supt Justine Curran, during the



Photo: Bill Morris

ON THE BEAT: Motorway officer PC Sarah Grimshaw, who plays drums in the GMP Band, is pictured with Jack Bannister, 7, of Leigh, as the band rehearsed for a concert at Manchester Town Hall.

The show, in which the

musicians combined with the King's Division Normandy Band, raised £1,700 for the children's charity When You Wish Upon a Star and the Army Benevolent Fund.

Jack, who has a condition

preventing proper growth, wished he could sit in Concorde, now on display at Manchester Airport. And Director of Music PC Geoff Williams duly made his wish come true.

More details and photo: Page 9.

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THE VIEW FROM THE TOP

IN just five months' time, Manchester will be playing host to the Labour Party conference.

Thousands of visitors are expected and the media spotlight will be on the city.

For Greater Manchester Police, this means once again our ability to police major events will be put to the test. But it also means

we have an opportunity to demonstrate how effective we are at fighting crime and protecting people.

We have a proven track record for effectively policing major sporting events and conferences.

The Force has kept people safe during the Commonwealth Games, UEFA Champions League final and Labour Party

Spring Conference in 2004.

It is a huge economic boost to the Manchester area to have this conference, which has previously always been held at the traditional seaside venues.

One of the factors in helping secure Manchester as the venue was the praise for policing

at the spring conference.

The coming months will involve a lot of hard work in planning and preparing for the event.

GMP has been set a challenge which I am sure we will all work together to meet.

Michael J. Todd



Supt Bryan Lawton is heading the Force planning team for the Labour Party conference. Come September, the secure 'island site' will be off limits to anyone without official accreditation.

Photo: Chris Oldham

End of the line for Metrolink policing

AFTER 15 years of policing the Metrolink tram system, GMP is disbanding the unit in October.

The Force said it can no longer afford to provide a dedicated team and has cancelled its contract with Serco Metrolink.

The move is one of the economies resulting from a gap of £14 million in GMP's budget for 2006/07.

Discussions are under way to look at alternatives acceptable to both organisations.

But the Force said it would continue to work closely with Serco Metrolink and Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive to ensure standards of safety and security were maintained.

Top security test, from page 1

day and, at night, Ch Supt Phil Hollowood, head of Specialist Operations Branch.

ACC Thomas said: "We have submitted detailed

plans to the Home Office regarding funding for the conference security operation and these plans are now being considered."

It will be the first time in 89 years that the Labour

Party has chosen Manchester to host the annual conference.

The city hosted Labour's spring conference, a much smaller gathering, in 2004.

GMP was praised then for its security provision, and this was one of the factors that has helped to make Manchester the venue for this year's conference.

Manchester City Council and Marketing Manchester competed with other cities for the 2006 event, with the

support of GMP.

The move is a break with a tradition in which the Labour and Conservative Parties alternated their main conferences between the seaside resorts of Blackpool, Bournemouth and Brighton.

* A dedicated site on the GMP Intranet site is being created to provide staff with regular updates. There will also be more information in next month's Brief.

To help prepare for his role leading the GMP planning team for the Labour Party conference, Supt Bryan Lawton, an accredited national security co-ordinator, was a public order commander at the Labour conference in Brighton last year.

He has also worked with police commanders from Sussex, Dorset and Lancashire to draw on

their experiences of policing big party conferences.

Supt Lawton knows the city centre – he was a chief inspector at Bootle Street.

More recently he worked in the Operational Planning sector of Specialist Operations Branch.

brief

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From the Brief files

30 years ago

AN evaluation exercise into ground and air communications turned into a real-life emergency when the hired helicopter being used in VHF radio tests by the Communications Department was diverted by the Control Room to help search the Bridgewater Canal for a four-year-old boy.

20 years ago

A new scheme to give beat bobbies a bigger say in how they do their work has been introduced into GMP. David Phillips, ACC Operations, said area constables complained that they were too often taken away from their beats and that others in the service did not seem to appreciate their role.

SHARP EDGE

ACTRESS Samia Smith, who plays hairdresser Maria Sutherland in Coronation Street, has helped to launch a cutting scheme of a different kind.

The crime-reducing Park Mark award is given to car parks that pass a police test covering lighting, CCTV, staff patrols and other safety measures.

The award has been created by the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Home Office and the British Parking Association.

"It's a great idea," said Samia. "If you see a car park with the Park Mark logo, it will give you peace of mind that everything has been done to make it as safe as possible."

Supt Mark Burtonwood, pictured with Samia at the Manchester launch, said:

"Car-related crime accounts for up to 20 per cent of all crime and a significant proportion occurs in parking areas."

* More information about the scheme can be obtained by calling 0870 2480489 or logging on to www.saferparking.com



DANGEROUS LIAISON: A bride and groom were stopped by police after having sex as they drove away from their wedding ceremony in Bergamo, Italy. Officers saw the Fiat Punto veering from side to side and found the bride sitting astride the partly naked groom as he steered. He was 70, she was 59.

CARDIAC ARREST: A conman who pretended he'd had a heart attack was caught trying to pickpocket a sleeping patient at a hospital in Austria.

SHORT SITE: A suspected drunken driver was arrested after he flagged police down to ask directions to Ayers Rock in Australia. The rock, nearly 1,000ft high and two miles wide, was 100yds in front of his car and lit up by his headlights.

REVERSE ORDER: A driver reversed more than 25 miles on the busy Hume Highway between Sydney and Melbourne. Police stopped the backwards motorist as he was driving to his home, 56 miles further on. He was charged with 'reversing further than necessary' and driving an unregistered car. He claimed reverse was the only gear that worked.

ROLL CALL: Police were called after two hotel maids fought a fierce battle, using a bathroom plunger and a mop, in a dispute over lavatory paper. Officers in Charleston, South Carolina, said the maids, aged 52 and 47, fought in the laundry room after one accused the other of taking paper from her cart. The older woman was taken to hospital, the other was charged with assault.

TIME WASTER: A bungling robber turned up too late to rob a bank in Zagreb, Croatia. Wearing a mask and holding a gun, he was seen furiously rattling the door of the bank 10 minutes after it had closed. Staff inside watched as he gave up and ran away.

DRESS SENSE: A petrol station in Monterey, California, was robbed by a man in an evening gown, fishnet stockings, calf-high boots and a black wig. A suspect was later arrested after police spotted fishnet pantyhose trailing from the door of his car.

ARMLESS DRIVER: When police stopped a speeding motorist in North Island, New Zealand, they found he had no arms and was using one foot to steer the automatic car while operating the pedals with the other. The man, 32, who was clocked doing 75mph in a 50mph zone, said he had been getting around like that for years. He had no licence or insurance and had never taken a test.

Good deed ends widow's anguish

FOR months, a widow of 87 was plagued by drug users and vagrants sleeping in her porch. She would often open her door to find a body blocking her way.

She lived in fear that her home would be broken into by one of the uninvited guests, who frequently left behind used syringes and worse.

But now two Greenheys officers, PC Colin Bury and PC Gary Taylor, have helped to bring her worries to an end.

Thanks to their efforts, a 'deterrent' now stands in her

porch at Rusholme – a heavy stone pot filled with pebbles, plants and a small tree.

The officers had gone to the housing association property and detained a man after the widow had yet again reported that someone was sleeping in her porch.

Previously, other officers had advised her to ask her landlords to install a security gate, but nothing had been done.

After hearing of her problems, PCs Bury and Taylor contacted the estates office, but were told that if a gate was installed, then 'everyone would want one' and

that it would spoil the design of the properties.

Hinder

Wanting to do more for the widow, who can hardly walk, the officers went to B & Q at Stretford to find something that would hinder unwanted visitors from using the porch.

They went to the gardening department and explained the situation to staff member Fred Pollitt, who was so touched by the woman's plight that he

offered to chip in towards any cost involved.

Then store manager Andrew Richardson showed the officers a large stone pot which they said was the perfect size.

Mr Pollitt selected the contents and Mr Richardson handed it over for nothing. The total value was around £50.

The two officers returned to the widow's home and lifted the pot into position. It proved to be an ideal fit.

"She had tears in her eyes when she saw what the officers had done for her," said Sgt Chris Allsop.



DAVE WHATTON, 41, who joined GMP in December 2002 in the ACC-level role of Director of Resources and moved to ACC Crime four months later, became Deputy Chief Constable last month on the retirement of Alan Green.

Mr Whatton's experience includes uniform and CID work with West Midlands Police and spells on Regional Crime Squads.

Here, as he settles into his new post, he talks to BRIEF.

'Taking over responsibility for finance just now isn't the best way to win popularity'

I have also enjoyed helping to develop our ability to reduce and detect volume crime. This has been challenging for all of us and we still have a long way to go, but we are getting there.

How will you build on what the previous DCC, Alan Green, developed?

I had worked closely with Alan for the past three years. I wanted to get the job of Deputy Chief Constable in GMP so that we could continue to improve our performance and accountability in the same way that Alan and the Chief Constable have done.

People know what is expected of them, and the operational knowledge and understanding of senior officers is far higher than it was back in 2003 when we started off the GRIP process.

Alan has been key in providing the training and support to officers and staff that has enabled us to improve the service we give to the public. I fully intend to build on the solid foundations of Step Change and other initiatives that he developed.

financial constraints we face, but more importantly to invest in those areas that will make a real difference to the people of Greater Manchester.

Everyone has a part to play in this and we need to be open and honest. Many people already contribute suggestions to Forceful Ideas, but we need to do this even more.

Some people will have to move jobs and do different work, but we need to keep concentrating on the overall service we deliver. Without doubt, we could improve far more quickly with greater investment in the Force. I am equally convinced that by working smarter and taking difficult decisions about those areas we need to concentrate on, we can still continue to improve.

We have all gone through huge change in the last three years. A number of people have said that in any change programme, you always get a dip in performance before the changes kick in and performance rises again. We have refused to accept that and overall performance has steadily improved throughout.

It is similar with the financial challenges we now face, and by working hard together we can ensure improvement does continue.

What is important to you?

I really believe that we need to concentrate on those things that make a difference to the people and communities of Greater Manchester so that we deliver positive outcomes for people.

The police officers and staff of GMP are brilliant at dealing with major incidents, serious crime and other large-scale problems. It is important that we continue to improve how we deal with anti-social behaviour and volume crime so that we really do fight crime and protect people.

We will know when we have got there

when the 'strap line' that people see on the side of GMP cars becomes real for the public we serve and Greater Manchester is safer than any other area in the country.

Will you miss dealing with the ACC Crime portfolio?

I have had two jobs in my service that have given me the greatest personal satisfaction. The first was as a divisional detective sergeant and the second has been as ACC Crime in GMP.

The night I was appointed to become DCC, my wife prodded me as we were falling asleep and asked me if I was sure I wanted to move on. She knew how much I had enjoyed my time as ACC Crime and that I would miss it.

It has been a huge privilege to work with officers and staff in Scientific Services, HQ CID, Special Branch and on divisions.

The professionalism and expertise in the Force is second to none, and I am really pleased that our ability to deal with serious and organised crime, major crime and counter terrorism has been recognised nationally.

ALAN GREEN, who was appointed Deputy Chief Constable eight years after joining GMP on promotion to superintendent, retired last month.

After 24 years with the Royal Ulster Constabulary, where he was head of the Drug Squad for three years, he arrived at GMP in the summer of 1995 and headed the then Collyhurst subdivision.

By 1999, he was head of Community

It is a difficult time financially. How will you ensure continuous improvements in performance while the budget has been cut?

We are going to face significant financial challenges in the next couple of years, and taking over responsibility for finance at this time is probably not the best way to gain popularity. I will be working with others over the next year to review what is done within divisions and branches and, equally importantly, how it is done.

I'm convinced that by engaging with people and by comparing how we do things differently from other forces and organisations, we can make savings. We can then use these savings to meet the

Affairs Branch. He became ACC in charge of Community and Internal Affairs the following year and moved to Crime Operations seven months later.

Lancashire-born Mr Green took up the post of Deputy Chief Constable in May 2003. In this role, he chaired the ACPO Criminal Use of Firearms Group.

He was awarded the QPM in the Birthday Honours last year.

What do you think the future holds for GMP?

The police service nationally is going through massive changes, and GMP is likely to be one of only a few forces that will not be part of amalgamations.

This is because of the fantastic work that's been done to ensure the highest standards of delivery against 'protective services.' It is vital that we maintain and build on this. We won't be distracted from delivering improved services to our public by worrying about the new design for cap badges or other internally-focused issues. This means that we have no excuses for not concentrating on making improvements to those other areas where we are not as good as some other forces.

It cannot be right that the people of Greater Manchester suffer higher levels of crime than some similar areas of the country. We have got to keep looking outside to see what our communities want and need, and everyone must take responsibility for making GMP the world-class police service that our communities deserve and quite rightly expect.

* *Responsibilities of the Deputy Chief Constable in GMP include Corporate Development and Performance, Finance, Professional Standards and Corporate Communications.*



Reproduced courtesy of Police Review.

Sex crime team will help to increase convictions

A SPECIALIST team of detectives is ensuring GMP is leading the way in the investigation and detection of sexual offences.

The formation of the nine-strong Sexual Crime Unit last month is the latest in a series of measures designed to improve the conviction rate of sex offenders in Greater Manchester.

The unit, part of the Force's Public Protection Section, is responsible for providing a pool of expertise to support and guide divisions investigating crimes of a sexual nature, particularly rape, as well as taking a lead in investigating offences of greatest concern to communities, such as sexual crimes involving multiple victims.

Det Supt Mick Lay said: "This is just one of a number of steps the Force has taken to improve the way we investigate rape offences and ensure that victims have confidence in the criminal justice system and feel they can come forward to report a crime."

He said GMP was taking a rigorous look at the detection and investigation of the 700 or so reports of rape made in Greater Manchester every year.

"It is extremely unlikely there are

700 offenders committing rape, so it is about taking a coordinated approach to dealing with the number and seriousness of these offences," Det Supt Lay said.

"This is about using intelligence and working more effectively with victims and our partner agencies to establish links between offences rather than dealing with them on an individual basis."

To build on that intelligence, GMP has also instigated:

Operation Talon - an intelligence-led approach which, through regular meetings, focuses on sexual crime investigations across Greater Manchester, in particular rape investigations, child abductions and people trafficking for sexual exploitation (Operation Pentameter).

The Force Intelligence Bureau produces a tactical document on sex offending across the Force area to ensure resources are effectively allocated.

Project Nightingale - the standard for dealing with victims of rape. Launched in May 2004, there are now more than 300 officers across the Force trained to provide a first response to victims of rape.

St Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre - opened 20



The new Sexual Crime Unit: from left, Det Con Ginette Smith, Det Con Clare Carr, Det Con Dave Nutten, Det Con Gia Pasotti-Browning, Det Ch Insp Carol Ashworth, Det Insp Mike Sanderson, Det Sgt Julie Kay and Det Con Declan O'Reilly.

years ago as a joint initiative between GMP and the Central Manchester Health Trust, it is the longest-established sexual assault referral centre in the country.

It provides a forensic medical examination as well as health advice and a crisis response

service. This year, it became the first such centre to introduce a dedicated unit for child victims.

* The Sexual Crime Unit can be contacted on extensions 61730 (Det Insp Mike Sanderson), 61731 (Det Sgt Julie Kay) and 61732 (main office).

Child sex attack unit is UK's first

A PIONEERING unit for child victims of sex crimes has opened in Manchester at St Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre, which is partly funded by GMP.

It is the first such child-focused unit in the country, and GMP, local health trusts and charities raised £112,000 for the first phase.

Previously, a victim of a sex

attack under the age of 18 was seen in the same centre at St Mary's Hospital that deals with adults.

But the number of younger victims passing through the centre has increased in recent years.

In 2000, a total of 174 reported cases from across Greater Manchester were referred. In 2004, the figure was 327. In 2005, it was 362.

The St Mary's Centre receives funding from GMP under the Force's Public Protection arrangements, with Det Supt Mick Lay as liaison officer.

Since the adult centre opened 20 years ago, it has dealt with more than 10,000 victims, the youngest aged seven months and the oldest 83.



CEREMONY AT ST MARY'S: from left, Det Ch Insp Carol Ashworth, Centre Manager Bernie Ryan, Clinical Director Dr Cath White and CPS-appointed rape co-ordinator Kim Doyle.



PC Stephanie Monks, who is one of GMP's Nightingale-trained officers who liaise with victims of rape and other serious sexual assaults, has been presented with a Divisional Commander's Award by Ch Supt Lee Bruckshaw, head of Wigan

Division, for her commitment and dedication. "Victims and investigating officers continually show their gratitude for the work she does," Ch Supt Bruckshaw said. "She is an asset to the division."

Long distance learning for Hong Kong officer

FROM all over the world, they come to GMP for training in various aspects of crime investigation.

Even those who are already full-time trainers themselves are keen to take advantage of the Force's expertise.

The most recent was Eddie Lee, one of five chief inspectors who train detectives in Hong Kong.

Eddie joined a class of GMP detectives for three weeks at Sedgley Park Centre on an Advanced Suspect Interview course run by the Crime Training Unit's Investigative Skills wing.

Afterwards, Eddie was full of praise for the trainers – Det Sgt Steve Retford, Det Sgt Pete Boon and Det Con Wendy Evans – and the course and facilities.

His colleagues had all wanted to make the trip and he said he had been lucky to be selected.

He said he would be taking a good deal of new-found knowledge back to Hong Kong which, unlike UK forces, has no national 'model' for interviewing.

He also took back a memento of his visit, a GMP plaque presented to him at the end of the residential course by Det Insp Jeff Warburton, deputy head of Crime Training.

One reason why GMP attracts officers from other UK forces and abroad is that it is the only force in the country offering training in all five ACPO levels of victim, witness and suspect interviewing.

It is also the only force that is operational in all five levels. The course that Det Ch Insp Lee joined was Level 3.



Hong Kong officer Det Ch Insp Eddie Lee with (top right) Det Insp Jeff Warburton, trainers Det Sgts Steve Retford and Pete Boon (back row) and GMP officers who were in the class with Eddie at Sedgley Park.

Security 2006

On offer - Stuart's new crime prevention CD

FROM business crime and vehicle security to personal safety and terrorism...

That is the range of an updated crime prevention CD-Rom designed by PC Stuart Pizzey.

It was unveiled at Manchester's annual business security event in March organised by GMP with the City Centre Crime Prevention Panel and the British Security Industry Association.

The interactive CD has been funded by the Panel and Royal & Sun Alliance, with the backing of Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

It has been revised by Stuart, the city centre's Crime Reduction Adviser, who launched the first version two years ago.

Exhibited

This was the 12th annual gathering at which figures from the security world mingle and the latest security devices are

exhibited and discussed. The theme this year was 'secure in the knowledge.'

The event was opened by ACC Ian Seabridge (Territorial Policing and Partnerships), who also presented Patrick O'Dowd, Operations Manager at The Printworks, with the Bill Lowe Memorial Award as Business Watch Co-ordinator of the Year.

Patrick was chosen from among 1,300 co-ordinators registered with GMP.

Also at this year's event, a new Community Partnership booklet, giving crime prevention advice and information, was launched.

Some 70,000 copies have been distributed to homes and businesses on North Manchester Division, the publication being funded by advertisers.

* Copies of the crime prevention CD can be obtained free from the Chamber of Commerce by contacting PC Stuart Pizzey at Bootle Street on extension 63046.



CD LAUNCH: ACC Ian Seabridge, Ch Supt Justine Curran and Colin Pickford, of sponsors Royal & Sun Alliance.

Taking charge of personal development

By Janet Campbell Smith,
Leadership and Development Unit

THE new programme of Continuing Personal Development events has had a great start with two fully-booked events at Sedgley Park.

The monthly sessions have been designed by the Leadership and Development Unit to provide opportunities for self-development, particularly in the leadership competences.

The aim is to offer new ideas about how to be a good leader at all levels of GMP and to motivate delegates to practise new skills at work.

"Maximising my potential" posed questions that everyone can ask about how they want their careers to develop.

Delegates commented that the benefit of the two-hour session was the time to concentrate on their personal growth and future actions.

"Confident Conversations" encouraged participants to review why they might avoid difficult conversations, but also to consider the impact of that decision on everyone.

It provided tips on how a change in your own behaviour and using certain linguistic techniques can be effective in gaining positive outcomes for all parties.

In the next few months, speakers will address living with change, negotiating and influencing skills, respect for diversity and strategic perspective.

More information about the events, their purpose and how to book a place can be found on the Leadership for All intranet pages or by contacting the Leadership team on ext 61916.



PRIZE: Patrick O'Dowd, of The Printworks, won GMP's Business Watch Co-ordinator of the Year award.

NATALEE'S LEGACY IS A SPEED CAMERA WHERE SHE DIED

IN memory of a 15-year-old girl killed by a speeding motorist, a fixed digital speed camera has been installed on the road where she died.

It was specially approved by the Department for Transport after a campaign by the Greater Manchester Casualty Reduction Partnership (Drivesafe), Bury Council and the family and friends of the dead girl, Natalee Pickwick-Jones.

The Redspeed camera on Bolton Road, Radcliffe, eliminates the need for wet film. All data is sent electronically to the

Drivesafe offices.

There are only two other cameras of this type in the GMP area – on Princess Road and Rochdale Road in Manchester.

Despite a curb on new fixed cameras by the Department for Transport until existing ones have been evaluated, the go-ahead was given after Drivesafe said urgent action was needed.

One condition was that Bury Council had to pay for the camera housing unit and installation.

"The camera means everything to us," Natalee's father, David, said.

"All we wanted was to bring up our daughter like any other parent, but we were denied this by someone's excessive speed.

"We hope motorists will respect the fact that the camera is there to save innocent lives, not to make money."

Drivesafe includes GMP, the 10 councils of Greater Manchester, the CPS, the Highways Agency, the Courts Service and Greater Manchester Strategic Health Authority.

Project manager is Karen Stringer, who heads GMP's Central Ticket Office.



COMPENSATION: A phone call by a GMP officer led to two young crime victims being presented with £100 shopping vouchers at Greenheys Police Station last month.

Partly-blind Marcus O'Rourke, 13, was robbed in Fallowfield of his mobile phone containing photos of his father, who had recently died.

Ali Hassan, 12, had a firework thrown at him from among a gang of youths in Rusholme. It set fire to his nylon tee-shirt, which melted to his skin. Then the gang attacked him and stole £20 in cash.

PC Wendy Bridges, of the Metropolitan Division's Area Policing Team, which covers Fallowfield, Rusholme and Whalley Range, obtained the vouchers –

JJB Sports for Liverpool fan Marcus and Argos for Ali – after calling Child Victims of Crime, the national police children's charity.

"The offences were particularly nasty and we thought the boys deserved something to help make up for their experiences," said Wendy (pictured with Marcus and Ali).

* Stafford-based Child Victims of Crime, which supports children whose lives have been affected by crime, can be contacted on 01785 227325 or e-mail info@cvoc.org.uk.

Applications must be made by police officers and the minimum of information is required before an award, which can range from a shopping voucher to a holiday, is made.

115 vehicles seized in one-day operation

NORTH Manchester officers impounded 115 vehicles and arrested eight people in spot road checks at Smithfield Market, Openshaw.

They used the Automatic Number Plate Recognition system (ANPR), linked to a national database, to target drivers without licences,

insurance, road tax or MOTs.

The officers also issued 145 fixed penalty notices to people not wearing seatbelts or with illegally tinted windows and there were 18 court summonses for offences such as defective tyres.

Nearly 70 prohibition notices were served for

severe vehicle defects – and three drivers were caught illegally using agricultural red diesel.

The one-day operation involved more than 100 police officers, PCSOs, traffic wardens, community wardens, Revenue and Customs investigators and officers from the Vehicle Operator Services Agency.



BEATING the drum against discrimination is PC Miza Anwar during a 'No Place for Racism' week at Oldham.

Officers joined in a range of special events, with the police involvement organised by Insp Fiona Butt.

Ch Supt Caroline Ball, the Divisional Commander, staffed an information stand for an afternoon at the Spindles Shopping Centre and Supt Steve McGrath spoke for the police alongside other speakers at the launch event.

The week culminated in a football tournament at Oldham Sports

Centre, at which the police fielded two teams.

The tournament was won by Oldham Sports Development team.

One of the police teams, playing under the name of Safer Neighbourhoods Utd, came a close second.

The other police side, playing as The Masters, won the trophy for fair play.

Insp Butt said: "We were very pleased with the success of the week.

"We hope many people took home the message that there is no place for racism in Oldham."

Obituaries

SERVING OFFICER PC Robert Berry died at the age of 37 last month. He joined GMP 15 years ago and was working in Tameside Division's Source Handling Unit. PC Berry left a widow, Ruth, two sons and a daughter.

Former PC **William Dainty**, 69, of Middleton, died on March 23, leaving a widow, Barbara. He joined Manchester City Police in 1955 and retired from GMP in 1980.

Former Insp **William Goldsmith**, 83, of Altrincham, died on February 21, leaving a widow, Aldwyn. He joined Manchester City Police in 1946 and retired from GMP in 1977.

Former PC **Abbyleisha Hayes**, 83, of Failsworth, died on March 26. He joined Salford City Police in 1948 and retired from Manchester and Salford Police in 1973.

Former PC **Arthur Pearce**, 82, died on March 31, leaving a widow, Audrey. He joined Manchester City Police in 1947 and retired from Manchester and Salford Police in 1972.

Former Sgt **Jack Shaw**, 81, died on April 9. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1954 and retired from GMP in 1979.

Ex GMP officer drowns on holiday

A former GMP officer drowned last month while on holiday with his wife and children in Egypt.

PC **Darren Buckley**, 36, died whilst snorkeling in the Red Sea. During his service with GMP, he was based at Bootle Street in the city centre, transferring to Derbyshire Constabulary in February last year. His parents live in the Greater Manchester area.

OUT OF HARM'S WAY

Seized weapons go to Imperial War Museum

SIXTEEN guns, five magazine cases and a hand grenade seized by GMP officers from a house in Longsight last year have been presented to the Imperial War Museum North in Manchester.

"Though these weapons were all deactivated when they were found, there was always the potential that they could fall into the wrong hands and be reactivated," Det Con Nigel Halford said.

"They have now been taken out of general circulation and are in a secure place where they can best serve the public interest."

Metropolitan Division officers discovered the weapons collection during a house search in May last year.

After the owner was convicted of firearms offences, a court order said the collection had to be disposed of.

Paul Cornish, Senior Curator in the Department of Exhibits at the Imperial



MUSEUM DONATION: Det Con Nigel Halford, Longsight colleague Det Con Vicki Beardsley, who was involved in the investigation that uncovered the weapons, and Claire Wilson, Exhibition Officer at the Imperial War Museum North.

War Museum North, said: "We are grateful for GMP's donation to our collections.

"These are important examples of deactivated

weapons that we will be able to display and use for interpretation at the museum and our four other branches in ways that are not possible with

live firearms."

Among the firearms presented to the museum were a 9mm Lancaster sub-machine gun, a Webley revolver, a Mauser

rifle and an MP40 machine pistol. All were found deactivated and would have been destroyed if they were not of such historical value.

Amnesty surrender

A SAMURAI sword was among 25 weapons handed in to Metropolitan Division during a week-long amnesty.

Three shotguns, ammunition, six handguns (three of them replicas), 14 knives of various sizes and a shuriken (a throwing star) were also surrendered.

The Good Riddance campaign allowed people to hand over weapons to police without fear of prosecution for unlawful possession.

"We were pleased with the response," Supt Dave Keller said.

"What was most encouraging was the type and variety of weapons handed in."

The amnesty was supported by the Community Alliance for Renewal in the Inner-City Manchester Area (CARISMA).

* Gun crime in the GMP area accounts for 0.03 per cent of crime overall and is mostly committed between known groups of people. But the life expectancy of a young person embarking on a lifestyle involving firearms is just 24.



INTELLIGENCE BUREAU GETS THE GOLD STANDARD

ISO presentation: Chief Constable Michael Todd, Det Supt Ian Duddridge, who heads the Force Intelligence Bureau, and Steve Moss, of the assessment organisation ISOQAR.

GMP continues to lead British police forces in achieving the international quality management standard, ISO 9001:2000.

The Force Intelligence Bureau is the latest to gain certification, as well as being the first such unit in the country to do so.

Eleven years ago, the Fingerprint Unit became the

first of its kind to receive the certificate.

Since then, the number of ISO accreditations gained by the Crime Operations Department has continued to grow.

The successes include all the units in Scientific Services Branch, the Vehicle Examination Unit, the Major and Local Crime Review Unit, the Performance and

Communication Team, the Crime Input Unit and now the Force Intelligence Bureau.

The standard is based on a number of principals, including customer focus, leadership, staff involvement, continuing improvement and objective decision making, said Crime Operations Quality Manager Mervyn Valentine.

End of the road for illegal bikers

COMPLAINTS about off-road motorbikes have fallen by 60 per cent since GMP and Manchester City Council started its joint campaign of crushing seized machines.

Six riders have died on the bikes in Greater Manchester in the past four years – and last year there were more than 4,000 complaints.

Before Christmas, GMP said it would begin crushing off-road bikes, such as scramblers, mini-motos, quads and go-peds, being ridden illegally on streets and wasteland and in parks.

Insp Dean Scott, of North Manchester Division, said: "We are committed to tackling the

danger and nuisance of off-road bikes and we are pleased the campaign is proving a success."

Councillor Jim Battle, deputy leader of Manchester City Council, said: "This initiative shows how effective Local Action Partnerships can be in resolving community issues."

Seizures and crushings would continue, he said.

"These vehicles are not only a nuisance but a danger to the public, and in some areas, they make life a misery for local residents."



The bank that gives instant access

A GALLERY of pictures on the GMP Intranet has passed the 1,000 mark, with new images being added week by week.

The Image Bank gives staff instant access to an extensive album of photos that can be used in electronic presentations or on web pages.

There are two sizes of each picture – a smaller version for the web, either on the home page or specialist sites, and a larger one for presentations.

The do-it-yourself file has been compiled and designed by the Corporate and Media Imaging Unit, which currently has an archive of some 40,000 photos.

Head of the Unit Chris Oldham said: "We were increasingly being asked for pictures for web use and presentations and decided it made more sense for staff themselves to be given access.

"The bank, which is continually updated, is proving popular. We have found that it is being

accessed more and more throughout the Force."

Each division has its own section showing police stations and local landmarks. Some departments are also represented, as are specialist units such as traffic, mounted and dogs.

There are general policing images – officers on patrol, for example – as well as a historical section of more than 100 black and white images and some 30

images from the GMP Museum.

And there are also atmospheric non-police pictures – scenes, shadows, silhouettes – captured by Chris and his colleague Bill Morris on their travels.

* The Image Bank can be found under News Archive at the bottom of the Intranet home page and can also be accessed via the Corporate Communications web page

* An A to Z index of topics that have appeared in Brief since the

Photo file tops 1,000

paper went on the Intranet in January 2003 has also been compiled. The index gives the page number and date of publication and can be found under Force Information. Then click on Brief and go to the bottom of that page.

Closing the door

Forty vulnerable people are to be invited to a safety conference in the summer run by Rochdale's Doorstep Crime Action Group, which is helping to reduce the number of bogus callers, rogue traders and distraction burglars.

The group is made up of representatives from more than 12 agencies, including GMP, Trading Standards and Age Concern.

As part of the campaign, a list of reputable local companies that can be confidently contacted for help and repairs has been compiled.

Details can be obtained by calling 01706 864186, visiting the web site www.rochdale.gov.uk or contacting Rochdale Division's Crime Reduction Adviser, Brian Farr.

THIRD BAND SHOW HELPS MORE WISHES COME TRUE

A MUSICAL evening with the GMP Band and the King's Division Normandy Band drew an audience of 160 to Manchester Town Hall and raised £1,700.

The proceeds have been divided between the children's charity When You Wish Upon a Star and the Army Benevolent Fund.

The Stockport-based charity grants some 250 wishes a year for sick children all over the country after receiving letters from their parents, families and friends.

This was the third year running that GMP's Musical Director, PC



IN FULL FLOW: The combined GMP Band and King's Division Normandy Band, conducted by PC Geoff Williams

Geoff Williams, had arranged a combined concert in the Great Hall at the town hall with the Army band to help the charity.

Two schoolboys, Ben Davidson on cornet and Alex Pavitt on trombone, sat in with the GMP Band and afterwards, Ben wrote: "It was a night I will never forget.."

The £1,000 calendar

Sales of the 2006 GMP calendar, featuring policing scenes from the archives of the Force Museum, raised more than £1,000, which is to be presented in due course to When You Wish Upon a Star.

The calendar went on sale

shortly before last Christmas.

The museum itself raised £100 of the total, and a further £72 was raised by the Bolton and Rochdale branches of the International Police Association and staff at Bolton Council.

Smyth heads Press Office team

FOLLOWING spells with the Manchester Evening News and the BBC, Smyth Harper (pictured) has joined GMP as Head of the Press Office.

Belfast-born Smyth, 29, worked as a reporter on the Belfast Telegraph after graduating from Trinity College, Dublin, in 1999.

Two years later, he moved to

Manchester as council reporter with the Evening News and switched to the BBC after 16 months.

He worked first as a reporter for the news web site covering the North West.

Then he became a senior journalist in Birmingham on news and sub-editing duties for the BBC new online operation

serving 11 English regions.

Notable events Smyth has covered include Bill Clinton's presidential visit to Northern Ireland in 2000, the Bloody Sunday tribunals, the Drumcree standoff, the foot-and-mouth crisis, the Harold Shipman case and the murder in Manchester of Det Con Stephen Oake.





READY FOR THE

Exercise tests preparation for terrorist attack

IT WAS a day that tested responses to something that everyone hopes will never happen.

Operation Ice was GMP's first large-scale exercise to assess readiness to deal with a terrorist-related CBRN incident (chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear).

Organised by the Operational Planning team in Specialist Operations Branch, it involved senior commanders from GMP, their fire and ambulance services counterparts, the military and council representatives.

A series of scenarios not only tested the responses of Silver Commanders, but also the effectiveness of a multi-agency approach to a CBRN incident in Greater Manchester.

"Since 9/11, we and our partners have been among those at the forefront of the fight against terrorism in the UK," said ACC Specialist Operations Stephen Thomas.

"However, since the July 2005 terrorist activity in London, there is a whole new dimension to this subject.

"This threat must be taken seriously, and we must collectively strive to achieve a position of maximum preparedness."

Before the exercise, he told the 'players'

it was vital that they learned from things that went both well and not so well during the day.

Though there was pressure on everyone to perform in 'challenging' circumstances, he said it was a safe area to take decisions, test ideas and make mistakes.

The event, involving two groups of commanders, was overseen by Supt Simon Garvey.

One of the organisers, Sgt Phil Davies,



who is now working on contingencies and CBRN planning for the Labour Party conference in Manchester in September, stressed that the exercise was a multi-agency event.

"We have a great relationship with the other blue light services," he said.

"Without their involvement, the exercise could not have taken place."

There had been a good response, he said, from the partner groups that took part in Operation Ice.

'Security staff can act as our eyes and ears'

SECURITY industry representatives in Greater Manchester attended a GMP seminar last month to learn about Project Griffin, which aims to raise awareness of counter-terrorism measures.

Det Insp Mark Smith, of GMP's Counter-Terrorist Security Unit, said: "Nearly every terrorist attack needs planning and preparation.

"Therefore, the security industry can play a crucial part in helping us to defeat terrorism since they are well placed to act as eyes and ears for any suspicious activity.

"We are pleased that local security personnel have pledged their support to Project Griffin, as with their help we can ensure Greater Manchester is a hostile environment for terrorist activity."



Griffin consists of three strands, the first an awareness day such as that attended by representatives last month.

It included inputs on the current terrorist threat, explosives, terrorist planning and cordon management.

The second strand involves a weekly 'conference call' for companies signed up to the scheme where police will provide them with current threat levels and crime trends and tell them what

action is needed.

The third stage involves Griffin-registered security staff supporting the police during a major incident by helping to manage cordons.

The City of London Police and the Metropolitan Police launched Project Griffin with the security industry in 2004.

* E-mail ctsa@gmp.police.uk to find out more about Project Griffin.

THE WORST

“

The exercise lived up to all expectations, with a challenging scenario that fully tested all who took part. The day ran smoothly thanks to the efforts and expertise of the exercise planning team and all the GMP officers, police staff, local authority and emergency service colleagues.

It was reassuring to see that working together, we successfully resolved the incident and provided the necessary care and protection to the public that the exercise demanded. This was a very realistic scenario that fully tested our procedures.

I am grateful to all GMP staff and external colleagues who made it such a success. My thanks especially to our 'casualties' who experienced what it was like to lay on a cold and wet field waiting for assistance, followed by equally cold de-contamination procedures - the exercise could not have been run without you.

”

ACC Specialist Operations
Stephen Thomas.

Pictures by Bill Morris



SAVED

AN OFFICER broke away from dealing with a traffic pile-up on an icy road to save the life of a baby who had stopped breathing.

PC Mark Wheeler was trying to sort out the evening rush-hour tangle of skidded cars in Crescent Road, Crumpsall, when the six-week-old boy's distressed mother ran up to him with the unconscious baby.

She said her son's breathing had stopped, and once PC Wheeler had confirmed this, he gave mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Moments later, the baby began to breathe again.

PC Wheeler then took mother and child to the nearby North Manchester General Hospital, where the baby made a full recovery.

"The incident was made all the worse due to the extreme weather conditions and heavy snow and the fact that giving mouth-to-mouth to such a young baby can be dangerous," said Insp Asrar Ul-Haq, of North Manchester Response Team.

"But there is no doubt that the professionalism and calm of PC Wheeler prevented the tragic loss of the child's life."

SAVED

SECONDS before a burning car exploded, PC Paul Lowden rescued the driver.

It happened after officers were called to Warwick Road, Stretford, following complaints that a man was revving his engine in the early hours.

Then CCTV operators for Trafford Council saw the driver slumped behind the wheel and a glow under the car.

With the help of PC Chris Lowe, dog handler PC Lowden pulled the 32-year-old man clear moments before the vehicle exploded.

The driver, who had passed out at the wheel, was rescued unhurt.

Trafford Council spokesman Ian Mullins said: "The close partnership between GMP and our CCTV operators meant a real tragedy was averted."

BUT NO THANKS AFTER OFFICER SAVES 3 IN FIRE

THREE people shouted abuse at PC Paul Davies after he had rescued them from a house fire.

"They were rude and downright ungrateful," said a colleague.

"Their behaviour and attitude towards an officer who had just saved their lives was beyond belief."

The three men, all alcoholics, were saved after a discarded cigarette end set fire to a mattress in the living room of the house in Ringstead Drive, Collyhurst.

PC Davies, of North Manchester Response Team, arrived on the scene before firefighters.

The house was well alight when he forced a back door and dragged the occupants to safety.

A fire officer said that if the men had not been pulled out then, their chances of surviving would have been 'very slim.'

They were already suffering from smoke inhalation when PC Davies rescued them.

NEW DRIVE CUTS FORECOURT CHEATING

MOTORISTS who drive off without paying for petrol are getting away with more than £16 million a year.

A new police initiative, Making Off Without Payment, is focusing on making it easier for petrol station staff to report offences as well as improving the way GMP deals with this type of crime.

Previously, a uniformed officer would have been called to take statements and obtain CCTV footage.

Now forecourt staff will call the police and a crime report will be taken over the phone. Staff will then fill out a form in their Making Off Without Payment incident pack, which means the crime can be acted on faster.

In addition to a form to record the details, the pack includes witness statement forms and exhibit labels for evidence,

including CCTV footage.

When this has been completed, the pack is given to a divisional Designated Point of Contact (DPOC) who collates all the information.

Encourage

Det Ch Supt Steve Heywood said: "This new initiative allows us to streamline the process and provide a Forcewide consistency when dealing with this type of offence as well as encouraging more people to come forward and report these crimes.

"Having a Designated Point of Contact on each division also means that one person can collate all the evidence and track trends that might not have been apparent before."

Up to last month, a pilot scheme on Tameside Division



Tameside has led the way in a campaign against forecourt drive-offs. From left, PC Tony Agar, Det Insp Alison Green and John Turtle, of the British Oil Security Syndicate. Picture courtesy Tameside Advertiser.

had detected 35 incidents, including nine drive-offs committed by one man. A second man at his address was arrested on suspicion of burglary when he was found with stolen goods.

Det Insp Alison Green, of GMP's Crime Audit Unit, said: "The results seen so far from the Tameside are fantastic and we

hope to see similar figures across the whole of GMP.

"Through detections of this type of offence, we can look ahead to forging effective links to the Automated Number Plate Recognition system to increase the quality of investigations and detections.

"We have benefited from working alongside the British Oil

Security Syndicate, which has worked hard to provide us with advice and helping to encourage retailers in Greater Manchester to become involved."

John Turtle, BOSS regional coordinator for the North West, said: "The pilot scheme in Tameside reinforces how successful these partnerships can be."

The thin green line Water, water everywhere....

By Janet Ackary,
Environmental Manager

WITH a long hot summer just around the corner (I hope) and hosepipe bans in place across the South now is a good time to look at water consumption, how we can minimise our use and why using less is so important.

In GMP buildings, we use almost £275,000 worth of water a year – a cost that will continue to rise. Both at home and at work we all have to use water in our daily lives for drinking, washing our belongings and ourselves, flushing the toilet and watering the garden.

We currently use 70% more water per person than we did 30 years ago and water is a relatively expensive resource. Before it is supplied to customers, it is treated to a drinkable standard, whether used for this reason or not. Waste water must again be treated before it can be discharged back into a watercourse.

So, we have to pay for both the supply and disposal of water regardless of how it is

used. The energy required for pumping and the water treatment itself give rise to environmental pollution through the generation of electricity (greenhouse gases and acid rain), production of treatment chemicals and disposal of effluent sludge.

TRIALS

As washrooms account for the greatest consumption of water at GMP sites, water efficient technologies that can be installed with little or no perceivable impact on the user have been sought. Trials of a number of waterless urinal systems have been carried out at various sites across the Force for over a year, and following the success of these trials, it is now planned to roll out the 'Aquasave' system to all buildings. It works by utilising a one-way valve in the trap which prevents back flow into the bowl and a microbiological cleaning agent that actually feeds on the waste, thus cleaning and preventing blockages. The

installation of waterless urinals at Chester House alone will save 4.5 million litres a year, enough to fill one and a half Olympic-size swimming pools!

Other improvements are also in the pipeline, including flow restrictors in taps and low flush cisterns. But it is not always obvious things like running the tap for a while in order to get a cold drink or ignoring a dripping tap that wastes water. How many people use a tissue to blow their nose or wipe up a bit of spilt tea and then dispose of the tissue by flushing it down the loo?

PLANET

In addition to the financial impact of excessive water consumption, there are significant environmental impacts. Water may appear plentiful, given that we live on a planet with a surface 2/3 covered by water. But 97% of this is seawater and 2.7% is locked up in the polar ice caps, leaving only 0.3% which is usable. This 0.3% is in the

constant cycle of rain, transportation and evaporation that is widely known as the water cycle.

It may seem that it rains all the time, especially in the North West of England, but not all the rain that falls can be collected and used - just ask those living in the South. Rain that falls on rural areas can be collected in reservoirs, but this requires land to be flooded and the loss of habitat and wildlife. Water is also taken directly from rivers, but taking too much river water will

damage the river and can reduce the number of fish it can support. Rain that falls on urban areas is quickly piped away to rivers to prevent flooding and may also be polluted by road run-off containing petrol and sediment, therefore it cannot be used for supply.

For more advice on water efficiency and other environmental issues, go to the Environmental Management pages on the intranet (Facilities Branch).



Cartoon: Sharon Sutton

Nine thousand police forms have been made obsolete

C-U-T-T-I-N-G RED TAPE

by **PAT GARSIDE,**
Reducing Bureaucracy Co-ordinator

IT will come as no surprise to hear that frontline officers say excessive paperwork is one of the major obstacles preventing them spending more time on the beat.

These concerns are shared throughout the Force, as anything that prevents us maximising the people and resources directed towards the core business of fighting crime and protecting people has to be tackled head on.

Fortunately, progress is being made every day in reducing bureaucracy – and officers and staff throughout the Force are playing a key role in cutting red tape.

In 2005 alone, 220 submissions were made to the Force Suggestion Scheme highlighting sometimes simple, sometimes creative, ways of reducing the bureaucratic burden.

How can we play a part in continuing that work? First, we need to recognise and challenge unnecessary bureaucracy rather than just accept it as an inevitable part of our working day.

For example, bureaucracy could be tasks that are carried out more frequently than necessary or involve duplication of effort or going into unnecessary detail. It could be work carried out by police officers that could be better done by police staff, or tasks that could be speeded up through the application of information technology.

In fact, we have had considerable success in harnessing information technology to reduce bureaucracy.

- A six-month trial is being carried out involving a desktop text messaging facility for divisional witness liaison officers.
- The introduction of new generation Airwave radios is giving better coverage and better features.
- Divisional video identity parades are estimated to take 66 per cent less of an officer's time than a 'live' one.
- Livescan is speeding up the taking of electronic fingerprint images from people in custody.



ADVICE: Leaflet distributed by GMP's Reducing Bureaucracy Group.

Reducing Bureaucracy

What **YOU** can do to reduce bureaucracy within GMP

A "5 x Point Plan"

1. Scrutinise every process, procedure, form or policy that affects **YOUR** work.
2. Scrutinise every process, procedure, form or policy **YOU** are responsible for.
3. Challenge any aspect of it that prevents or delays **YOU** or **OTHERS** from the front line tasks of fighting crime and protecting people.
4. Challenge inefficient practices by sending details via email to **#Reducing Bureaucracy Group**
5. Propose new ways of working via the **Force Suggestion Scheme**

Across all 43 forces in England and Wales, nearly 9,000 forms have been made obsolete by officers and staff pointing out more efficient ways of providing the information.

In this Force, a recent policy change meant officers no longer need to visit Bradford Park when submitting imaging requests from CCTV video tape.

This simple change is expected to save around 4,306 police officer hours a year.

Also, a policy to prevent unnecessary creation of local forms has been introduced, and a new and less rigid policy for the completion of pocket book entries has been published.

All this adds up to fewer forms, less paperwork, less bureaucracy – more time on the beat, more operations, more arrests.



But the work won't stop there. The Force's Reducing Bureaucracy Working Group (which includes representatives of the Police Federation and Unison) needs all staff to continue to make suggestions so we can make further inroads.

If you are often faced with unnecessary bureaucracy and hear yourself sigh 'It's the way things are done around here,' then it's time to change.

Just because a working practice has been done that way for many years doesn't mean it's still the best way. If you think there is a more efficient way, challenge it.

Beginning in July, a Reducing Bureaucracy roadshow will be visiting locations across the Force to explain how you can help us to help you. It's your opportunity to tell us if you know a better way of working.

The area in dark grey represents the average amount of time officers spent on frontline duties in 2004-05 in England and Wales - 64.1 per cent. The Home Office has set a target for 2008 of 72 per cent.



Jonathan takes best-of-Bolton trophy

ENTHUSIASTIC, positive, tireless.....that was just part of the testimonial to PC Jonathan Ashcroft, winner this year of the Matt Dyson Memorial Trophy.

The annual award goes to a Bolton officer who has shown significant dedication to duty in the previous 12 months.

It is presented in memory of her son Matt by Mrs Doreen Ingram, who is pictured with Jonathan and the Divisional Commander, Ch Supt David Lea, at

Bolton's annual awards ceremony.

Ch Supt Lea said that in addition to his work on patrol, Jonathan's files and reports were first rate.

"His sergeant says that checking his work is a pleasure, rarely requiring more than just a signature," he said.

A total of 29 officers received Divisional Commander's Awards for commitment, dedication, courage and tenacity in cases that included murder, rape, violent disorder, gunpoint

assault, abduction, burglary and robbery of elderly people, drug abuse, school fights between white and Asian pupils and various other forms of violence.

Mark Flannery, a PCSO in Bolton East, received two awards, the first in recognition of his work to build community confidence and the other for his 'reassurance' efforts at Tonge Moor following an attack on a disabled man.

Fast tracking data from Crown Courts

A NEW computer system that will benefit GMP by speeding up the sharing of information from Crown Courts has been introduced.

XHIBIT - or Exchanging Hearing Information By Internet Technology - links the three Crown Courts in Greater Manchester (Crown Square, Minshull Street and Bolton) with others across the country.

It means staff from GMP, the CPS, Probation, the Victim Support and Witness Service and the Prison Escort and Custody Service will be able to share information faster on warrants, sentences, prisoner release dates and witness.

GMP officers can currently access the system through trained staff in divisional OPU, Criminal Justice Units and Warrants Units.

Those officers now accessing XHIBIT will be spreading their training to other officers, bringing a wider use of the system and better service for the

thousands of victims and witnesses with whom GMP officers come into contact.

The system will also help GMP meet new targets around notifying victims of crime, which came into effect on April 3 with the launch of the Victims Code of Practice.

At first, the system will be read-only, but will provide court documents such as warrants.

Supt Zoe Hamilton, who is managing the roll-out of the system with Insp Wasim Chaudhry at Force Headquarters, said:

"It will bring benefits to officers in the way they receive information.

"Rather than making phone calls and sending e-mails to get information on an offender or sentence, they can access the information directly from their computer.

"We will have instant notification of changes in bail conditions, better information on bench warrants and early warning on prisoner release dates.

"The system should free up some of the many

hours staff spend chasing information and make everyone's job a little easier."

Expo speaker

HR Director Andrew Marston is to be one of the speakers at a national conference being held in Manchester for the first time.

The third annual Public Service People Management Expo at the Manchester International Convention Centre on June 14 and 15 will bring together up to 1,000 senior and middle management representatives from the Civil Service, Ministry of Defence, NHS, local government, police and fire services, colleges and universities.

Other speakers will include figures from the new Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), the CPS, the British Transport Police, the Cabinet Office and HM Revenue and Customs.



Museum matters

by Curator Duncan Brody



THE foresight and generosity of a retired GMP officer has helped the museum make an important improvement to the restored Denton Magistrates' Court.

Former PC Ken Pearson spent his career based at Denton Police Station. Soon after the courtroom was abandoned, he rescued a number of impressive carver-style chairs, an umbrella stand and a framed portrait of Sir Charles Henry Booth, the long serving Magistrates' Clerk at Denton.

He has now kindly agreed to donate the items to the museum. They will be restored to their former glory, and soon Sir Charles will once again gaze down upon the court in which he served as Clerk for so many years.

WE have, as usual, assisted a number of archive researchers enquiring into family history matters and crime in the Second World War. It is a matter of regret that in a number of cases, personnel files for some of the former borough forces were lost when those forces merged into county constabularies in the 1960s.

However, the files of Bolton Borough Police survived. Housed in sturdy metal box files, they were held at Bolton Central Police Station long after Bolton merged with Lancashire in 1969, and were transferred to the force museum some years ago.

Each detailed file includes information about an officer's service, reports

and even the letters written by character referees when the officer applied to join. Several researchers have recently been delighted to discover copious information about their ancestors from these files.

OUR cells have been proving popular with student film crews. Jenny Winstone and fellow film studies students from Salford University shot a scene for a comedy film in which a man decides to follow the advice of life coaches, with disastrous consequences! In a similarly light-hearted vein, Ajid Miah, a student from Hopwood College, directed part of a pop video for his AS exams in the museum cells and courtroom. On a more serious note, a youth team

from Farnworth used the cells to illustrate a scene from a drama about the consequences of a young person's involvement in crime.

OVER the years, the museum has been visited by police officers from UK forces and from overseas who wished to set up their own force museums. The latest addition to the list is the Museum of Policing in Cheshire, based in the cells at Warrington Police Station, and two staff, one a serving and the other a retired member of Cheshire Constabulary, came over to see how our museum is run and how we utilise the educational and community reassurance potential of the collects.

WE have hosted the first training session for GPs from St Mary's Centre in our courtroom. Staff from the Centre and a barrister playing the role of defence

lawyer gave the doctors a realistic opportunity to be cross-examined while giving evidence in cases of

sexual assault. This hopefully would boost their confidence when attending an actual court.

Dennis revives more memories

A **SECOND** book of reminiscences by retired Sgt Dennis Wood of policing in Manchester in the 1950s and 60s is published this month.

'On Another Beat' is a sequel to 'On the Beat' published last year, and Dennis says he is already at work on a third volume, which he hopes to see published next year.

His latest book, he says, contains 'slightly more risque' stories than in his first volume.

The former Scots Guardsman was a police officer for 25 years, retiring as a detective sergeant in 1975.

Dennis is pictured on the front cover of his new book in a period uniform with another retired officer, Alec Harrison who, like Dennis, is one of the team of volunteers at the GMP Museum.

*'On Another Beat' costs £5.99 at local bookshops and at the GMP Museum, or it can be ordered direct (post free) from the publishers, P & D Riley, 12 Bridgeway East, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 6LD. Cheques payable to 'P & D Riley.'

There will be a chapter from Dennis's book in next month's Brief.

Why witness attendance rates are getting better

By Hayley Caulfield,
Communications Officer,
Local Criminal Justice Board

A YEAR on from its launch, Greater Manchester's first Witness Care Unit is making a real difference to the number of witnesses attending court.

Since the unit opened at Tameside Magistrates' Court, witness attendance has increased to 97 per cent, a rise of nearly 30 per cent compared with the previous 12 months.

This is on top of the fact that more trials are being brought before the courts as more crimes are detected.

The number of offences brought to justice in Greater Manchester in the past 12 months was 70,000. That's 200 every day – 15 more per day than before the unit opened.

There has also been a reduction of eight per cent in the rate of ineffective cases at Tameside Magistrates' Court due to witnesses failing to show up.

Tameside Witness Care Unit is part of the national No Witness No Justice project, which aims to put witnesses at the heart of the criminal justice system.

In 2004-05 – before the project started – nearly 700 trials in Greater Manchester were ineffective because a civilian witness did not attend.

Team

At Tameside, a team from both GMP and the CPS work with witnesses to ensure they feel confident about attending court and giving evidence.

They also help with issues such as childcare, transport and accessibility problems and give witnesses information about the court processes so that they know what to expect.

Through Victim Support and Witness Service, witnesses are also able to get moral and emotional support at any time. The close working of these three agencies has resulted in the impressive increase in witness attendance.

ACC Rob Taylor, who chairs Greater Manchester's Local Criminal Justice Board, which oversees the No Witness No Justice Project, said:

"Witness Care Units are ensuring that when a crime is committed and detected, those who have been affected feel confident in attending court.

"It also illustrates the positive effect of our new joint Prosecution Team approach with the CPS."

RAISING STANDARDS

The following articles are sponsored by GMP's Professional Standards Committee. The Committee ensures that the highest standards are maintained across the Force. Meetings are chaired by DCC Dave Whetton and attended by Acting ACC David Jones (Crime), ACC Vincent Sweeney (Human Resources), ACC Stephen Thomas (Specialist Operations), Andrew Marston (Human Resources), Ch Supt Patsy Wood (Internal Affairs Branch) and Supt Keith Jardine (Internal Investigations Unit). If you have any ideas for future editions of this column, or issues you would like to refer to the Committee, contact the Professional Standards Unit on extension 62671.

Good service for us all

Annabel Straw, Corporate Development and Performance Branch, explains how the National Quality of Service Commitment could affect you.

You don't need newspapers and TV to get a feel for what's good and bad about the service provided by the police.

Your family, friends and maybe even you yourself have needed the police at one time or other, and for every story of good service, there is one about bad service and all points in between.

In an effort to make service to the public better and more consistent across the country, the Home Office is introducing the National Quality of Service Commitment, which comprises 45 standards designed to improve service to the public.

The standards relate to different aspects of the service we give, such as call handling, crime management, professionalism, consultation and dealing with complaints.

Every force in England and Wales is required to be compliant with the standards by November. Our performance against them will be assessed by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and monitored by Greater Manchester Police Authority.

The standards fall into 7 main groups, identified by the Home Office:

- Making it easy to contact us
- Providing a professional and high quality service
- Dealing with your initial enquiry
- Keeping you informed
- Victims of crime
- Your voice counts
- Complaints

A Forcewide communication campaign will be devised over the coming months to formally

introduce the National Quality of Service Commitment. However, in this and subsequent editions of 'Raising Standards,' we take a preview of each group of standards in turn.

This time we look at 'making it easy to contact us'. This group of five standards is concerned with making sure the police service is accessible in different ways, according to the needs of users:

1. Provide equality of access to services and information
2. Provide a range of ways to access our services that address the needs of users
3. Consult with those who use our services and the local community about what is important to them and publish specific local commitments
4. Provide a range of information that focuses on areas of service that you have told us are important to you, ensuring the information is easy to understand
5. Widely publicise the details of how you can access police services in your local area

Implementation of these standards is being overseen by a Steering Group led by ACC Ian Seabridge. Membership of the group includes senior colleagues involved in other relevant projects, such as the Victims' Code of Practice, Safer Neighbourhoods and National Call Handling Standards.

For more information about the National Quality of Service Commitment, contact Annabel Straw on extension 62671.

New control strategy

GMP will soon have its own Professional Standards Control Strategy.

Under the leadership of ACC Stephen Thomas (Specialist Operations), units from several departments are collaborating on a Strategic Threat Assessment, using different sources of professional standards data.

The Assessment will be used to identify key threats to GMP's performance and reputation. The threats may arise from

HELP AND ADVICE

Integrity issues
Internal Investigations Unit
62923 or 0800 91 77 999

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

Policy complaints and other issues relating to standards
Professional Standards Unit 62671
or 61168

be in the work of our Internal Investigations Unit, which is mainly responsible for dealing with integrity issues. This example of good practice was recognised by HMIC in their recent thematic professional standards inspection."

For more information about the Professional Standards Control Strategy, contact Annabel Straw in the first instance on extension 62671.

Professional standards gets 'good' grading from HMIC

THE recent national thematic review of professional standards by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary has resulted in a 'good' grading for GMP.

The review looked at various professional standards functions within the Force, including the Internal Affairs Branch, Professional Standards Unit, Civil Judicial Services Unit and Human Resources Branch.

As well as commending good practice, HMIC identified several areas for improvement. One of these relates to the incorporation of National Intelligence Model principles into professional standards work to govern intelligence, prevention and enforcement activity.

The review team was also impressed by the Force's Customer Feedback Database* and the way it is used to record policy complaints and other feedback from the public, like that obtained via dip-sampling.

HMIC uses four categories when grading forces: poor, fair, good and excellent. No excellent gradings were given on this occasion.

*Advice on the database is available from Corporate Development and Performance Branch, extensions 62671 or 61168.

DO THE RIGHT THING!

FREE PHONE: 0800 91 77 999

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Policy complaints and other issues relating to standards
Professional Standards Unit 62671
or 61168

Ads in Brief

FOR SALE

DINING room table, oval shape, solid pine, plus four pine strut back chairs, good cond, can seat 6; £120 ono, Melanie 07968 590192 or scratchpad20063.

WANTED

ACCOMMODATION urgently required by family member of GMP pensioner; 2/3 bedrooms in Altrincham to Northwich areas, 6 month rental. 01472 389952.

ANTIQUES & collectables wanted by retired officer; silverware, jewellery, watches, clocks, tin toys, trains, militaria, anything considered, full or part house clearances; exc cash prices. Susan Wright 0161 620 3463 or 07971 910175.

HOLIDAYS

EXMOUTH, homely holiday bungalow, weekends and/or weeks, 2 miles from sandy beach, close to Exeter, Torquay & Dartmoor; large sunny gdn; Jacky Hopkins 01395 70767.

TUSCANY, Vellano, picturesque village house sleeps 6/8; restaurants and bars close by; near to Lucca, Florence, Pisa & coast. Jill Vescovi 01772 511580, www.vescovi.piczo.com

SPECIAL opening offer, the Florida Lilly Pad offers 4 bedroom, 3.5 bathroom accom sleeping up to 10 people for £400pw, excl Christmas. See website the floridalillypad.com

ORLANDO villa for rent, 4 bed/3bath exec home, private heated pool; sleeps 10; 10mins Disney; golf & other amenities within minutes; from £450pw. Max & Angi Davies, 0161 725 9568, 07711789136, e-mail max@max6.wandoo.co.uk

LES ARCS summer apt, French Alps, sleeps 4, all mod cons incl dvd, dishwasher etc; lots of activities, swimming pool. £25 per night. Natalie Horner 077958 11604.

WOMEN ONLY B&B near Comares, Southern Spain; stunning views, Andalusian mountains, peaceful location; meals avail, outside Jacuzzi, self-catering apt avail. Kathy or Linda, 01582 808246. www.divaespana.com; e-mail enquiries@divaespana.com

ORLANDO, 4 bed 3 bath lux villa, private pool & spa; www.magiclandings.co.uk or call Paul or Jen 01942 525081.

ALGARVE villa, typically Portuguese, sleeps 8/10, car not required, Villa Nova Caceia, half hour to Faro, splash pool, bbq, courtyard; beach, shops nearby; airport transport can be arranged. Ken Gagan 0161 763 6568.

COSTA BLANCA 2 bed apt, private complex & gdns, excellent communal pool, close to amenities & beach, Sky TV, ideal hol base, long term lease avail. E-mail: simon.wrigley2702@hotmail.co.uk

MAJORCA, Santa ponsa, large 2 bed ground floor apt, 50yds from beach, fully equipped, 2 swimming pools in tropical gdns, close to shops, restaurants. E-mail: stevendamzina@tinyworld.co.uk or 01706 224592.

ROQUETAS DE MAR, 1 bed apt, sleeps 4, private complex, pool, restaurant; beach 250yds, shops, bars 150yds; quiet, pleasant resort: from £145pw, 0161 283 3845 or e-mail mseefc@yahoo.com

COSTA CALIDA/Costa Blanca - Dorada bungalow sleeps 4 in 2 double beds, 2 bath, air con, roof solarium, shared pool; Jet2 flights to Murcia, 10min drive from airport, 10min walk blue flag beach & shops; good local bars, restaurants (world famous seafood), good golf. Ged Varley 01706 853072 or Bernard Thompson 01625 420152, e-mail comffieet@hotmail.com

BARBADOS, West Coast, St James, spacious 1 bedroom apt, private complex, tropical gdns, large pool, beaches, shops, restaurants nearby; ideal self catering, dining out; details incl flights from Roy Guy, retd, 01423 503054, e-mail thomasroyguy@hotmail.com

KISSIMEE, Indian Creek, lux 4 bed 3 bath villa, with extended pool & spa; close to theme parks etc; 10% discount for police & staff. Lesley 077956 51622.

WELL EQUIPPED holiday cottages, Bryn Crug, Snowdonia, near Tywyn, can accom 2 to 7 people, swimming pool, stunning scenery, near mountains & beaches. www.geufoncottages.com, e-mail geufoncottages@aol.com.

COSTA BLANCA, Two 3 bed 2 bath apts in lovely Spanish town, comm rooftop pool with

stunning views over salt lakes, organge groves; walk to 30 bars/ restaurants; 10 mins from golf, beach, horse riding. From £170pw. Allen (retd) 0161 338 5600; almac@duki.fsnet.co.uk.

DISNEY, Florida, lux 3 bed 2 bath villa, fantastic location, 3 miles Disney, wouth facing private pool & hot tub; fully equipped, sleep up to n8 plus baby; playstation & gamesroom; from £180pw; Tracy 0161 482 4852/www.floridavilla4rental.co.uk.

PUERTO RICO, Gran Canaria, beautiful modern 1 bedroom apt, private complex, large private terrace, sea view, communal pool, fully equipped; at low level within walking distance of beaches, harbour, restaurants & bars. Call Margaret 07946 415721.

COSTA BLANCA (Rojales), 3 bedroom 2 bathroom bungalow, sleeps 6/8; ff, enclosed patio & sunroof with private access; btwn Alicante-Murcia airports; beaches and waterpark 10mins; 5 golf courses 15mins, shops 5mins, Carrefour hypermarket 15mins drive. Kim & Ann 0151 426 7912.

LANZAROTE, Costa Teguisse, new 2 bed 1 bath apt on gated complex; 3 pools; call Chris or Karen 01625 431373 or 07881 614045. www.lanzarotesun.net

BEAUTIFUL 2-bed villa, heart of Moraira, Spain, 5mins beach, town centre bars & restaurants, funfair; communal pool, stunning sea view; £300pw; call 079685 65460.

COSTA BLANCA, 2 bed apt, communal pool, private gdn, clean & quiet complex; close to beach & all amenities, 35mins south of Alicante; golf in easy reach. Call 01204 403457.

FLORIDA, 4 bed exec villa, 3 baths, 30ft pool, child proof, alarmed, cable TV, dvd; gated estate close to golf, tennis; Disney 15mins; 01772 812702 or email kerrygary2001@netscape.net

NEW Orlando villa, 5 bed, 4.5 bath, pool with spa in extended deck area; 7 mjles Disney, all major attractions nearby; available from March; details on www.parkvilla-orlando.com; discount for GMP; contact PC1313, Area 2 RPU. Grey Mare Lane, ext 63574.

CYPRUS Protaras, 2 bed apt, use of 2 pools, 15mins walk to shops, bars, beaches; Janet Brooks (retd) 01706 627571.

TENERIFE Golf Del Sur, 1 bed apt on private complex, sleeps 4, close to 2 golf courses; Sky tv; Janet Brooks (retd) 01706 627571.

PRIVATELY British-owned properties for rent in Mijas Costa; incl British TV and pools; near Marbella and Puerto Banus, many beachside properties; Nicholson@telefonica.net/www.morningnoo.nanknight.com

CONWY, North Wales, 6-berth caravan, fully equipped, quiet site, mountain views, lounge/bar, 5mins walk from beach & harbour; no smoking/dogs; weekends considered. Neil 07970 467743 or neilp9@aol.com.

COSTA BLANCA nr Denia/Oliva, 2 bedroom house in village, 10mins beach; shared pool, ideal for quiet holiday. Holiday-Rentals.co.uk (prop no 18002) or Mark Gelder 0796 7960340 or 0161 280 5065.

PUERTO BANUS, Costa del Sol, lux 2 bed 2 bath duplex penthouse, 15mins marina beach, 3 pools, close to shops, restaurants in golf valley; discount for GMP staff; Jane 077955 98148.

COSTA TEGUISE, Lanzarote, bungalow, 1min from beach, sleeps 4, fully fitted; £230-£250 per week; Chris or Elaine 01260 299734 or 07790 457302.

CABO ROIG, Costa Blanca, lux 3 bed, sleeps 6, air con, community pool, 5mins to beaches, bars restaurants, Murcia airport 15mins; from £200pw. Bob Medley ext 61589 or 01257 276123.

BONNIE SCOTLAND, modern comfortable B&B amid majestic glens in heart of malt whisky country; £17.50 pp per night; discounts avail. 01466 702219 or b&b@milltown.co.uk

COSTA BLANCA, 2 bedroom first floor apt, sleeps 6, coastal location, walk to amenities, bars, restaurants; Sky TV, huge rooftop solarium, communal pool. 01942 843481 - aloapartment@tiscali.co.uk

LANZAROTE & CORNWALL, 1 & 2 bed apts Puerto del Carmen, private complex overlooking beach, pool, sat TV; Polperro, 1 bed beamed property with private gdns close to harbour; from £250. Stephen Woodhead (retd) 01503 272018

GAIRLOCH, West Highlands, comfortable lochside cottages, sleep 2-4, Skye & Torridon views; golf, fishing, mountains, walks, wildlife, good restaurants. Ian Birks (retd) 01445 712326. www.lochwatch.com.

GRAN ALACANT, Costa Blanca, new lux 2 bed 2 bath apt, 10mins Alicante airport, beautifully furnished, fully equipped kitchen, CD/DVD; lge roof gdn with bbq, 3rd shower, 10mins walk beach; good selection restaurants, bars; quiet area but near nightlife

if req; Bill Roberts (retd) 0161 969 4250, trishbill@care4free.net.

IOM, Fairy Lodge, warm, comfortable apt 4*, sleeps 4, open all year, heating included: from £280 pw; brochure from birtles@manx.net, 01624 829277.

CAERNARFON, 3 bed cottage, Glan Gwyna hol park, 300-acre site, swimming pool, shops, takeaway, sleeps 8, TV , video; £285pw; Vince or Pat 0161 286 9125, 0781 7923295.

NERJA, Costa del Sol, 3 bed 2 bath lux villa, private pool, stunning views, 10mins coast, 5 mins white village; Chris Heap 07881 915692, 01282 830873. chrishheap60@yahoo.co.uk.

TOWYN, Wales, static caravan, sleeps 6, all mod cons, club cabaret, chippy, pref non-smoker, no pets; £250 pw. Helen 07900 18377.

FABULOUS Florida villa, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, sleeps 10, games room, private pool, 10 mins Disney etc. Max & Andrea Davies 0161 725 9568. madavies1@aol.com.

ALGORFA, Spain, 2 bedroom ground floor apt, sleeps 6, air con, pool, roof terrace, lift, underground parking, 5 mins golf course, Guadamar beach 10-15 mins by car; pick up/drop off Alicante/Murcia if req; Vicky 01942 206990, 07944 542212.

LANZAROTE, high spec 1 bedroom apt, quiet complex, close to beach, shops, Puerto del Carmen harbour, lovely gdns, pool, sea views; Ian (retd) 0161 764 0093. View on www.lanzarote-apartment.com.

TENERIFE, Los Christianos, 1 bed apt, sleeps 4, family complex, pool, 5 mins beach & centre; £250pw. Denise Rushton 0161 336 3852. denise.home@tiscali.co.uk.

FRENCH cottage Normandy, fully equipped 40 miles from Caen and coast. D-Day areas nearby - 0161 330 4249/07966 507068.

ROBIN HOOD'S BAY, North Yorks, cosy secluded cottage, sleeps 2, perfect for walking and sightseeing; weekend and weekly breaks. Jayne 01706 819151.

LAKE DISTRICT, 2 bedroom cottage, quiet village, Grade 2 listed, suit up to 4 persons; no pets or smokers, not suitable for children; for brochure - 0161 432 6640.

FLORIDA, 7 bedroom luxury villa, sleeps up to 16; pool/spam, games room, full on-site resort facilities, cyber café, gym; 10mins Disney; 01942 273980. email admin@florida.springs.co.uk.

COSTA BLANCA, 2-bedroom apt, roof sun terrace, communal pool, cars, cafes, etc; 10 mins walk supermarkets, 20mins walk Torreveja. David Locke (retd) 0161 330 6769.

NERJA, Costa del Sol, villa sleeps 4-6, 2 bathrooms, 2 sun terraces, community pool, beaut location, views. M.J.Chadwick (police staff) 63031/01706 715178. www.villacaritas.com

LLANDUDNO 5 mins, newly renovated beamed cottage, elevated village location; all inclusive, sleeps 4 plus infant; no pets, no smoking in the cottage. Keith Mitchell (retd) 01492 540178, 07949 794752. keith@mitch1947.freereserve.co.uk.

MAJORCA, Cala Vinas, lux duplex apt, quiet beach resort, air con, 3 beds, 3 baths, sleeps 6; every extra inc Sky TV, 2 balconies (one at poolside); only yds from breach; newly purchased. Eric Wilson (retd) 01706 353467.

CYPRUS, Peyeia (Coral Bay), 3 bedroom villa, 2 bathrooms, new residential area, communal pool, children's pool, air con, gas bbq, airport 30mins, beaches 10mins, Paphos 20mins; takes up to 2 families (4 adults, 4 children); from £300 pw. Gordon Maxwell (retd) 0161 339 4749. www.villa-jacaranda.co.uk

DISNEYWORLD. Mickey and friends are waiting in Florida to see you; why not enjoy your visit by staying in our luxury 4 bedroom villa with own pool; golf & superb beaches in easy reach. Barrie Elliott (retd) 0161 798 8460 for details, photos, etc. Special rates for Brief readers.

DORDOGNE - Lot, SW France, charming 19thC gite, original features, sleeps 2-8 (plus baby) in 3 bedrooms; all comforts & mod cons; terrace, gdn, bbq, close to swimming lakes, 2km local amenities; 1-2 hrs from four airports; from £275pw. Christine Gambie 01257 450883. molieres@ismail.net.

KISSIMEE, Florida, south facing 4 bed 2 bath exec villa with pool, overlooking conservation area; 10mins Disney, 5mins golf. From £450pw. Anne Hewlett (retd) 0161 456 3798. annie.hewlett@btopenworld.com.

TENERIFE, Los Christianos, 15mins from airport, 1 bedroom apt, private complex, sleeps 4, 15 mins from beach, fully equipped, pool view; discounts for GMP staff, 0161 338 8276. Pcandkwcross@aol.com.

FABULOUS 2-storey house, Kissimmee, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrms, 26ft private pool, new games room; accom up to 12; minutes Disney, Universal, restaurants, malls; Special rates for GMP staff. Anne & Joe Cannon 0161 613 5844, www.seasonsunshinevilla.com/e-mail a.cannon3@ntlworld.com

ALGARVE, beaut hilltop villa, sleeps 10, 2 pools, BBQ, spacious verandah, panoramic views; from £300 pw. Ken Pearson 0161 336 5061.

LANZAROTE, Puerto del Carmen, lux 2-bed hi-spec apt, private complex near San

Antonio Hotel, £275 pw (2 sharing), Lynn 0034620339875, lynnwaring@teletelie.es www.weboassisanantonio.mysite.freereserve.com.

LOS CRISTIANOS, Tenerife, large 1-bed apt in aparthotel, fully equipped, convenient for town, beautiful beaches, Jeff Ashton 0034 922794502 between 6-8pm jeffashon@teletelie.es/www.jeffashon.com.

FRENCH gites in renovated 16thC farmhouse, 3 acres, 10mins Parthenay, ideal for Loire Valley, Atlantic coast, Cognac, Green Venice, Poitiers airport 40 mins. L'Etable sleeps 4/6, dbl lounge, etc; L'Ecurie sleeps 2. Travel cot avail; gites can be combined. From £170 pw, B & B avail, evening meals by arrangement; resident owners Mark & Anita Wilson, both ex-GMP. 0033 549952873 or markandanita@lametaire.net

COSTA BLANCA, 2 bed house, communal pool, Campoverde, 10 miles drive beach, 2 mins to bars, restaurants; from £180pw. 01204 887042 or peter.atkinson@homecall.co.uk

BLAUPUNK caravan for hire; swimming pool, fishing, bar, chippy, arcade; no pets; 2 beds. £200pw. 07808 521726 for brochure.

SWINSIDE COTTAGE, Newlands Valley, nr Keswick; 1 bedroom cosy cottage with coal fire; beautiful location at foot of Catbells; sailing, walking, close to Swinside pub; pets welcome; 4* English Tourist Board; prices vary; Mark on 07799 348460 or www.Lakelandcottages.co.uk.

LLANDDULAS, static caravan on lovely North Wales family site, sleeps 8, all mod cons, gold star; weekend cabaret; pref non-smoking, no objection to pets; 07977 696960.

FRANCE, Southern Brittany, charming converted farmhouse, tranquil countryside; fully equipped, sleeps up to 6; perfect for Brittany exploration. Andy Wright 07754 753683.

TURKEY, 5 bed new villa, private pool, sleeps 10 in comfort; on plateau overlooking mountains; 10 mins bustling port of Fethiye & beaches of Olu Deniz; police discount; Mike 0161 707 1423. www.holidaylets.net (property TW8454).

TURKEY, 3 bed villa sleeps 7, large communal pool, child's pool, 5 golf courses, beach, pine forest, mountain views; free transfers, 20 mins Antalya; discount 2nd week. Johnreynolds@hotmail.com, 07766 421109; www.holidaylets.net, TW8556.

CAPE TOWN, house for rent, 15 mins airport city centre, 5 mins beach; 40 mins Winealands; views of Table Mountain; 3 beds, 2 baths in quiet secure comp; tel 0161 688 7919 PaulEBrookes@aol.com.

ROUSSILON, French Med, Pyrenees, walking, sunbathing, fishing, cycling, all from 4 bed villa, gdsn, own pool, sleeps up to 9; Barcelona 100km, Perpignan 30km; 07736 691597.

COSTA DEL SOL, Frigiliana, Nerja; 2 double bed apt, sea and mountain views, beautiful location, communal pool; £175-£350 pw. Susan, 0161 973 7819.

TURKEY, Kalkan, 3-bed villa, private pool, fantastic sea views, booking for 2006. Lynn or Andy 01457 833923 for brochure, e-mail: lynnabuckley@aol.com or www.villayasmina.co.uk.

CHARENTE, SW France, gite sleeps 6, 1 double, 2 singles, bedsettee, pool, set in 6 acres, own fishing lake, riding, golf, etc. Lomoges 1hr, Bordeaux 2hrs; from £200pw. Mike Fardy Tel 0545625385, email: carolfardy@aol.com

LOS CRISTIANOS, Tenerife, 1-bed apt, sleeps 4, 150m beach, close to shops, restaurants, fully equipped, pool view, recently acquired, discount for GMP. 0161 338 8276. Pcandkwcross@aol.com

FLORIDA, new 4 bed, 3 bath villa, 30ft pool, jacuzzi/spa, games room, 2 living rooms, dining, nook, free internet, freephone calls, dvd, 10mins Disney, 2mins golf, David Woods 01744 604929 www.florida.villa.paradise.co.uk.

SW FLORIDA Gulf Coast, luxury villa, 4 bed, 3 bath, 2 masters, extended pool area, 15mins fab beaches, shops, retaurants, golf; GMP discount. Derek Birchenough (retd) 0161 927 7752. www.pinevalleycreek.com

FLORIDA LILYPAD welcomes your family to home from home luxury; 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, sleeps 10easily; private pool, games room, 15mins Disney, Warren 0161 682 7819, e-mail wmbgjab@aol.com.

DISNEY Florida, 5 bed exec villa, sleeps 12; 10mins Disney, 2mins championship golf courses; 28ft private pool, overlooking conservation area. £550-£750 (discount police employees). Mark, 0161 612 0111.

ST TROPEZ 20 mins, new 6-berth mobile home, excellent site & location; August only available. Oliver, 07919 697471 or 0161 945 4779.

COGNAC, France, cottage to let, heart of Cognac country along Charente river, coast 50mins, many places of interest; sleeps 6 + baby, well equipped, spacious gdns, floodlit pool; English owners on site; longer out of season lets (winter central heating). Janet Lea 0033 545215009/ d2lea@wanadoo.fr or www.leanfrance.com.

CHARENTE, France, fabulous 4* complex of 4 individual gites, sleeping 8,6,4 and 2 near Cognac; created from old distillery, original features incl exposed stone walls, beams; landscaped gdns, lge pool, bbqs, terraces,

games room, video lounge, gym. Jacky 0033 545 805312 or www.lancienmedistillerie.com.

DORDOGNE, SW France, det cottage 2 beds, sleeps 6, quiet spot surrounded by vineyards; washing machine, cd, video, swimming, lake; 45mins Bordeaux, 25mins Bergerac £200-£350 pw. Joan & Jeff Cane 0033 553 806561tergerac

COSTA BLANCA, Algorfa opp prestige La Finca golf course, 2 bedroom apt, sleeps up to 6, small development, own pool, 15mins Guardamar Beach, easy reach other quality holf courses; from £150pw. Tel 07799 565137. Emailtoptransfers@wanadoo.es.

VILLA LIRIO BRANCO, Praia Da Luz, Algarve, 3 bedrooms, sleeps 6, sea views, private pool, built 2004, furnished high standard, private gated development, premier golf 10mins, beach 10mins, Faro airport 50mins, car recommended; Peter or Michelle Lilleywhite 0161 773 8728/ millywhite@hotmail.com.

ISLE OF WHITHORN, Dumfries & Galloway; mod 2-bedroom bungalow, quiet fishing village; sleeps 4, comfortably furnished, garden with BBQ, £275pw incl electricity; no pets or smokers. Kath Norgate 0161 794 1107.

COSTA DEL SOL, 2-bed 2-bath apt, sleeps 6, 3 pools, close to beach, golf, bars, restaurants, tennis, bowls; short drive Marbella, Puerto Banus; Malaga 25 miles. Julie 07803 505222.

DISNEY, Florida, on private gated estate, 4 bed, 3 bathroom villa, own pool, 10mins Disney, air cond. Dot Grime 0161 368 3617, Joanne Hyslop 0161 368 3195.

ITALY, Umbria, farmhouse near Lake Trasimeno, Assisi, Sienna, Florence, Rome; own gardens, exc family accomm. 02392 466749.

FRANCE, Courtanne gites, 3 beautifully renovated properties in the heart of Poitou Charentes. 100km La Rochelle, 1hr Cognac, Poitiers, Limoges, Niort; discounts on ferry crossings, holiday insurance & car hire. Nearby airports Poitiers, La Rochelle and now Lomoges. Contact Tim & Karen Hawke (ex-GMP), 0033(0)549 077309. E-mail info@courtanne-gites.com, www.courtanne-gites.com.

SOUTHERN BRITANNY, charming converted longere in tranquil countryside, sleeps up to 6, fully equipped, perfect for Brittany exploration. Andy Wright 07754 753683.

ORLANDO, Kissimmee, 4 bed 3 bath villa, pool, Indian Creek, 10mins Disney, Sharon & George 01204 531430.

ANDALUCIA. Walnut farm near Malaga, 2 refurbished cottages, each with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms; new pool, patios, lge gdn, bbqs, walnut grove; from £170 each, discount for both together and early booking. Paul Adams 01925 820870. www.walnutfarmanteguera.co.uk

DEVON & CORNWALL - 2 bedroom holiday bungalow, Stoneleigh Holiday Village, Sidmouth, and 2 bedroom modern holiday cottage, Kenegie Manor Holiday Park, Penzance; on-site facilities and entertainment, open all year; discount for GMP staff. Neil Hilton 0161 799 4387, e-mail [hiltonh](mailto:hiltonholidays@ntlworld.com)

As a result of Best Value review.....

HOW TO IMPROVE INCOME GENERATION

A Best Value review of sponsorship and income generation has finished and recommendations have been approved by chief officers and Greater Manchester Police Authority. JOE-ANN TURNER, of the Corporate Review Section, Corporate Development Branch, explains what happens next.

THE REVIEW examined three aspects of income generation: **trading activities** (selling products or services to other forces, crime reduction agencies and the private sector); **corporate sponsorship** (while many departments and divisions are involved in generating local sponsorship agreements, GMP is not fully exploiting its commercial potential at a corporate level); and **asset recovery** (relating to powers outlined in the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, which allows forces to seize the assets of local criminals).

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP AND TRADING ACTIVITIES

have both been allocated to Chief Officer portfolios and an Income Generation Committee will be established to develop processes to support both these functions.

Staff from departments linked to both processes will sit on the committee with representatives from divisions and the Police Authority.

The committee's work will include:

- **AMENDING** existing sponsorship guidance so that it explicitly addresses corporate sponsorship.
- **REVIEWING** the sponsorship risk management and approval process to make it less bureaucratic.
- **DEVELOPING** policy and guidance for trading activities so that anyone already trading or interested in developing a new area of trading is given clarification and support.
- **LAUNCHING** a business case template to approve new trading activities and manage any associated risks.
- **IDENTIFYING** what could be funded by sponsorship in advance so we can make sure extra resources are available to help address priorities.
- **IMPROVING** internal awareness and training.
- **GUIDANCE** to help staff set appropriate costs for the products or services we want to sell.

ASSET RECOVERY

New local Financial Investigators are currently being recruited and will soon be taking up posts on divisions. Their main role will be to attain confiscation orders against local offenders and try to make sure we are identifying confiscation opportunities at the point of charge.

They will also get involved in proactive work to target Level One offenders by providing intelligence for divisional target profiles and identify opportunities to use alternative tactics such as money laundering offences and cash seizure to secure prosecutions, confiscations and forfeitures.

Some of the actions resulting from the review include:

- **ESTABLISHING** performance targets and an effective performance management process for these new staff, possibly measuring CPS referrals that indicate how frequently cases suitable for confiscation have not been identified at the point of charge.
- **MONITORING** the ratio of our financial investigators to both police officers and the number of acquisitive crimes and their associated workload and comparing this with other forces.
- **EXPLORING** additional opportunities to increase internal training and awareness relating to asset recovery.
- **MAXIMISING** opportunities to reassure the public we are targeting local offenders and successfully confiscating any goods or wealth they have obtained from criminal activity.

Although our police officers invest a lot of time generating confiscation orders, we are dependent on court staff collecting the money from the approved confiscation orders.

The review found that the amount of money recovered by the courts is consistently lower than the amount of money specified in the orders. There could be several reasons – the value of the criminal proceeds could be over-estimated or goods seized by bailiffs may be being sold off too cheaply.

We will work with the courts and the CPS to explore the real reasons for this shortfall and, as a result, hope to increase the amount of money recovered.

If you have any queries about trading activities or the work to be undertaken by the new Income Generation Committee, contact Joe-Ann Turner in the Corporate Development and Performance Branch on extension 62146. For corporate sponsorship, contact Val Watson in the Divisional and Partnership Support Unit, extension 62211.

A stint with the Navy for Allan's team

LAST year, it was with the Royal Marines at Marple. This year, PC Allan Dean organised another training course, with the Royal Navy in Cornwall this time, for 30 teenagers from Chorlton.

The four-day residential course was held at HMS Raleigh, the Navy's premier training centre, and consisted of an endurance course, swimming tests and sea survival routines, as well as physical training and self-defence techniques.

The teenagers also faced the challenge of saving a sinking ship in a purpose-built simulator.

The pupils from Chorlton and St Thomas Aquinas High School were chosen after a selection process involving teachers and local police officers.

They had to submit a written application form saying why they should be get the opportunity to go on the course and were also interviewed.

PC Dean, who was assisted on the course by Sgt Alan Hamlin, said: "The aim was to give them something to look forward work to and work towards.

"It was also an opportunity to break down some of barriers that exist between the police and young people.

"This was a great, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for them that not only benefited those who improved their behaviour in order to be allowed to go on the course, but also those pupils who had performed well at school all year round and deserved to be rewarded."

Once selected, the pupils were asked to sign up to a contract, agreeing to an acceptable level of attendance at school, commitment to school life and commitment to the good of the community. Failure to comply would have resulted in their place on the course being withdrawn.

Chief Petty Officer Peter Harbottle, Diversity Recruitment Manager South West for the Director Naval Recruiting, said: "This course showed the young people how to work as part of a team, which is fundamental to the way we operate in the Royal Navy and is a valuable skill in civilian life.

"It also gave the young people a chance to see what the Royal Navy and Royal Marines is all about and the career opportunities we can offer to every community and background."

Rugby League

DEFEAT FAILS TO DAMPEN CUP HOPES

GMP/Lancs 16
West Yorkshire 42

PLAGUED by injuries and with several players unavailable, GMP/Lancs were always going to struggle against a powerfully-organised 17-man West Yorkshire squad.

With only 14 fit players and fielding four first-timers, GMP/Lancs had to give away four to five stones per man and found it difficult to stop the dominating West Yorks pack.

They started promisingly and had a well-deserved half-time lead of 16-14 after tries from Birch and Clark (both Lancs) and a 25-yard sprint to the line by captain Ashcroft (Tactical Aid Unit).

These followed two touchline conversions from the trusted boot of Atherton (Rochdale).

But the second half brought a different story, with Atherton hobbling off with a thigh strain and coach Damieon Pickles (Oldham) temporarily breaking his recent retirement from playing to cover for his injured colleague.

Although a valiant effort was put in by the GMP/Lancs players, including excellent running by Carmody (Bolton), coupled with the return of Smith and Irish (TAU) and Meeks (Rochdale), it was always going to be a tough assignment.

GMP/Lancs ended up conceding several unanswered second-half tries to give West Yorks a convincing 42-16 victory.

Overall, GMP/Lancs still have every chance of retaining the Police Rugby League Cup and see the result as a minor blip, coach Pickles said.

He said that with two more games to go against Cheshire and the Met (June and July dates to be arranged) before the September finals, there is everything to play for.

GMP/Lancs: Edmundson (GMP), Swift (Lancs), Clark (Lancs), Belshaw (GMP), Birch (Lancs), Atherton (GMP), Grafton (GMP), Smith (GMP), Ashcroft (GMP), Meeks (GMP), Carmody (GMP), Irish (GMP), Roberts (GMP), Pickles (GMP).

GETTING SET.....

Photo: Bill Morris

FOR the second year, an all-women group will be running as the GMP Road Safety Team in the annual Race for Life at Heaton Park, North Manchester, next month.

Pictured on a training stint for the 5km (3 miles) event on June 4 are two of the runners - the team organiser, Amy Davis (left), who works in Specialist Operations Branch admin, and Sonia Styles (Traffic Network).

Last year, a team of 21 GMP women ran in the race and collected £1,700 from colleagues, families and friends for Cancer Research UK.

Anyone interested in joining this year's team - or helping with sponsorship - can contact Amy on extension 61615 or Sonia on 65197.



TOP TEAM: The retired officers and wives who play on the GMP 'A' indoor bowls team lined up for this victory picture after becoming Division One champions for a second time in the Oldham Short Mat Bowls League.

The player with the cup is the team captain, former Det Con Terry Whitworth, and the team's founder and organiser, former PC Arthur Watson, is the tallest one on the back row.

Among a clutch of positions in the bowls world both locally and nationally, Arthur is chairman of the Oldham League and vice-chairman of Lancashire County.

"We have had a team playing at Bootle Street Sports and Social Club for 18 years and joined the League a year after we started," said Arthur.

"In our first season, we were Third Division champions and the next year we won the Second Division and the League Cup.

"We were promoted to the Division One in 1990 and so far we have never finished lower than fourth."

The Bootle Street bowlers won Division One in 1996-97 and have won the League Cup on two more occasions.

Every member of the team has at some time played for Lancashire at national level and several still do.

* Anyone interested in joining the team can contact Arthur by getting in touch with the Bootle Street club secretary, PC Stuart Pizzey, on extension 63046.



GOOD NIGHT: Barbara Lucas, a member of the Major Incident Team's police staff, organised a fundraising evening for the recently-opened Oldham Red Cross Centre and raised £486 towards equipment and training needs.

Barbara, who worked for the Greater Manchester Red Cross before joining GMP as a HOLMES typist, is pictured at the raffle draw with the Mayor of Oldham, Councillor Kay Knox, and a guest.

The evening included a disco run by one of Barbara's colleagues, Det Con Vinny Naughton.

GMP Sports & Social Club
Have your retirement function at Hough End Centre - and receive complimentary food (subject to terms and conditions).
Call Jacqui on 61796 for details.



The winning GMP team, back row left, Dave Wood, Richard Timson, Pete Smith, Chris Hankinson, Guy Heyes, Bryan Lawton, Gary Corns, Andy Pilling, Ian Campbell, Eddie Bradbury. Front, Dan Appleby, Mark Evans, Steve Quinn, Dave McConville, Jim Bentley.

CHAMPIONS

New blood brings GMP cross-country success

GMP's male cross-country team has won the Northern Police Cross-Country League championship for the first time in 11 years.

Further success included the veterans' team title and newcomer Guy Heyes (Bolton) winning the overall individual title in his first season.

The eight league fixtures were held over the winter, with runners scoring from their best six race positions.

The end-of-season positions for GMP runners in the league were:

- 1st** Guy Heyes (Bolton) 6 races
- 3rd** Andy Pilling (Rochdale) 6 races
- 5th** Mark Evans (North Man) 7 races
- 12th** Dave McConville (North Man) 6 races
- 13th** Jim Bentley (Bolton) 8 races
- 15th** Bryan Lawton (Special Ops) 6 races
- 25th** Dave Wood (North Man) 8 races

- 26th** Gary Corns (North Man) 8 races
- 30th** Richard Timson (HQ) 4 races
- 31st** Pete Smith (Metropolitan) 4 races
- 40th** Dan Appleby (South Man) 3 races
- 42nd** Andy Wright (Training) 4 races
- 45th** Steve Quinn (HQ) 4 races
- 57th** Peter Cooper (Trafford) 3 races
- 67th** Chris Hankinson (Tameside) 2 races

Despite some strong individual performances, GMP's female team failed to make an impact due to a lack of willing runners. The three female runners who represented GMP were Karen Mather (Tameside), Kath McKenzie (Tameside) and Ginette Smith (Tameside)

AT the recent Police Sport UK national cross-country championships, the GMP team battled against competition from 32 British forces to finish in a creditable 4th place behind the Metropolitan, Cheshire and West Midlands teams.

The race, hosted by Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, saw runners tackle a tough 7.5 mile course around Perranporth Beach, with two ascents of Dead Man's Hill.

** If you are interested in running for GMP and getting covered in mud at the same time, then speak to any of the above team members or e-mail/phone Bryan Lawton on extension 61192.*



Guy Heyes (Bolton) receives the trophy as league winner from Ian Campbell, who chairs the Northern Police Cross-Country League.



Start of the national race. GMP was 4th

Riding high

Det Insp Simon Retford (Organised Crime Unit) and Sgt Gary Wade (Wigan Area Policing Team) are taking part in a mountain bike marathon this month.

The Merida 100 is a one-day event covering a 100km (60 miles) off-road course in and around Rhayader in Powys, Mid-Wales.

It is one of a series of bike marathons taking place in Wales and Scotland over the summer, in which around 1,500 riders, professional as well as amateur,

will be taking part.

Simon and Gary, who have biked in previous fundraising rides, will be joined by a Lancashire officer, Gary Davies.

They will be raising money for Marie Curie Cancer Care, which Simon said had provided superb care for his sister-in-law before she died three years ago.

Anyone who would like to help the fundraising can contact Simon Retford on extension 66404 or Gary Wade on 67122.

Regional tennis tournament

The North West 1 regional tournament hosted by Lancashire Constabulary is to be held at South Ribble Tennis Club, Bamber Bridge, Preston, on Tuesday, May 23, starting at 9am.

Entries for the men's and ladies' singles and doubles, the mixed doubles, veteran men's doubles (over 40) and veteran ladies' doubles (over 35) to be sent to PC Paul Bentley, Bolton Division, by e-mail, scratchpad (7834) or phone 01204 371770.

You can also contact Det Ch Insp Gill Mellor on extension 62266.

The North West 1 region has been granted a double entry to this year's national championships, so both winners and runners-up in the regionals will be eligible.

The national championships are being hosted by Leicestershire Constabulary on September 3-6.