



Saved by a prawn sandwich

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Holding the front pages

Centre pages



A cold welcome at Rochdale

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BLITZ ON NUISANCE BEHAVIOUR



Picture: Bill Morris

Every division gets £10,000 special funding

GMP's biggest-ever programme to reduce nuisance behaviour on the streets is under way.

Each division has been given £10,000 by the Police Authority to tailor strategies to local needs.

The Authority is also conducting surveys in each area to find out the views and experiences of residents.

"We are looking for a real change in the situation," chairman Derek Osbaldestin said.

Operations are mainly focusing on youth nuisance and drink-related public misbehaviour, as well as littering, graffiti and illegal use of off-road motorbikes.

The drive started in the half-term school holidays in February and will be stepped up during the Easter holidays this month.

"Tackling anti-social behaviour and putting respect back on the streets of Greater Manchester is

a top priority," Chief Constable Michael Todd said.

"There are many local initiatives already up and running in various communities.

"These involve working closely with local people to look at the issues of nuisance behaviour, what causes it and how we can help to tackle it.

"They also make use of a wide range of powers available to us, such as dispersing groups of youths, on-street drinking bans, confiscating and crushing off-road bikes, issuing fixed penalty notices, referrals to youth intervention officers, acceptable behaviour contracts and ASBOs, which we use as a last resort.

"Many people's lives have already been turned round as a result of these interventions."

* In one of the first crackdowns, 33 juveniles were stopped in the Langworthy area of Salford and hundreds of pounds worth of alcohol confiscated at the start of the February holiday.

REMEMBERING GARRY: PC Estelle Mathieson, of the Mounted Unit, is pictured with a recruit who has been named after her late husband, Bury dog handler PC Garry Mathieson.

Garry died of cancer in January last year aged 41, the day after he and Estelle were married at Blackburn Hospice.

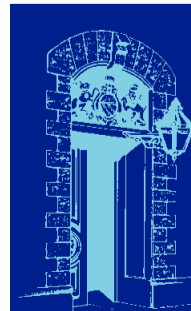
The idea of calling one of GMP's latest puppies Garry Mathieson was suggested by John Galvin, a kennel assistant at the Dog Training Unit, after the alphabetical naming of puppies reached the letter G.

In another tribute to Garry's memory, £850 was raised for the hospice by a Rugby Union match between a Bolton over-40s side and a Manchester team called Evergreens of Rugby in February.

Garry used to play for two clubs, Bolton and Sedgley Park.

"He was a class player and very fit," said former team colleague PC Mark Turner, who helped organise the match.

Last summer, a special GMP golf day in memory of Garry raised more than £900 for cancer charities.



Museum open days

THIS year's Saturday open days at the GMP Museum on Newton Street, Manchester, will be on August 12 and August 19.

Unlike previous years, when the days were specifically for GMP staff and their families and friends, both events will be open to the general public.

Where were you on Saturday, June 15, 1996?

It was the day the IRA blew up the centre of Manchester, the day GMP officers cleared 80,000 people away from the biggest terror bomb ever detonated in Britain – and all without a single fatality.

Were you on duty that day? Did you play a part in the evacuation? Were you called in from other duties? Were you an off-duty eyewitness to the Saturday morning devastation?

Brief will be publishing a selection of recollections from past and present GMP staff in the June edition.

Whether police officer, police staff or special constable, send your memories of that

day to Brief at Chester House, either by e-mail (to Derek Hornby) or by post.

Items for publication will need to arrive at the Brief office by early May.



MEETING POINT: A shelter has been established at Bury by Police Community Support Officers Zaheera Patel and Eric Molyneux to help curb youth nuisance.

They applied to the Greater Manchester High Sheriff's Police Trust (formerly the Shrievally Trust) for funding and received a grant of £7,600 to install the facility in Hoyles Park.

"It's proving very popular," said Zaheera, pictured with Eric and pupils from Broad Oak High School.

She said they had the idea for the shelter after regularly seeing groups congregating in residential areas. They may apply for further funding to set up more shelters.

Bury Council has adopted the shelter and it is now maintained by the council's park wardens.

CARRY ON, GMP

Merger with other forces ruled out

brief

Reporter:

Derek Hornby Tel: 0161 856 2238,
Fax: 0161 856 2236.

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

Picture Desk: Lisa Marks
Tel: 0161 856 2279.

Items for publication in Brief can be e-mailed to Derek Hornby/HQ/GMP (internal) or derek.hornby@gmp.police.uk (external)

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GMP has won its case to remain unchanged in the proposed reorganisation of police forces in England and Wales.

It will not be merging with any other force, Home Secretary Charles Clarke said after meeting Chief Constable Michael Todd and Police Authority chairman Derek Osbaldestin.

The Home Secretary agreed that GMP was 'more than capable of standing alone.'

Under the shake-up, the proposed minimum strength for a force is 4,000 officers or, if police staff are included, a total of 6,000. GMP is one of only seven forces to meet that requirement.

The Chief Constable said it was the best way forward for Greater Manchester if GMP stood alone.

"We are pleased the Government has continued to recognise GMP's performance and capabilities in fighting crime at all levels," Mr Todd said.



"Knowing that the future of GMP as a force is now agreed, we can continue to push for more improvement, less crime and more criminals brought to justice."

Future

Mr Todd said it was clear that the future of policing did not lie with 43 forces in England and Wales, but in fewer and larger strategic forces with the resources, capability and flexibility to tackle the demands of 21st Century policing.

"I believe these forces will be able to work together more effectively to tackle the challenges of policing," Mr Todd said.

To stay unchanged was the first of three options submitted to the Home Office by GMP and the Police Authority last year – and it was also the favourite among staff who took part in an online opinion poll.

A quarter of the 438 staff who responded, however, said the Force should take over neighbouring forces to help improve their performances and benefit from GMP's expertise.

GMP Sports & Social Club

Have your retirement function at Hough End Centre – and received complimentary food (subject to terms and conditions).
Call Jacqui on 61796 for details.

X Dept Sports & Social quarterly draw

£250 PC Veitch, Metrolink.
£100 PC Fletcher, Motorway.
£50 PC Hince, TAU; E. Burrell, Estates; PC Shaw, TAU.

"C" Division reunion

Wed, April 26. Droylsden WMC, off John Street. Come and meet old friends. Any queries, rind Wynn at Grey Mare Lane 0161 856 3529.

Obituaries

Former Insp **Alfred Bailey**, 82, of Manchester, died on February 1, leaving a daughter as next of kin. He joined Manchester City Police in 1947 and retired from GMP in 1974.

Former PC **Leslie Brookfield**, 73, of Ashton-in-Makerfield, died on March 6, leaving a widow, Catherine. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1958 and retired from GMP in 1977.

Former Insp **Leslie Bugh**, 76, of Stockport, died on February 13. He joined Stockport Borough Police in 1959 and retired from GMP in 1987.

Former Sgt **Robert Burgess**, 68, of Chadderton, died in February, leaving a widow, Jean. He joined Manchester City Police in 1966 and retired from GMP in 1993.

Former Sgt **George Byrne**, 78, of Horwich, died on January 24, leaving a widow, Ethel. He joined Bolton Borough Police in 1953 and retired from GMP in 1974.

Former Supt **William Cox**, 74, of Wigan, died on March 6, leaving a daughter as next of kin. He joined Wigan Borough Police in 1956 and retired from GMP in 1988.

Former PC **John Fern**, 83, of Somerset, died in February, leaving a daughter as next of kin. He joined Stockport Borough Police in 1950, retiring from GMP in 1974.

Former PC **Robert Fitzgerald**, 83, of Conningsby, Lincs, died on March 13, leaving a daughter as next of kin. He joined Manchester City Police in 1947 and retired from GMP in 1976.

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

Former Det Con **Maurice Heyes**, 81, of Wigan, died on January 31, leaving a daughter as next of kin. He joined Bolton Borough Police in 1947 and retired from GMP in 1976.

Former PC **Terence Hopwood**, 62, of East Didsbury, died on February 16, leaving a son as next of kin. He joined the Manchester Airport Police in 1973 and retired from GMP in 1983.

Former Sgt **Harold Kirkby**, 79, of Radcliffe, died on March 3, leaving a widow, Alice. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1947 and retired from GMP in 1977.

Former PC **Alan Reeves**, 57, of Colwyn Bay, died on March 12, leaving a widow, Karen. He served in GMP from 1975 to 1988.

Former Sgt **Arnold Reeves**, 83, of Northenden, died on January 23, leaving a widow, Joyce. He joined Manchester City Police in 1949, retiring from GMP in 1974.

Former PC **Alan Roughley**, 70, died on February 19, leaving a widow, Jean. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1958 and retired from GMP in 1987.

Former Det Sgt **John Shumsky**, 62, of Cheadle Hulme, died on March 19, leaving a widow, Ann. He joined Manchester and Salford Police in 1969 and retired from GMP in 1995.

Former Sgt **David Sutherland**, 60, of Dunnockshaw, died on March 12. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1968 and retired from GMP in 1995.

Former Sgt **James McMullan**, 94, of Chorlton, died on January 29, leaving a daughter as next of kin. He served with Manchester City Police from 1935 to 1965.

Former Sgt **Collin Williamson**, 81, of Stockport, died on February 5, leaving a widow, May. He joined Stockport Borough Police from the Metropolitan Police in 1947, retiring from GMP in 1976.

Former PC **Peter Wyatt**, 71, of Oldham, died on January 22, leaving a widow, Sheila. He joined Oldham Borough Police in 1957, retiring from GMP in 1987.

Correction: In the January obituary column, the name of retired PC Norbert Martin, who died at the age of 79 last November, was wrongly printed as Martin Norbert. Apologies to Mr Martin's family.



Photo by Bill Morris

BEDROOM FURNISHING: Sgt Sarah Morton (pictured) was among officers who went into a Longsight bedroom and found a full-scale cannabis factory with lights and irrigation equipment.

It was the same in a second

bedroom. And at another house nearby, occupied by the same family, a bedroom had also been turned over to cannabis growth.

In all, more than 150 mature plants were found when Longsight Area Policing Team

officers entered the two council houses. The suspected activity had been pinpointed by the GMP helicopter's thermal imaging camera. A couple in their 40s and their 18-year-old son were arrested.

* Police seized 60 cannabis

plants in Brighton after a snowstorm covered every house in a street except one where lights to grow the crop had warmed the roof. Neighbours noticed the house without any snow and called police.



EYE TO EYE: A bank cashier in Obermillstadt, Austria, was able to identify a masked armed robber to police. She recognised him by his eyes because he used to be her boyfriend.

FACE SAVER: Cashier Ana Zuric pulled off a robber's mask and slapped his face at a bank in Zagreb, Croatia. Police said the robber was so stunned that he fled.

CHAIR LIFT: A court in Loebau, Germany, confiscated a disabled man's electric wheelchair and fined him £1,300 for drink-driving after he was caught four times over the limit.

OFF CAMERA: A driver in the Swiss Alps was arrested for throwing a speed camera off a cliff. He used a pick axe to uproot it after it flashed him doing 50mph in a 30mph zone.

NIGHT SHIFT: Constables are bunking off night duty at an Indian police station because they say it's haunted. But a superintendent in Bharauli, 300 miles from Bhopal, said they were just too lazy to work nights.

QUICK DRAW: A cartoonist aged 82 drew police a picture of a thief he spotted stealing a bicycle from outside his home in Melbourne, Australia, resulting in the criminal's arrest.

MEAL BREAK: Two burglars in Malaysia were arrested after cooking themselves a meal and then dozing off in a house they had just robbed.

HOLY ORDER: Police who arrested a priest in Bulgaria for selling marijuana cigarettes to parishioners said they found 3.6kg of the drug at his home. They said he was the most popular priest working in the villages of Kladenci and Borovichene.

COMPLAINT: A man in Darmstadt, Germany, complained to police that he was the victim of fraud after being sold £270 worth of 'unpleasant' cannabis. He was charged with illegal purchase of narcotic substances.

SLOW LANE: A disabled woman was pulled over by police in Villach, Austria, for riding in her motorised wheelchair on a motorway. She was said to have been trundling along 'with a blanket over her legs and a Thermos flask.'

How Lynne traced hate letter writer

A POISON pen letter writer who gave no clue to his identity or his whereabouts was traced to his home 190 miles away by the painstaking work of a GMP detective.

The postmark on the letter, personally addressed to a chief inspector who is a member of GMP's Black and Asian Police Association, was unreadable – and fingerprint and DNA examination proved negative.

There was nothing, in fact, to indicate who had written it or where it had come from.

But Det Sgt Lynne Vernon found the sender – and her tenacity has now been recognised with a commendation from Chief Constable Michael Todd.

During her investigation, the Bury officer even trawled through letters sent to Channel 4's Richard and Judy show after it was found that the man had also written to the programme.

With the help of document analysis experts in GMP's Scientific Services Branch, Lynne studied impressions made on the letter from a previous letter written on the same pad.

Number

This gave her part of a name and an address that contained the number 14 in a road or a street ending in 'd.'

It was this scrutiny of indentations that suggested the sender had previously written to Richard and Judy.

After Post Office investigators were consulted, they told Lynne that the envelope addressed to the female GMP officer had been posted in Reading.

Lynne set about tracing the writer by searching internet databases and finally came up with a possible identity.

With a colleague, she went to Reading and knocked on the suspect's door – No 14.

The man, a musician in his mid-50s, confessed he had sent

the letter and was eventually charged under the 1988 Malicious Communications Act, which covers indecent or offensive communications or letters.

At Reading Magistrates' Court, he pleaded guilty and, in addition to a three-year conditional discharge, he was ordered to pay the BAPA member £250 compensation.

Newspaper

The man had written to the chief inspector, using what Lynne described as 'vicious and abusive racist language,' after seeing her name in a national newspaper.

When she received the letter, the officer was based at Sedgley Park Centre on Bury Division, and as a divisional detective, Lynne was given the job of tracing the writer.

Lynne, who was presented with her commendation at an awards ceremony at Bury, said:

"The officer was extremely

distressed at receiving such horrible correspondence. I have never seen anything so offensive.

"I was pleased that despite the limited evidence we started with, we were able to find the man who sent it."

* The man's letter to Richard and Judy concerned a competition to write a song for footballer David Beckham's wife.

Awards ceremony at Bury – Page 14.



Det Sgt Lynne Vernon.



WINNING LINE: from left, Supt Jon Faulkner, Sue Woodcock, PC Steve Allanson, Ch Insp Dominic Scally, GMPA chairman Derek Osbaldestin, Sgt Dave Henthorne and Deputy Chief Constable Alan Green.

Runner-up last year and now.....

Salford takes the prize

A SALFORD campaign that has curbed drink-related violent crime and the sale of alcohol to under age customers won GMP's third annual Problem Solving Award.

The alcohol misuse enforcement campaign, which includes talking face to face with licensees and bar and shop staff, started in Eccles last summer and has now been extended to other parts of Salford Division.

Salford won the award after coming second last year when Bury took the prize. Stockport won the first award in 2004. Runners-up this time were Rochdale and Trafford, who were both highly commended.

The winners - Ch Insp Dominic Scally, Sgt Dave Henthorne, of the Divisional OPU, Licensing Officer PC Steve Allanson and Crime Reduction Adviser Sue Woodcock - keep a cut-glass rosebowl for a year and will represent GMP at the Home Office's national Tilley Awards for police problem solving in September.

Engagement

Their scheme involves what Ch Insp Scally called 'co-ordinated engagement' with licensees and off-licences.

This has meant visiting premises in groups representing police, Trading Standards, Customs and fire officials.

Other steps have included giving advice on staff training and obtaining business grants for installing CCTV and other security measures.

At the same time, however, regulations have been enforced, with staff having to pay £80 fixed penalties if they were caught selling drink to 15 and 16-year-old 'test purchasers.'

Co-ordinating the campaign has not been easy. Salford Division has no large town centres, few pubs employ door staff and the turnover of managers has been relatively high.

Colin Baldwin, Director of Corporate Development, who chaired the judging panel, said: "The standard of entries was again very high, making it difficult for us to shortlist just three of them."

His fellow judges were Police Authority chairman Derek Osbaldestin, Deputy Chief Constable Alan Green, Det Supt Steve Heywood, Home Office senior researcher Karen Bullock and Angie Taylor, a neighbourhood office manager at Little Hulton.

The winning entry was announced after a morning in which the Salford, Rochdale and Trafford teams outlined their projects at a gathering at Lancashire County Cricket Club.



The team from Corporate Development that organised and steered the competition. From left, Darryl Dunraven, project manager Pat Garside, Shauna Carbery, Colin Baldwin, Natalie Wilford and John Astbury.

Ex-police station fetches £685,000

THE former Cheadle Hulme Police Station, which closed last year, has been sold at auction for £685,000. The expected price was around £250,000.

Plans have been submitted to Stockport

Council to build four two-bedroom flats on the Station Road site. The two-storey property, currently boarded up, was built in 1912.

A second smaller station on Stockport Road, Cheadle, went for £305,000 at the

same auction against a guide price of £150,000.

Both sites were said to be desirable to developers because they are in good locations.

GOOD PROSPECTS: TWELVE successful candidates for GMP's leadership-developing Prospects 2006 scheme join the programme

this month. They are: Insp Fiona Butt, PC Tariq Butt Sgt Mark Callaghan, Sarah Coleman, PC Gareth Davies, Ray Heaton, Sgt

Nicola Holland, Samantha Kay, Sgt Umer Khan, Det Insp Simon Retford, Insp Robert Spruce and Insp Darren Taylor

GMP struggles with £14m budget gap

A PACKAGE of measures is being thrashed out to try to close a £14.4 million GMP budget gap for 2006-07.

With reluctance, Greater Manchester Police Authority accepted the tighter budget at a meeting in February.

It includes an overall loss of 216 police officers and 48 police staff, a recruitment freeze, fewer horses and dogs, an end to patrolling the Metrolink and £1m less for Operation Hawk, which has helped GMP buck the national trend of rising street crime.

Chief Constable Michael Todd told the meeting that everything possible was being done to avoid compulsory redundancies and that redeployment and relocation were options being pursued.

But he warned that the new financial year would involve more 'unpalatable' cuts.

And he said he could give no guarantee that the stringencies would not affect the quality of policing and the fight against crime.

Civilianise

More than 80 police officer posts in various departments are being civilianised and there will be 74 fewer officers working on divisions.

Supervisory rank overtime is being cut, as is the purchase of IT equipment and contract maintenance. And a contract for law courses at Manchester University for student officers has been cancelled. That will now be provided in-house.

The Mounted Unit will be centralised at Hough End, with the closure of stables at Leigh, Stretford and Bury leading to eight fewer police officers, five fewer police staff and 10 fewer horses.

Dogs will be run from five deployment stations instead of every division and the number of handlers will fall by 26. The dog total will fall from 115 to 80.

The reductions are in addition to more than £50 million worth of efficiency savings made by GMP over the past three years.

In accepting the budget, the Police Authority said the 'massive cuts' would inflict serious and lasting damage on GMP, for which the Government was responsible.

Conflict policies

Two new policies have been introduced by GMP to provide a better way of resolving potential conflicts between staff members.

Details of the Grievance Resolution Procedure and the Dealing with Bullying Policy can be found on the Human Resources Branch intranet site.

Racist graffiti man caught on camera

Off-duty officer spots him from a wanted poster at airport

A TAXI driver who daubed racist graffiti on walls at Manchester Airport seven times in two months was caught after police installed a hidden camera.

From the captured images, a wanted poster was distributed to airport security staff and other workers.

It soon brought a result. An off-duty police officer recognised 63-year-old Gerald Goddard on one of his trips to the airport with passengers from Yorkshire and noted the car registration number.

Trafford Magistrates jailed Goddard, of Wakefield, for six weeks after he pleaded guilty to seven charges of racially-aggravated criminal damage.

He used a stairwell wall in the Terminal One arrivals car park for his offensive drawings and messages, which were aimed at Muslim and Jewish people.

When the graffiti appeared for a third time, a covert camera was installed in the stairwell.

After it happened a fourth time, an

image of the culprit was captured. More images followed more offences.

Profile

Det Con Andy MacNab and airport CID colleagues built a profile of the type of person they reckoned might have been committing the offences.

They decided he probably came from outside the Manchester area and was possibly a taxi driver.

Then, soon after the poster was distributed, an off-duty officer, Sgt Nigel Taberner, recognised Goddard on one of his taxi trips to the airport and he was later detained.

The graffiti was cleaned away after being recorded for evidence each time it appeared.

But Supt Peter Turner, head of the airport policing, said it had nevertheless caused a great deal of distress to people working there.



One of the images captured by a covert camera of Gerald Goddard writing racist graffiti at Manchester Airport.

Briefs Briefs Briefs Briefs Briefs

CASH CALL: COPS, the charity that supports the families of officers who have died in service, is asking for donations of old currency notes or coins. The money can be pre-euro (marks, francs, lira, etc) as well as pre-decimal British money. Send to the charity's GMP contact, Ch Insp Jenny Dixon, at Bury HQ.

HELP LINE: The Central Police Training and Development Authority (Centrex) has established a new enquiry handling unit, Opsline, that it says will respond immediately to customers researching law enforcement-related matters. If specialist operational advice, guidance or support is needed, callers are redirected to specialist desks. The Opsline central

number is 0870 2415641 and customers can also e-mail non-urgent enquiries to opsline@centrex.pnn.police.uk.

WEB ARRIVAL: Police World, magazine of the British section of the International Police Association, can now be viewed on www.ipa-uk.org (click on new, then contact, then Police World).

ENTHUSIASTS: Police Car UK is a new organisation run by police officers for officers and staff interested in police vehicles old and new. Membership costs £18 a year, which includes a quarterly magazine, and there is further information on www.policecaruk.com. Or write to PC-UK, PO Box 753, Portsmouth PO1 9BQ.



Marriage line

OFFICERS from Bury's Criminal Justice Unit formed a guard of honour when one of their colleagues got married on St Valentine's Day. PC David Smith and his bride Christine Johnson, who works in the admin office at Bury Magistrates' Court, emerged from Bury Town Hall to be greeted by the group – Ch Insp Jenny Dixon, Insp Vinnie Jones, Sgt Pam Hadfield, Sgt Michael Morris and PCs Andy Turner, Andy Coward, Paul Farrelly and Helen Palfrey.

Photo: Chris Oldham

Letters of Appreciation

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

AN EXPERT RESPONSE IN ABUSE CASE

Det Con Joanne Kirkman (Wigan) has been dealing with our two daughters in a case of abuse by their grandfather when they were young. They were extremely nervous about going to the police and it took a long time before they did.

Joanne has handled them expertly. She has been there to answer any questions at any time, kept us all informed and supported us when needed. She talked to my husband when he was having trouble dealing with all this and no doubt stopped him doing

anything stupid. I can't thank her enough.

I know we have a long way to go yet, but we just wanted to give her the credit she deserves for the way she has worked with us.

L.B., Astley.

SUPPORT HAS BEEN FANTASTIC

OFFICERS at Swinton have been fantastic over my domestic violence case.

My ex pleaded guilty to false imprisonment where he tied me up, Section 20 where he kicked me in the face and slashed my arms and legs, putting cigarettes out on me, and one Section 47.

PCs Louise Downham and Mandy Tootill and Sgt Bruce Stead never doubted me over my ordeal.

S.T., Eccles.

Cold Case Review Unit and his colleague, **Det Sgt Andrew Meeks.**

They were both very professional and informative.

They answered all my queries and I have been reassured that this case is not forgotten.

They also informed me that the case will be looked at again in detail in the not to distant future.

I was impressed by the professionalism and obvious concern shown by the officers.

Mrs M. Linnane, Mossley.

had been able to achieve, despite months of letter writing.

We did not even know we had a community beat officer until we contacted the police over this matter.

We now feel secure in the knowledge that we have such an outstanding officer as PC Brazil.

Mrs Joan Haslam, Turton, Bolton.

OFFICER IS A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

I AM writing in appreciation of action taken by our neighbour, **PC James Castle (Rochdale)**. Over the past few months, we have experienced vandalism and anti-social behaviour by youths, as have our neighbours.

In our case, these have included noise and foul language late at night, breaking of car wing mirrors, smashing the rear window of my van, damage to my car bonnet and the contents of our outhouse strewn on the garden path.

On the most recent occasion, the front wing of my car was dented and a youth ran over the bonnet, roof and boot.

My wife and I were out at the time and the quick, brave action of Mr Castle in apprehending the youth prevented further damage to our and other people's property.

I have thanked him personally, but feel that his senior officers should know how I and my neighbours regard him as a credit to the force.

Paul Bampton, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield.

HELPFUL

THANKS to Det Sgt Lynn Dickinson and the rest of the Persistent Offender Management Unit at Swinton for taking the time to show me round and answer my various questions.

I found it really helpful and I certainly have a better understanding of the everyday challenges faced in implementing policies like

DIP (Drug Intervention Programme), PPO (Prolific and Other Priority Offender) and Test on Arrest (drug testing).

Offer Stern-Weiner, Prime Minister's Delivery Unit (Home Affairs Team), London.

SENSITIVE

WE have had dealings with Ashton-under-Lyne Police Station over the past few months and we have appreciated the sensitivity and respectful manner in which **Det Con Nick Austin** has conducted the inquiry.

Considering the grave nature of the accusation, DC Austin has been at all times professional, from his first visit to our house and subsequently when my husband went to the police station.

R.D., Romiley, Stockport.

GOOD HUMOUR

PCSO Martin Taylor is doing excellent work in the Bardsley area. We have had a lot of problems with youths and Martin is doing his utmost to keep our community peaceful.

I have seen him defusing situations with good humour and professionalism. He has built a relationship with a lot of the youths and many respect him. It is the minority who seem to be causing trouble.

D. Maloney, Bardsley, Oldham.

WELL RECEIVED

DET Sgt Martin Baldwin (Financial Trainer) delivered a first-class money laundering course in Bristol to financial investigation officers of HM Revenue and Customs.

This was the first experience we had had of police and HMRC trainers working together to deliver financial training, and I would like to put on record my thanks for the experience and professional approach Martin brought as a representative of GMP.

The course was well received, and many students commented on the benefit of having an experienced police officer with the ability to share his knowledge.

Ian Watson, Proceeds of Crime National Co-ordinator, HM Revenue and Customs.

WEB SITE SHOWED THE WAY

FROM using your web site, I was able to get practical advice and help on measures to improve security following a particularly nasty burglary at a house where my student daughter lives.

The crime reduction officer was fantastic – understanding, concerned and gave an immediate response. She couldn't have done any better. Brilliant!

Elizabeth Diver, Riseholme, Lincoln.

PLEASING

WE would like to express our thanks to **PC Trevor Hanmer (Middleton)** for apprehending and detaining a shoplifter in our petrol station.

This was particularly pleasing for two reasons, the first being that PC Hanmer was off duty at the time and secondly, this theft had occurred on a number of occasions and we had been unable to catch the thief.

Andy Blackburn, Duty Manager, Sainsbury's, Heaton Park.

PROMPT RESPONSE

I WRITE to express my gratitude for a prompt response. As soon as it became obvious that there was a problem between a largely Bengali group of boys and some Pakistani outsiders, your service responded brilliantly.

*I would like to commend in particular the actions of **PC Steve Reed** and **PC Emily Warner** who, as always, have been on hand to sort out any threats to my students.*

R.D.Lonsdale, Headteacher, Fallinge Park High School, Rochdale.

LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH OFFICERS

IN the last few weeks, I have had occasion to call the police for assistance due to thefts and break-ins, all committed by my grandson, who is awaiting a place in a psychiatric unit.

*All the officers were extremely kind and the follow-up support has been excellent. We are lucky to have officers of the calibre of **PC Alexis Patel, PC Andy Shahher and PC Michael Silcock.***

Mrs P.W., Didsbury.

COMPASSION OVER OUR DEAD SON

TWO officers, **PC John Ashton** and **PC Phil Gleave**, came to our assistance at Manchester Airport. We had recently lost our son and had to repatriate him from Argentina.

While we were waiting at the cargo area, it became apparent that the accompanying paperwork had gone missing.

Phil and John came to our assistance and guided us through the intricacies of ensuring our son was released.

This they did with compassion and stayed with us until the situation was resolved.

Kenny McGeehan, Dorsten-Wulfen, Germany.

IMPRESSED BY THEIR ATTITUDE

*I RECEIVED a quick response to my enquiry regarding my brother and was visited by **Det Insp Jeff Arnold (SIO,***

A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

I AM writing on behalf of Pink Parents UK and the D'Arcy Lainey Foundation to express our thanks for the commitment of Oldham Division to raising equality among minority groups.

Homophobia is a major problem, not only in Oldham but nationally, yet this form of discrimination and prejudice is often under reported.

As a result of low statistics, it is then overlooked when producing documents, publications and training.

We are delighted that Oldham Division has recognised this issue and taken positive steps to challenge the imbalance.

The changes which have been made to the 'There's no place for racism' poster, making it 'There's no place for discrimination' now places equal importance on all forms of discrimination.

Charlie Burns, Co-founder, D'Arcy Lainey Foundation, Oldham.

WE FEEL MORE SECURE

*THANKS to our community beat officer, **PC Darren Brazil (Bradshaw and Harwood)** for bringing to an end a situation we have had with Royal Mail for several years. He has taken the complaint I made to Royal Mail out of our hands to get a result that neither Post Watch nor I*

Identifying crime against business

by Ch Insp Catherine McKay, Divisional & Partnership Support.

BUSINESSES are the victims in almost one in five of all crimes reported in Greater Manchester.

The Force has produced figures, gathered from its crime recording data over six months last year, showing that in 19 per cent of cases, crime is targeted against a business.

Why is this important? Because it shows the impact crime can have on a healthy and vibrant economy. It also shows the importance of the business community working closely in partnership with the police at both divisional and Force level, and being involved in decision-making about reducing crime in our communities.

GMP was one of two forces to take part in a national pilot scheme on behalf of ACPO and the Home Office to identify the level of crime against business.

Having a better understanding about its extent puts us in a better position to devise ways of reducing it.

Evidence

To gather the evidence, we created a mandatory Y/N field on GMPICs in the MO section of the computerised crime system.

To cater for this change, we also amended the crime recording input document, form 300A. Officers taking details of a crime are required to fill in this field to indicate whether it is a business crime or not.

But what exactly is a crime against business? The Home Office has defined it as 'a crime against business, or an individual, as a result of their employment.'

In most cases, it will be quite clear whether or not it is a business

crime - for example, a burglary has occurred at a factory or a shop reports a shoplifting offence.

However, there will be instances where it is not obvious, and officers are required to make a judgment based on the definition mentioned above.

A number of examples have been published on the Force Intranet for those requiring further clarification.

All of us will have family or friends whose livelihood depends on a strong economy in Greater Manchester. We can support that economy by developing crime-reduction measures based on the most precise and accurate crime data.

All officers who take crime reports should make sure the field is completed to help us gather that information.



THE VIEW FROM THE TOP

It has been a challenging year with more tough targets to be met. We have yet again made some great strides forward in reducing volume crime and increasing detections, so thanks for all your hard work.

In the new financial year, we face another testing time in continuing to tackle crime with the budget we have been given.

However, we do need to push even further towards making Greater Manchester safer, demonstrating what we can achieve and making a real difference to people's lives.

The focus on cutting burglary, robbery, car crime and violent crime continues to be a high priority.

During the year, the quality of service standards and neighbourhood policing will turn our attention even more to tackling anti-social behaviour.

Local communities have recognised the achievements we have made in the past three years - and I know we can continue to make a difference to the quality of life in Greater Manchester.

• Congratulations to Brief for more than 30 years reporting on the developments that have taken place in GMP. It is a valuable source of information that has charted the changes since the 1970s.

Michael J. Todd



SIGNING ON: Ch Supt Terry Sweeney, head of Rochdale Division, and PCSO Martyn Smith with a local resident.

A cold welcome in Rochdale (for doorstep crooks, that is)

METAL signs have been fitted to seven lampposts in the Syke area of Rochdale warning doorstep criminals that they are entering a No Cold Calling Zone.

The signs are the first in the GMP area and the messages they carry have been reinforced by the delivery of advice material to 150 homes.

GMP's Rochdale Division, Trading Standards, Community Safety, Careline and other agencies represented on the local Doorstep Crime Action Group worked together in coming up with the signs.

The campaign is to be evaluated after six months. If it succeeds in reducing incidents involving bogus callers, distraction burglars and rogue traders, it could be extended to other parts of Rochdale.

In the second half of last year, there was a 43 per cent increase in doorstep crime in Rochdale, 53 incidents compared with 30 in the same period of 2004.

But one woman was responsible for 10 of the 53 incidents - and she also owned up to a further 20 offences committed earlier in the year.

Honoured

Former Ch Supt Bill Morrell, who headed the Specialist Operations Branch at GMP, was awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours for services to the policing of the Royal Solomon Islands.

Mr Morrell took up a two-year posting in the

South Pacific as Police Commissioner of the Solomons in 2003.

As reported in a previous edition of Brief, two serving GMP officers received awards in the New Year Honours.

There was a Queen's Police Medal for Insp Steve

Greenacre, who heads the Bootle Street-based City Safe initiative, and an MBE for PC Chris MacKenzie, who works in the Crime Reduction Section and is a former GMP Community Officer of the Year.

Air mail

A WOMAN who was detained and stopped from boarding a plane at Manchester Airport because she was the worse for drink has sent a thank-you postcard to the two officers involved.

The British woman, who lives in Malaga and was returning to Spain when she was held, wrote to Sgt John Atherton and PC Glyn Walsh: "Made it back to Spain without getting another Section 5 (sorry, not funny). Thanks for the use of the bed for a while, guys. Coming back in April - thought I'd better pre-warn you! P.S. I found my door key."

Fingertip search

By Suggestion Scheme Officer SHAUNA CARBERY

A CONSTABLE from West Didsbury was recently asked to translate a legal document for an elderly couple.

With years of expertise and a breadth of knowledge, he thought it wouldn't be a problem until the document was presented to him – in Spanish!

After a negative response to a request over the public address system for the services of a fluent speaker, the officer decided that it was time to put to the test the basic Spanish he had honed and perfected over the years.

Only one problem. He couldn't identify the two key phrases that had served him well over the years: 'dos bier, por favor' (two beers, please) and 'la cuenta, por favor' (the bill, please).

While retaining an air of authority and poise in front of the couple, the officer reached for the computer mouse and logged on to the modern encyclopaedia that is Google.

Rather than searching on key words or phrases such as 'translate Spanish to English' or 'translate language,' the officer selected 'Language Tools', a function located underneath 'Advanced Search' to the left of the Google search bar.

What an astute decision that turned out to be. The most useful function of this tool is the one that lets you enter a language, including Chinese, German and French, and translate it into English.

While the system is not totally grammatically accurate, the couple had in no time found that they were required to attend court in Spain, plus the time, date and location of the trial and that there would be no further action taken against the offender if they failed to turn up.

If you find yourself in a similar situation and need to translate some text, try using the services of Google's 'Language Tools.' The answers may literally be at your fingertips.

* If you come across something that may benefit the Force, why not use the Suggestion Scheme to get your voice heard? Contact Pat Garside or Shauna Carbery on extension 62735-6.



Volume Crime Task Force: Insp Howard Millington on the right and, from the left, Sgts Karl Parry, Howard Smith, Tristan Gumedede, Yvette Sanders and Eamon McManus.

ARRRESTS for a variety of offences have increased since the formation of GMP's Volume Crime Task Force a year ago.

Based at Pendleton, the team is now part of Crime Operations (V), ready to go anywhere in the GMP area to help with crime reductions and detections, especially burglary and robbery.

"You could call us the troubleshooters," says Insp Howard Millington, who heads the task force's three teams, each consisting of a sergeant and nine constables.

"We are a Forcewide proactive crime unit that can boost resources on a division, using a range of covert and overt tactics to tackle crime problems."

In the six months to the end of February, the teams achieved some 561 arrests for a variety of offences ranging from robbery and burglary to bail dodging.

"This was an increase of 151 per cent compared to the first six months of last year," said Insp Millington, who took over as head of the unit last June. "What we are about is arresting criminals."

"We now have a much improved pre-deployment liaison with divisions we are sent to assist, which has led to improved

tasking and co-ordinating. This, together with the hard work of my staff, has paid dividends.

"We are something of a hit squad. We use a variety of offender targeting methods, such as researching, tracing and arresting offenders, executing search warrants as well as covertly policing crime hot-spots through out the Force.

"Drugs, burglary, robbery, stolen property, bail offences – we target them all."

OPERATION FALCON

One of the task force's own successful operations, Operation Falcon, was launched in January.

This was the first VCTF-led operation and run by a small team of officers and police staff based at Sale Police Station, targeting those offenders who have proved difficult to track down.

"It really has got off to a flying start and resulted in the arrest of 94 people on the Manchester Metropolitan, South Manchester and Trafford Divisions who were wanted for crimes such as armed robbery, assault and burglary," Insp Millington said.

Operation Falcon is continuing to fly and will soon be landing on other divisions, he said.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIVISIONS

FOURTEEN graffiti offenders were detained in the Chadderton area as part of Oldham's Safer Neighbourhoods Project. Inquiries included comparing handwriting samples from local schools.

FREE light timers and security marking packs were handed out from a mobile police pod at Crumpsall, North Manchester, when officers held a crime prevention day.

VALUABLES including laptops, mobile phones, MP3 players and cycles were taken by people in Altrincham to a local Tesco to be UV marked free by officers and PCSOs.

TWO off-licences and three pubs in Moston and Newton Heath were closed by North Manchester officers, working with trading standards and environmental health officials, in the 'Think Safe, Drink Safe' campaign against under-age drinking and drink-related crime and disorder.

Two off-licence staff in Ancoats were given £80 fixed penalty tickets for serving alcohol to under-age test buyers.

NEARLY 3,000 children aged 10 and 11 in Trafford are taking part in multi-agency Crucial Crew events that teach them how to react in dangerous or threatening situations and how to avoid becoming an accident or crime victim.

For further information on Operation Falcon, contact Insp Millington (SIO) on ext 66339 or 07733 314509 or Sgt Yvette Sanders (room manager / operation co-ordinator) on 62838.

A THOUSAND homes in Broughton were targeted in a leaflet drop by East Salford officers and Crimestoppers, urging people to 'call time on crime' by reporting crimes in confidence.

The week-long initiative included posters being placed in public venues.

OFFICERS confiscated six mini motos, gopeds and quad bikes in the Hollinwood area of Oldham following complaints from local people.

VEHICLE owners were warned by police at Leigh not to leave valuable items such as satellite navigation systems, CD players and radios on display after 26 thefts in and around the town centre. Vehicle crime was down by 25 per cent in Leigh last year.

HOME WATCH in the Chadderton area has a new look with 66 sponsored street signs.

IN a drive against the use of untaxed and uninsured vehicles at Little Hulton, 44 cars were seized and one driver was arrested for fraudulent use of a vehicle excise licence.

MORE than 1,600 homes in the Heaton Norris area of Stockport have benefited from property marking and security advice in a month-long initiative organised by the division's Crime Reduction Advisers, Marie Brown and Rachel O'Brien.

For further information on the overall work of the unit or to see if they can help with any crime problems you are experiencing, contact Insp Millington on the numbers above or the VCTF sergeants on ext 68246.



FIRST TASTE OF SNOW FOR HONG KONG OFFICER

A TRAFFIC officer in the Hong Kong police, Senior Insp Amy Cheng Yi-mui, spent three days with GMP recently as a guest of the Traffic Network Section.

She is pictured with Ch Insp Roger Hart, who arranged the programme and accompanied her.

During her visit, Amy went on a flight in the GMP helicopter and watched as a stolen car was located in Salford and two

suspects detained on the ground. She also visited the Driver Training Unit at Openshaw, where she was treated to a high-speed demonstration drive by instructor Dave Russon, and went out in a patrol car in South Manchester with Insp Ian Hales.

One thing beyond GMP's control, however, was the weather – which meant that Amy, a police officer for 22 years, experienced a snowfall for the first time in her life.

SAVED ... by a prawn sandwich

WHEN PC Paul Searle went to check a report of a car weaving about the M6 near Wigan, he found the driver had collapsed at the wheel.

Paul recognised the symptoms. The motorist was a diabetic and his blood-sugar level had fallen to a near-fatal level.

The motorway officer saved the man's life by giving him his packed lunch of a prawn bagel with lettuce and dressing, which he'd made himself, and a Mars Bar.

The quick snack revived the

driver and he was eventually allowed to carry on his way.

Since the incident, high-energy glucose tablets are now part of the first-aid kits carried by GMP's motorway officers following a proposal by Paul to the Force Suggestion Scheme.

It was the third such case he had experienced in a month – and to help other diabetics in distress, he suggested that the kits should always contain glucose sweets.

GMP has now bought a year's supply and the idea is being taken up by other police forces.

Paul said: "Though most

diabetic drivers are careful about maintaining their blood sugar levels, it is still possible to get caught out.

"With these tablets in the kits, we can provide quick and effective relief for sufferers and hopefully get them safely on their way once they have recovered."

The British Diabetic Association said glucose tablets could help nine out of 10 diabetics in trouble.

James Arthur, of the charity Diabetes UK, said: "It's a brilliant idea."



RESCUER: Motorway officer Paul Searle with the improved first-aid kit. PHOTO: Chris Oldham

FORCEFUL IDEAS
YOUR SUGGESTION SCHEME
Ext 62735/6

SAVED ... by a seatbelt fine



WRITE OFF: Gary Ashcroft's car after it was in a head-on collision in which he was saved by his seatbelt.

TWO weeks after Gary Ashcroft was given a £60 fixed penalty for not wearing a seatbelt, he was in a head-on collision.

This time, he was wearing a belt and escaped from his wrecked car with a broken wrist and a gashed knee.

But the 30-year-old from Hindley, Wigan, is convinced that his injuries in the crash at Leigh would have been far worse, possibly fatal, if he hadn't been wearing the belt.

And he said he probably wouldn't have buckled up that day if he had not received the police penalty notice.

"I am living proof that seatbelts save lives," Mr Ashcroft said.

In the crash, his Vauxhall Corsa was written off after it

was hit by a car being driven on the wrong side of the road.

The other driver was talking on a mobile phone.

"If I hadn't been stopped and fined, I probably would not have been wearing the belt on the day of the crash," he said.

"Without it, my head would have gone through the windscreen and I wouldn't be here today."

NEW CAMPAIGN

Mr Ashcroft was so grateful for the police check playing a part in his survival that he recently helped GMP launch a new seatbelt awareness campaign.

The campaign focuses not only on drivers and front seat passengers, but on back

seat passengers.

Ch Insp Haydn Roberts, of the GMP Traffic Management Unit, said:

"Everyone knows you should wear a seatbelt in the front seat, but many people don't realise how dangerous it is not to wear one in the back."

FRONT SEAT

He said that if you are in a crash at 30mph and are sitting in the back unrestrained, you will hit the front seat and anyone in it with a force of between 30 and 60 times your own body weight.

• On January 31, it was the 23rd anniversary of the compulsory wearing of seatbelts by front passengers.

A Brief history

Brief has reported major developments within GMP since the Force was launched 32 years ago. These are some of the front pages from 300 editions.

1974



FIRST EDITION

and a message from Chief Constable James Richards.

1976



GMP takes possession of its new headquarters, Chester House. It was officially opened in 1979.

1977



Policing a National Front march.

1981



Riots in Moss Side...and the introduction of a new type of helmet for GMP officers coming under attack on the streets.

1991



Retirement of Sir James Anderton as Chief Constable - "I've created a little bit of history," he said.

1994



Introduction of new uniforms, with caps for both men and women officers on patrol. Eventually, the traditional male helmets and female bowlers came back.

1996



The Manchester bombing...and letters pour in from around the world praising the way GMP reacted to the attack.

1999



Motorcycle officer PC Raj Ahmed was killed by the driver of a stolen car.

of GMP

1982



The Pope's visit to Manchester.

1985



The Manchester Airport holiday plane disaster, in which 55 people died. They included a GMP employee, Julie O'Neill, 19, who worked in the statistics section at headquarters.

1988



The renewed search for bodies buried on Saddleworth Moor by Ian Brady and Myra Hindley.

1989



Farewell to Insp Ray Codling, shot and killed on duty at Birch Services on the M62.

2001



On-the-spot dispatch from Ground Zero in New York by Neil Wain, now head of Stockport Division.

2002



A special edition after the successful policing of the Commonwealth Games.

2006



And finally... a recent edition.

Introducing a new feature from the pages of Brief over the years

30 YEARS AGO

TAKING command of UP6, the new-styled Policewomen's Department, is Ch Supt Marie Flint, who joined GMP from South Yorkshire Police in 1974.

VANDALISM is costing £7 a minute in Greater Manchester and a 'Victory over Vandals' campaign has been launched involving GMP, Greater Manchester Council, the metropolitan district councils, industry and commerce.

20 YEARS AGO

WORK on a new car park for Chester House has started. Seven firms tendered for the contract to enlarge and re-lay the present car park. It will cater for 560 vehicles.

CHIEF Constable James Anderton has had a request for cash to buy new public order equipment deferred by the Police Committee (*forerunner of the Police Authority*). He had asked for £166,439 to buy new protective clothing and equipment for officers.

10 YEARS AGO

OPERATION Jigsaw, GMP's biggest-ever campaign against drug misuse, was launched.

THE GMP Fingerprint Unit became the first in Britain to be awarded a new international quality standard.

ILLEGAL DRINKERS FACE STRIP CHECK



Photo by Bill Morris

BURY is the first division in GMP to start using new testing strips to check if people are disguising alcohol in soft drinks.

The kit consists of tiny containers and small strips of chemically treated card. Liquid is poured into the container and a dip test gives the result.

If the card turns blue, the liquid contains alcohol. A colour chart on the back of the card assesses the alcoholic content - right down down to 0.02 per cent, the strength of pre-packed shandy.

The strips can also determine if people too young to drink in pubs are disguising alcohol or if drinkers are flouting bans in restricted zones.

Bury Licensing Officer PC Helen Tildesley (pictured) said: "The kit promises to be a real help in stopping illegal drinking and the anti-social behaviour that can result.

"Now there is no need to get into arguments with illegal drinkers over whether there is alcohol in their supposedly soft drinks. A quick test gives an indisputable answer."

The thin green line

A load of rubbish

By **JANET ACKARY**,
Environmental Manager

ACCORDING to the Environment Agency, every year the UK sends around 100 million tonnes of waste to landfill, with every person in the country producing half a tonne each.

GMP disposes of more than 10,000 tonnes of general waste at a cost of almost £80,000 per year - that's enough rubbish to cover 43 tennis courts.

One way every member of staff can help is with the appropriate use of confidential waste bins.

Though divisions may have different types of bin, the principal is the same: confidential waste bins must be used only for PAPER waste. All GMP's confidential waste paper is sent for recycling, and mixing the paper with other materials jeopardises the disposal route.

Good waste management not only allows recycling, but depending on the type of waste, there are security, health and safety, legislative and financial implications, eg by keeping paper waste separate from other types of waste,

GMP's waste disposal costs can be reduced by as much £250,000.

BLOCKS

Paper accounts for a large proportion of GMP waste since most buildings are basically large office blocks. Having said that, we do generate many other types of waste, so how can this best be dealt with?

Your initial response may be 'put in lots of recycling bins'. But this creates a number of logistical problems, including finding space for bins, separating and moving large volumes of waste and identifying final disposal routes for the materials.

This problem has been solved at Chester House through the use of a waste management company that collects all mixed general waste as normal, with recyclable materials being separated for reprocessing after collection.

That means that all paper, card, cans, glass and plastic that are put into general waste are recycled. As a result, more than half the waste leaving Chester House is diverted from landfill.

That's equivalent to 820 tonnes or nine double-decker buses full of waste being recycled.

It is hoped that all divisions will soon adopt this or similar processes, allowing GMP to recycle enough waste to cover the pitch at Old Trafford to a depth of nearly two metres.

MANURE

A wide variety of items are recycled, including unwanted uniforms and body armour, fluorescent tubes, spent

firearm rounds, used vehicle oil, landscaping waste - and in the near future, horse manure will be used to generate energy to heat Hough End.

All recyclable waste generated by our two main maintenance contractors is also recycled. If you know of any other materials that you think could or should be recycled, then get in touch through the Force Suggestion Scheme.

A large number of sustainable waste management

procedures are now in place across GMP, but the success or failure of recycling ultimately comes down to the actions of each member of staff.

If confidential bins are used for paper only, if hazardous and dangerous wastes are kept out of general waste, and if all waste is put into the appropriate bin, box or barrel, GMP will become a much greener organisation.

* For further information, see *Chief Constable's Order 2006/09*



Cartoon: **SHARON SUTTON**,
Audio Visual Illustrations & Displays Officer

Vetting better

Check systems are streamlined

VETTING in GMP is being streamlined and centralised.

The Force Vetting Unit (FVU) is to take responsibility for all internal vetting processes after years in which checks were made in a number of ways.

The unit now has a staff of 15 (including two job shares) and is to take over the vetting of police staff this month and police officers later in the year.

It already vets PCSOs, external contractors working within GMP and those in sensitive (ie Designated) posts, such as Special Branch and the Internal Investigation Unit.

Now the Force is taking the lead nationally in introducing a centralised vetting system with standardised procedures covering everyone who works for GMP, whatever their role.

"This is undoubtedly going to be a year of change for us all," says former Det Supt Peter Boylan, the Force Vetting Officer, who has helped to shape ACPO's National Vetting Policy.

He said: "The FVU team will seek to ensure that the processes are changed over with the minimum of disruption and that vetting requests are progressed as fast as possible."

This year, Mr Boylan and his staff have visited all

divisions and departments to explain in more detail the working of their unit and to take soundings on how the process can be made more efficient.

In February, at Sedgley Park Centre, he and his team hosted the country's first national forum for police vetting officers.

GMP was chosen to host the event for two reasons: Mr Boylan's work in the field at national level and the fact that Chief Constable Michael Todd until recently chaired ACPO's Professional Standards Committee.

It was the creation of GMP's own Professional Standards Committee following a 1998 HMIC inspection of all forces in England and Wales that led to the Force Vetting Unit being established in 2002.

Enhanced capability

Its brief at that time was to provide enhanced vetting capability for staff in the most sensitive posts and to create a standardised vetting process for people who assist GMP daily in a variety of ways - such as builders, window cleaners, researchers, consultants, partnership and crime reduction agencies, IT contractors, pilots and arrest referral workers.

As general recruitment vetting had been handled

by Personnel (now Human Resources) Branch for many years, it was decided that area should remain within HR for the immediate future.

While the FVU was developing policies for GMP, a national vetting working group was established by the Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO) to look at introducing standardised procedures.

This work, ultimately taken over by ACPO Professional Standards Committee, to which Mr Boylan and colleagues substantially contributed, resulted in the publication of ACPO's National Vetting Policy in 2004.

This made several recommendations to ensure consistency in national vetting practices and to allow vetting clearances to be transferable - so that a clearance issued by one force would be accepted by another.

The policy also recognised, for the first time, the need for each force to have a Force Vetting Officer to be responsible for all internal vetting processes.

Posts reallocated

After the ACPO recommendations were adopted by GMP, centralisation was



Vetting Unit: Back row, Bill Oxley, Matt Jones, Peter Boylan, Howard Morris and John Rainsbury. Front row, Louise Quinn, Jan Ratcliffe, Gill Walsh and Emma Brown.

approved and posts reallocated from elsewhere in the Force.

Vetting administration under the control of Office Manager Jeanne (Jan) Ratcliffe, has been split into three sections, each headed by a team leader - Emma Brown (non-police personnel), Matt Jones (police officers and staff) and Howard Morris/Louise Quinn (Designated posts).

It is the responsibility of the team leaders to prepare vetting files for scrutiny and investigation where necessary by Vetting Officers Bill Oxley, Gill Walsh/John Rainsbury.

The results of their investigations are then passed to the Force Vetting Officer for a decision on the suitability of the applicant for vetting clearance.

SPECIAL DELIVERY

THERE is not yet any standard software for the type of work being carried out by the Force Vetting Unit - so GMP's IT Branch created a bespoke system.

The quality is such that at least two other police forces have adopted this system for their own vetting units, with more likely to follow.

SAILING AWAY

THE only thing Peter Boylan will soon be vetting is his boat and sea conditions.

The former detective superintendent retires from GMP - for a second time - as Force Vetting Officer at the end of this month.

He and his wife, retired Supt Mary Boylan, say they

then will be spending more time on their yacht, which is berthed at Pwllheli.

Contact details:

Force Vetting Officer:

Peter Boylan - 62839

Vetting Officer:

Bill Oxley - 62527

Vetting Officer:

Gill Walsh/John Rainsbury - 64085

Office Manager:

Jan Ratcliffe - 62949

Team Leader (Non-Police Personnel):

Emma Brown - 61626

Team Leader (Police

officers & staff):

Matt Jones - 60358

Team Leader (Designated

posts): Howard

Morris/Louise Quinn -

60353

Force Unit e-mail address:

forcevettingunit@gmp.pnn.police.uk



GMP hosted the first national gathering of police vetting officers. From left, Det Ch Insp Alan McCawley (Head of Personnel Security, Metropolitan Police), Liza Clarke (Met's Personnel Security Manager), Mike Shaw (Derbyshire), Bob Lane (Warwickshire), Jeff Saunders (Sussex), Bob McCaughan (Kent), Peter Boylan (GMP), Jan Ratcliffe (Vetting Office Manager, GMP) and Mick Joiner (Corporate Head of Security, West Midlands).

Force
vetting
Unit

Bury ceremony

Determination pays for officer who followed petrol can clue



AN investigation that started with a petrol can ended in jail for an armed robber thanks to the persistence of Det Sgt David Baines.

After two armed men broke into a Prestwich house at 3am and threatened the occupants, they drove off in the family car.

It was dumped in Salford and a petrol can left by the robbers was found in the boot.

Det Sgt Baines toured petrol stations and discovered CCTV footage of a man buying a can, but the number plate of the car he arrived in could not be deciphered on the poor quality tape.

After extensive inquiries, however, the man was identified and Det Sgt Baines was able to establish a link between the petrol station CCTV tape and footage found near the scene of the crime.

The arrested man was jailed for three years at Bolton Crown Court after admitting robbery.

Det Sgt Baines was presented with a commendation by Chief Constable Michael Todd at a Bury Division awards ceremony in recognition of his 'persistence and determination.'

CITATIONS of merit were presented to **Insp Graham Neild** and **Sgt Norman Ridley** for their work in planning for the Labour Party's spring conference in Manchester in 2004.

Traffic officer **PC Paul Merrick** received a St John Ambulance award for trying to save the life of a woman who stopped her car on the M60 when she had breathing difficulties.

THREE members of the public were presented with Chief Constable's commendations, two as a result of incidents on the M60.

Nurse Janine Kelly was driving to Manchester Airport when she came upon a crashed car on the motorway. She helped two men and a woman to the hard shoulder while she contacted emergency services.

But while she was talking to a call operator, a second vehicle hit the three injured people, sending them flying into the air.

Despite the danger, she went back on to the road to help, but one of the men and the woman were already dead. She gave first-aid to the other man, who died on arrival at Stepping Hill Hospital in Stockport.

Irene King steered a double-decker bus to safety on the M60 at Whitefield after the driver passed out. She was a front-seat passenger and ran forward to grab the wheel when the driver collapsed. The bus with 20 passengers was slowing down to about 30mph and Mrs King steered it safely into a nearside crash barrier.

Postman Bernard Sutcliffe ran after a mugger who had a knife and had snatched an elderly woman's bag at a bus stop in Tottington. Mr Sutcliffe recovered the bag, then gave officers a description that led to the attacker's arrest.

Police long service and good conduct medals: Insp Michael Lawler, PC Nia Bell, Det Con Julie Gething, Det Con Jim Houston, PC Hugh Martin and PC Paul Merrick. A Special Constabulary long service medal was presented to SC Andrew Moore, with police staff long service certificates for David Byrom (30 years) and Paul Thomas (20 years).

Law chief's thanks for piloting warrant scheme

A WARRANTS strategy piloted in Greater Manchester has been so effective that it is being adopted across the country.

It streamlines the way police, courts and the CPS together deal with warrants and offenders wanted for multiple offences, making it easier to find and arrest more of them.

The strategy has built on recent improvements in the warrants field in Greater Manchester.

In six months last year, the number of outstanding fail-to-attend warrants fell by a fifth.

Currently, an average of 198 offences are brought to justice every day in the GMP area.

The Attorney General, Lord Goldsmith, met heads of Greater Manchester's criminal justice system in February and gave his seal of approval to the warrant handling strategy.

He met ACC Criminal Justice Rob Taylor and Richard Knott,

Area Director of the Courts Service.

"The Attorney's visit was an opportunity for him to meet some of the frontline staff who have made this pilot such a success," ACC Taylor said.

"Greater Manchester is often chosen for piloting national projects as we have an excellent multi-agency approach to criminal justice and holding offenders to account."



At Minshull Street Crown Court in Manchester: Attorney General Lord Goldsmith with ACC Rob Taylor, Insp Gail Spruce and Insp Cliff Bacon.

WARRANTS - 150 ARRESTED

IN a two-week drive to reduce the number of outstanding warrants, 88 people were arrested on North Manchester Division and 63 on the Manchester Metropolitan Division. Under Operation Pyramid, they were detained on suspicion of a variety of crimes, including robbery, burglary and assault, as well as motoring offences. Ch Insp Chris Ullah said the operation had helped continuing divisional work on warrant enforcement. "The aim of the initiative was to execute as many outstanding warrants as possible and bring offenders to justice," he said.

"Targets were prioritised to deal with persistent young and prolific offenders and those subject to multiple warrants."

Urging anyone with an outstanding warrant to surrender at their local police station, Ch Insp Ullah said courts would be advised when a defendant had surrendered of their own accord, which could be taken into account when sentencing.



HELPING: Insp Rob Findlow, Rabbi Yehuda Brodie and community representative Mike Potoway at Salford's new mobile police station.



TALKING SAFETY: PCSO Gary Welch, of Manchester Metropolitan Division, gives crime prevention advice to members of the Indian Senior Citizens' Centre in Whalley Range as part of a campaign to help make Asian homes in inner city areas safer.

New facility helps racist crime reporting

A MOBILE police station has been set up at Broughton, Salford, to help curb race hate crime against local Jewish people.

It is on Northumberland Street in the heart of the orthodox Jewish district and is open on Fridays and Saturdays staffed by a PCSO with a direct link to divisional headquarters.

In addition, two patrol officers are on duty in the area between 10pm and

1am on Friday and Saturday and are joined by representatives from the Jewish support group, the Community Security Trust.

Insp Rob Findlow said the purpose of the mobile station is to give people the option of walking into a convenient facility and giving a verbal account of a crime witnessed or to report if they themselves have been a victim.

Reported race hate

attacks on Jewish people in Greater Manchester rose by 40 per cent last year, according to a recent report.

The Community Security Trust said it logged 132 anti-Semitic acts compared with 94 reported in 2004.

Among orthodox communities in Salford, Prestwich and Whitefield, it said there were 33 reported incidents of assault and violence.



DEGREE OF SUCCESS

After three years of distance learning study and with 80 per cent funding from GMP, Patsy Lee recently won an MA with distinction in criminal intelligence analysis at Manchester University.

She is a strategic analyst in GMP's Divisional Partnership Support Unit and her husband Graham, a former police officer, is Burglary Project Officer at Grey Mare Lane.



SURPRISE, SURPRISE

Ch Insp Steve McGarry thought he was going to GMP Headquarters for his performance appraisal by Deputy Chief Constable Alan Green.

He was. But something else was also lined up for him, an ACPO President's Commendation.

Steve, now based at Oldham, was recommended for the award as a result of his work as staff officer for the ACPO criminal use of firearms portfolio, which was held by Mr Green until his retirement last month.

Pictured with Chief Constable Michael Todd and Mr Green, Steve not only took home a framed certificate. He also sailed through his appraisal.

A FITTING NEW ROLE FOR PHIL

A YEAR ago, Phil Kitching was measuring the scene of road accidents.

Now he measures people's bedrooms after turning a hobby into a livelihood.

The former PC, who retired from GMP last May, spent 13 years with

the Accident Investigation Unit (now the Collision Reconstruction Unit) during his 30-year career.

He had already fitted new wardrobes in his daughter's bedroom – and when friends remarked on the quality, he decided he would try his hand at doing it

full-time when he left the police.

Phil went on an electrician's course to learn how to install lighting, and his Oldham-based business designing and fitting bedrooms has been so successful that he has recently taken on a joiner

to help him cope with orders.

About 90 per cent of his work comes through recommendations.

Many officers, he says, wonder what they can do when they retire from the police, often around the age of 50.

"I found the answer at

my fingertips when I realised that what was something of a hobby could be turned into a job," he says.

"It not only gives me an extra income but also great job satisfaction when my customers see what I have done."

Ads in Brief

FOR SALE

SADDLE 17in black Northumbrian dressage, medium/wide fit, calf skin seat with padded knee and thigh rolls; new; £150 ono. Wendy McCormick, ext 67551.

MOBILE HOME, 3 bedrooms, sleeps 8, 3 yrs old, little used; on beautiful site near Caernarfon; golf, fishing, etc. £14,995. Alan 0161 427 2069.

FOUR wheels & tyres for Fiat Punto, good condition, £50. Ken 0161 336 5061.

LAPTOP computer, Hewlett Packard, just 12 months old, model ZE4900; 0161 610 0457 or 07984 613615.

MAHOGANY dining table with 6 chairs (2 carvers) & matching sideboard: £250; will sell separately. 07870 658216.

SNOW blades, Salomon mini max 99, as new, never used; £90. Steve 07971 601370.

SALOMON X FREE 9 carving skis 175cm long with Salomon 800 bindings; also 130cm ski poles; exc cond; good for beginner up to intermediate; £60; Steve 07971 601370.

TECNIK elec cooker, gas hob & matching extractor fan, white, second-hand but exc cond; £150; Simon 07904 587311 or scratchpad 12790.

APOLLO 200 bicycle, 2-5yrs, £15; playhouse, seesaw, slide, sandpit car £20. 0161 972 0259.

BRITAX Classique blue Pram, the Italian collection; blue & white check interior. Claire 0161 291 9924.

RANGE ROVER allows 4x16in, P80 tyres with maxi tyres as new; always need attention. Will fit 1995 to 2000 model. £220 ono. Ext 67674

JOHN HYNES, chartered physio and Bowen therapist, treatments for bad backs, necks etc; sports injuries plus many other conditions; Multiplex & other health care schemes recognised; retired GMP officer. Tel 0161 748 1834

WANTED

OLD mobile phones for donating to Christie Hospital, any condition or size. Every one will make a difference. Please forward to Cheadle Heath (B.G.Hibbert, ext 69765).

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

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 Caceala, 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: stevenclozzina@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.geufroncottages.com, e-mail geufroncottages@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; ft, 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 Teguse, 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.

SKI to the door, Les Arcs, France, 4 person apt; all mod cons, dvd, tv, dishwasher, dryer; fantastic view; no smoking; also suitable for summer with pool. Natalie Horner 07795 811604.

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.parkvilliorlando.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 nelip9@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@miltown.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 lakeside 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. chrisheap60@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; £200pw. 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 Torrevieja. 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.freeserve.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 (ret) 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@fsmail.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@topenworld.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 4779. Pcandkwcross@aol.com.

FABULOUS 2-storey house, Kissimmee, 5 bedrms, 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@teletelino.es

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

BLACKPOOL 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 TV8454).

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 complex; 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 054625385, email: carolfardy@aol.com

LOS CHRISTIANOS, 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, restaurants, golf; GMP discount. Derek Birchenough (retd) 0161 927 7752. Pine valley creek.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.

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 interested; 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.lanciennedistillerie.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 806561 ergerac

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. Email toptransfers@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 Lillywhite 0161 773 8728/ milleywhite@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.courtannegites.com.

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

IF you are considering buying property in the Algarve, visit www.algarve-steelworks.co.uk and buy direct from an English builder.

TURKEY villa, detached, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, private pool, stunning sea views, sold fully furnished, £115,000. Andy or Lynn 01457 833923.

CRETE - villas & homes designed and built to your spec by locally established architect in Agios Nirolaos/Elounda region. www.residence.gr for contact details & info.

COSTA DEL SOL property emporium; small, no gimmicks estate agency will assist throughout the purchase process; John/Karen 003495 2939436, email john@propertyemporiums.com.

NORTHERN CYPRUS properties for sale through established agent, one to one inspection visits; Steve Broadbent (retd) 0161 941 3987.

YOU choose the country, we'll sell you the house. Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Cyprus, France, Bulgaria, Bahamas, Dominican Republic, USA...Vincent Real Estate, Spain based, can assist with every step; inspection trips, mortgages, choosing furnishings, health & pension advice, schools, etc; contact Mark or Hazel Vincent (0034) 966 712 440, e-mail info@vincent-realestate.com, web www.vincent-realestate.com

PROPERTY FOR RENT

LEIGH, fully furnished 3 bed semi, 2 double & 1 single; half mile from A580; Neil Monaghan 07811 453349.

SINGLE furnished room in mod, detached house, quiet estate, Westhoughton; use of all facilities, bills & extra storage space; £55 pw. 07980 398794.

BRAMHALL one-bed flat, gch, shower, fully furnished, wired for Sky; £475 pcm. Lawrie Thurston ext 69696

TIMPERLEY, beaut new 2 bed apt, en suite with large shower, family bathroom, concierge service, cold storage facility, health & spa suite with sauna & steam room; 5 mins Metrolink, secure gated development; CCTV & video entry, ff kitchen, sat TV connection; £650pcm. Bill Roberts 0161 969 4250, trishbill@care4free.net

NEW luxury 1st floor 2 bed apt, 2 bathrooms, one ensuite, ff kitchen, double glazed, phone entry, wired for Sky TV, allocated parking; riverside location yet Bolton only 4 miles, M60/M61 half mile; £525pcm. Contact suhail1966@msn.com or 07976 926975.

HOUSE share lodger wanted; 3 bed semi, Stockport; all mod cons, easy access A6 to Mcr; large bedroom overlooking large gdn; £70pw; Bev Shawcross (retd) 0161 975 0440.

MISC

ORIGINAL and unique landscape photography by local exhibiting artist. Images from the North West and further afield for sale framed or unframed, custom sizes. www.wide-eyed.co.uk.

ASHWORTH garden care, Sale, good rates, good service. 0161 962 8176.

GARDENER/HANDYMAN -reliable and experienced, first class results, all work considered, South Mcr area; free estimates. Keith Parrott 016125 872682

GARDEN design & construction, Royal Horticultural Society medal winners; phone Andy 01204 793368 or 0777 3293111, Bolton & Mcr areas covered.

WHATEVER the occasion, bring a little elegance to that special someone with a unique gift hamper beautifully presented in whicker baskets. Call 07900 818403 or pure-elegance@fsmail.net

MINIBUS, all occasions catered for, private parties, airport transfers etc; Bill 0161 336 5485 or 078999 14659.

TILING, stone, ceramic, wall & floor, supply, install or repair; Dave Oldham 0776 2129954 (Rochdale) or John 0788 1820240 (Tameside) for free quote.

RELIABLE property maintenance (Sean Giblin, ex-GMP); all types of home improvement, kitchens, bathrooms, joinery, plumbing, fencing, drives, decorating etc; experienced, C&G qualified; South Mcr & Cheshire. 01606 43447 or 077960 20899.

CHAINSAW carving - have your tree stump (or large logs) carved into an owl, eagle or anything! Contact Tim B on 01565 830914; reasonable rates.

REMOVALS & relocations, flats, houses, shops, offices, garages, clear-outs, part or full loads; reliable service; 0161 724 4920 or 07855 908142.

KITCHING for Bedrooms; fitted bedrooms individually designed, built & fitted, incl lighting. Phil Kitching 0161 284 9053 or 07971 526193; e-mail kitchingforbedrooms@boltblue.com / www.kitchingforbedrooms.co.uk

PASSION FOR FOOD - We can cater for your buffet or special occasion; partner of serving officer. 0161 794 2408.

GARDEN design & garden work, plans drawn, full makeovers and renovations or regular maintenance; professional, qualified service; call Chris Walmesley (retd) 01663 719890 or 07849 799232.

CREATE-A-BEAR parties. Fun-filled children's party, no sewing involved, suitable for children all ages; visit us at create a bear part.co.uk or tel 07752 481598.

PORTRAIT artwork, family & pet portraits by GMP artist; reproduced from favourite photos in pencil or colour pastel; true likeness guaranteed; website www.sharon-sutton.com for portfolio & prices. E-mail info@sharon-sutton.com.

JOINER, all aspects of joinery work, internal & external; Andy 07980 546241.

DOG MINDING, Dukinfield lady will mind your dog while you enjoy a day out, weekend away or holiday; walks etc; £5 per day; 0161 308 3066 or 07947 150250.

NEED extra income? Earn £50-£100 per week part time, work from home without affecting current job; for info pack call 0161 385 2501. E-mail earn-from-home@btinternet.com

CLINICAL HYPNOSIS, stop smoking, weight loss, stress, anxiety, phobias, sleeps problems, pain, IBS, sport, study, work; Linda Sullivan 0161 747 8335.

TAROT CARD reading & star sign charts completed, Wilmslow area. Mrs Lockton 01625 527044.

COMPUTER BUILDS, repairs, upgrades; don't pay a fortune, call Ms Wilcockson for advice or a quote; 0161 366 8941 or 07917 035660 or e-mail thefiles73@earthling.net

CURTAIN MAKING service, bespoke curtains, blinds, duvet covers, throwovers, cushions, free quote 07932 466992.

AUTOGAS car conversions, latest multi point injection system, any petrol car converted, no loss in performance; more miles for your money, best prices. Steve 0161 796 9975.

MOTORAAD Services, specialised BMW motorcycle service & repairs, all other brands catered for; Stretford area; collection & delivery arranged; specials rates for GMP staff. 0161 865 6000 or 07876 777007.

LOCAL driving instructor (police officer's son) providing intensive courses or hourly lessons, with free theory tuition and discounts for block bookings; discounts for police officers/police staff, relatives & dependants; quote ref 999 when calling. 07980 125718.

CANVAS PRINTS - have your favourite photos printed on canvas and make the most of your treasured memories; 0161 724 7006 www.thecanvasgallery.co.uk.

DRIVING INSTRUCTOR, theory test papers, hazard perception, M-way refresher plus tuition. Andrew Bailey 0161 654 7563/07963 828911 or andurs@bailey6401.fsnet.co.uk

ARE YOU a frequent visitor to Spain? Language barriers a problem? Translator/interpreter based in Southern Spain with property experience offers services. Call Malcolm Pye (retired) 0161 723 5617.

PATTERN IMPRINTED concrete drives, paths, patios, wide variety designs, colours; also bars and cafes; Chris Deal 01706 222175, bespoke-exteriors.co.uk.

ACCOUNTANT works from home, low fees, accounts prepared for limited companies, partnerships, sole traders, self assessment tax returns & VAT. Paul 0161 494 0131 (evenings).

UPVC WINDOWS, doors, conservatories, discounts for GMP staff and families. John or Scott 0161 498 0027/077136 34953.

PLASTERER, free quotes on any work, large or small; Nick 07951 057047.

HAD AN ACCIDENT? Not your fault? No win, no fee; can go back 2.5 years to claim. Paul Croft (retd) 077464 82728.

TILING, natural stone, ceramic wall & floor, supply & fit. Carl 07814 366036, 0161 614 0353, plastering@fsmail.net also avail.

PAINTER & decorator, time served, no job too small; Dave Williams 01942 747893, 07749 965047.

KITCHENS, bedrooms, bathrooms designed, supplied, fitted; discount prices, free estimates; Dean 01706 364778/079611 49404.

HAVING problems with your computer? Website construction, virus removal, hardware upgrading, email/internet problems, wireless networking - all problems resolved; fixed call-out fee. 0161 961 7194. www.optimustechnologies.co.uk

KEARSLEY boarding kennels & cattery, secure accom, 24-hour vet facility, heated rooms, full licensed & insured, taxi service avail. 01204 571199/07792 921722

ANCESTRY - your family history traced back to 1837 and perhaps beyond; copies of birth, marriage and death records approx £40. Malcom Catarall, 01248 852895.

PLASTERING - no job too small, reasonable rates, GMP & surrounding areas, 01298 243340, 0161 975 7798, 07742 684415.

HOUSE portraits, landscapes, favourite holidays or church where you married, possibilities endless; pastel, watercolour or acrylic; Jan 01663 762660 or www.janvallance-artist.co.uk

NEED an extra income? Earn £50-£100pw part time; work from home without affecting current job; free info pack 0161 385 2501.

REGISTERED childminder has vacancies in Milnrow area, excellent care; fun games & activities; home-cooked food; hours & rates negotiable. PC9839 Chris Hough, 01706 658447.

WILLS, TRUSTS, inheritance tax planning etc; reduce liability for care costs, guards and trustees for children; home consultations, fixed fees, discounts for GMP staff and relations. Member of Assocn of Willwriters and Lawyers. Mike Burnham (retd GMP) 0161 485 8980.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE, kitchens, bathrooms, painting, decorating, tiling, joinery; 24-hour emergency call-out. D. Halls, 0161 788 9683, 07921 399746.

MOBILE DISCO/Karaoke, very professional; music for all tastes & occasions; special rates for GMP Eddie 0161 231 1771 or 07803 932104.

BUILDING company owned by ex-GMP officer, all building work/construction undertaken, good rates. Steve 01254 234416 or gauik.farm@virgin.net.

SPANISH tuition & translation services, highly qualified native speaker, tuition to all levels, courses designed for your needs. Sandra 0161 427 0310.

SPANISH lessons, beginners to GCSE, good rates, Debbie 0161 370 8064 (Droylsden).

THERAPY for individuals, couples & groups with experienced therapist accredited by British Assn for Counselling & Psychotherapy. Jay Clarke (retired) 0161 860 3738.

SITTING PRETTY bespoke chair covers, exquisite sashes for your wedding, special event; 01625 582795 or website www.sittingprettycovers.co.uk.

SPORTS INJURY treatment, massage, Indian head massage, IIHHT qualified therapist; Taekwondo - Tues, 7-8pm, St John Ambulance Hall, Altrincham, or private lessons at time to suit. Cath 0797 4957118.

PAMPER PALS, parties for princesses, at your home or party venue; hair & body glitter, hair braided, makeover, temporary tattoos, friendship bracelets, mini facials, karaoke, etc. Gill or Lucy, 0161 427 9575, 07979 220 666.

QUEST Marine Surveys, boat pre-purchase surveys, insurance damage surveys, FRP & steel ultra sonic testing, BSS exams, comprehensive reports. Paul or Duncan, IAMIs, 01942 842485 www.questmarinesurveys.com.

ELECTRICIAN, C & G, rewires, alarms, showers, cookers, etc; all areas covered; Stephen Hamer 01706 367353, 07816 845173.

WOODEND GARDEN CENTRE, Mossley (A635), small, friendly business specialising in perennials & shrubs, all gdn needs, incl bedding plants; 10% discount with ID card. Maxine or Laura, 01457 837803.

MOBILE DJ/karaoke; weddings, all parties catered for; discount for GMP. Sean 077960 20899.

PLASTERING, general building, suspended ceilings, etc; insurance work; over 17 yrs' experience. Alan Moxon 0161 217 0959, 07810 328003.

ZEST door to door catering for corporate events, weddings, funerals, marquees, tables, bars, etc. Majella 0161 456 2334 (based Davenport).

FISHING trips from Amlwch, Anglesey on fast hi-tech catamaran. John Shaw 01407 830040.

HANDYMAN - cost effective service for all those jobs in the home you don't have time to do; small/odd jobs; call 01706 829052 (retired officer) North Mcr.

HAIR and makeup by trained model; ideal for weddings, children's parties or just pampering yourself; great prices, trials avail. Jessica 07788 722985.

CHRIS WILKIE offers confidential counselling, stress management, lifeskills coaching & hypnotherapy; one-day stress management and other training courses also available. 0161 456 5643.

ROMANTIC LIAISONS, specialists in handcrafted wedding invitations, evening invitations, order of service, thankyou cards, everything you require for your big day. Sue 07868 722866

DRESS MAKER Bridal & special occasion wear, plus alterations, Swinton. Val 0161 661 6898, 07729 0088732.

GUITAR LESSONS, one to one, rock, pop, blues, punk, metal. James 07899 811065 or 0161 707 7620.

STATE REGISTERED chiropodist, home visits, Oldham, Rochdale areas; Rose Turner (retired) 01706 840617, 07974 743978.

C2 FEET, state registered chiropodist, Barton arcade, Deansgate; all aspects of footcare; Colette 07753 637150, Claire 07989 570906.

PLASTERING full experienced tradesman, high quality work, competitive rates, private or commercial, many satisfied GMP customers. Peter Glynn 01663 766752.

PLASTERING & general building, suspended ceilings, kitchen, bathroom & floor tiling, insurance work, 17 yrs' experience. 0161 217 0959, 07810328003.

SLASH utility bills with cheapest prices around & save up to £400 a year; freephone 0800 7819258 after 5pm.

ENGLISH language/literature media studies tuition, qualified teacher, up

to A-level; friendly, supportive environment. Rebecca 0161 798 7926.

MONTESSORI NURSERY for children 2 to 5; exciting learning & recreational activities, caring & qualified Montessori teachers; Frankton Rd, Whitefield. Karin McKenzie 0161 767 8100.

THE WEDDING? Expert photography at reasonable prices from two retired GMP officers. Call Dave 0161 865 4018 for home demo.

IRONING services, collection and drop-off; next-day service available; all items on hangers. Alison 0161 775 9004/0778 5265314.

WALL & FLOOR tiling, design ideas, quality workmanship, G.C.Tiling 01706 222399, 07932 140001.

DECORATING, Roland 0161 962 7458 (Sale area).

MANICURES & PEDICURES, professional nail technician, mobile service for any occasion; discount for GMP employees & group bookings. Sharon 07789 833661.

FLYING from Manchester Airport? Forget hassle of car parking and collection; retired officer with private hire company based 3 miles from airport will cater for your needs. 0161 437 2006.

FANCY DRESS HIRE, top quality hire & sales for all occasions; large selection; discount asll police staff; small to large sizes, special offers, accessories and novelties. Julia or Tracy 01925 733733.

BURGLAR ALARMS, CCTV, home or commercial, ring Royle Sevcurity, good advice & good price; GMP discounts, Mike Royle, ex-CPO, 0161 620 2303.

ROOFING and general building, friendly reliable service. Mark, 0161 723 1377, 077085 64138.

PAINTER & DECORATOR, ex-officer, all areas, fully insured, free estimates, high quality workmanship at competitive prices. Matt Cook 0161 494 2032, 07951 787827.

SBM Electrical Solutions, NICEIC domestic installer, registered maintenance and testing specialists. 0161 626 3105, 07981 129 093.

SPECTACLES - prescription specs at fraction of cost, varifocal, bifocal, distance, readers, reactolite, tints; choose at home, hundreds of frames from budget to designer; no obligation, free quote; John Thompson (retired) 0161 787 8554.

DIAMOND Floor & Wall Tiling, specialist in natural stone and ceramic, supply, instal or repair. Carl 0161 613 7631, 07814 366036.

TOTTY GRAHICS, web sites, video to dvd, photo enhancement, corporate id logos, business cards, letterheads, menus, invites, 01204 886843. www.tottygraphics.co.uk.

PLANNING a dinner dance? Masonic function, family celebrations, etc? Contact John & Denni James, Caribbean cruise line piano vocalist, dinner dance entertainer. 0161 962 1225, 07979 313505.

WILLS, TRUSTS, Inheritance Tax advice, draft your wills, consider guards for your children; protect assets in the family home re local authority care fees (70,000 homes lost each year). IHT - 40 per cent tax over 263K can be prevented. John McKeown 0161 374 6261, retired GMP & JBB Fed rep. Home visits, discounts for GMP; www.nisnw.co.uk.

WINDOWS, doors, conservatories; from single window to full house, family run busines, 13 years' experience; 10 year guarantee, no salesmen, 10 per cent discount GMP staff. Wardley Hall Windows, 0161 794 1556.

AIRPORT transfers, begin your holiday in style and comfort travelling in a Mercedes MPV enjoying a drink en route. Status Limousines 0161 743 1934.

WEDDING CAR hire, white stretch limousine and executive Mercedes MPV, ideal for conveying all bridal party members in style; includes champagne. Status Limousines, 0161 743 1934.

GUITAR LESSONS, private, one-on-one; rock, pop, blues, punk, metal, electric or acoustic, all levels, beginners welcome; located near Trafford Centre. James 07899 811065.

PROFESSIONAL WEBSITE design services, incl website hosting, web graphics and site maintenance services; visit www.edge9.com for portfolio & prices; e-mail info@edge9.com or tel 0161 707 1312-C

IDEAL retirement gift for police officers - limited edition, personally inscribed cartoons in golf frame; choice of three exclusively commissioned designs drawn by professional artist; Gill 07913 473401.

CHERISHED photos restored; montage pictures ideal for retirement gifts; image enhancement; more than 40 years' experience in photo manipulation; David Parker (retd officer) 0161 620 1663 or www.alteredimages-online.co.uk.

CERAMIC wall and floor tiling specialist; kitchens, bathrooms, conservatories, patios, etc; more than 30 yrs' experience; Ken 0161 442 3824.

EXPERIENCED seamstress, any alterations or jobs considered; Sonia 0161 881 7721 or Elena 07768 861838.

PLASTERER time served, call Chris 07754 725456.

DRIVING TUITION, North Manchester area, learn to drive in new Ford Focus, the best rated tuition car; competitive rates, fully

qualified ADI, retired officer; call Alan Ingham 01706 229557 or 07966 936856.

COMPLETE re-upholstery services, quality new suites, loose covers, bespoke curtains & blinds, designed headboards; Shaun Evans 07836 689046.

BRIDES ensure you feel beautiful on your big day, bridal make-up, manicure, pedicures & eye treatments, Sharon 01204 522725.

ALL home improvements undertaken - kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms, window. Riley 0161 308 2249/07710 443979.

GARDEN maintenance, Tameside based, all year service, lawn & patio specialists; John Gwyther 0161 336 0027.

COMPUTER/internet users - earn extra income working from home; no experience needed, full training & support. www.bossfree.org. Alan Kent (retd) 01663 751661.

BOUNCY CASTLE hire; Joanne or Stephen 0161 724 8474 or 07811 772121. www.fun4u.org.uk

STOP SMOKING - do you want to stop, but can't? Single session hypnotherapy, discount for GMP staff; Peter Woods (retd) 01706 648263; also anxiety, stress etc.

FIVE STAR plastering services, qualified, experienced and friendly; no job too small; Guild of Master Craftsmen member; Peter 0161 748 9440 or 07780 798424.

INEXPENSIVE web design & management; 9 years' experience, incl G Div Intranet; web hosting can be arranged. David Parker 0161 620 1663, www.alteredimages-online.co.uk

VEHICLES

FORD Fiesta Java, 1.3, 4 door, M reg, low mileage, power steering, central locking, elec windows, good cond, tax & MOT, £550 ono, Mike Monks 07733 370137.

FORD Fiesta, 1998, red, 45,700 miles, 1 year MOT, 6 months tax, £1,200 ono; careful lady owner. Eleanor 0161 962 1449.

Advertisers should be aware that Brief is published on the GMP website at www.gmp.police.uk.

All details contained in Brief will be accessible to the public.

Adverts will be accepted only from serving or retired members of GMP and must be signed by them. All entries must be accompanied by proof of your warrant

CHEQUE UP



A total of £720 was raised at Salford Division's carol concert, which drew more than 400 people, including police officers and their families, to St Peter's Church at Swinton.

Each year, a different good cause benefits from the event, and the latest to receive a financial boost is the Community Pride Initiative, a Manchester-based charity that supports vulnerable and disabled people.

Supt Alison Fletcher is pictured presenting the cheque to charity representative Ann Stuart, accompanied by Insp Geoff Collins, of the Community Cohesion Unit, and (from the left) Ann Stuart's colleague Joanne Garner and taped interview summarisers Christine Dauer and Marie Bogdan.

GREATER MANCHESTER POLICING PRIORITIES FOR 2006/7

By Chris Marshall, Planning Team, Corporate Development & Performance Branch.

GMP is committed to fighting crime and protecting people. This commitment is central to our planning process and evident in the priorities detailed in the Greater Manchester Policing Strategy 2005/8 and the Annual Policing Plan 2006/7.

The Policing Strategy focuses on the medium to long-term direction of the Force and provides the strategic overview against which chief officers and the Police Authority prepare the Annual Policing Plan for the year ahead.

What are the Force priorities? Strategic aims for 2005/8:

- To reduce crime and disorder in Greater Manchester with our partners;
- To investigate and detect crime;
- To build stronger and safer communities with our partners;
and
- To provide a well-led and accountable service that is efficient and effective.

Annual policing priorities for 2006/7:

- To work with our partners and communities in identifying crime drivers and intelligence to reduce crime in line with Government targets;
- To combat serious and organised crime groups, terrorism, extremism and violence, by improving our investigative, intelligence and information sharing capabilities with our partners. To target prolific and priority offenders, increase detection rates and bring more offences to justice;
- To provide dedicated, visible, accessible and responsive neighbourhood policing teams. To provide public reassurance by

reducing anti-social behaviour, increasing community safety, identifying vulnerable communities in order to create a more secure environment for all;
and

- To provide a well led, accountable and more accessible service that is efficient and effective. To ensure this we will develop a structure and workforce that has the skills, expertise, characteristics and composition to successfully deliver a world-class service.

How are the Force priorities determined?

The Force's priorities have been determined through the Greater Manchester Against Crime (GMAC) Partnership Business Model process and through consultation. In determining our strategic priorities we take into account national, regional and local issues. We have ensured that our priorities reflect the national policing priorities outlined in the National Policing Plan 2006/9, with a strong emphasis on neighbourhood policing and community focus.

Details of the Force priorities and their development, together with performance indicators and targets can be found in both the Policing Strategy and the Annual Policing Plan.

Local Policing Summaries

This year, new Local Policing Summaries have been developed for each of the 10 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership areas in Greater Manchester, building on the successful trial of four Divisional Inserts included in the Annual Policing Plan last year.

There is now a statutory requirement to produce the summaries and the 4-page leaflets will be made available across each

division by the Police Authority (see *sample below*).



The aim of the Local Policing Summaries is to reach out and engage our communities.

They include details of partnership initiatives, local priorities and contact details for police and local partners, which will improve people's knowledge and access to their neighbourhood police officers. Each division will be provided with an allocation of the summaries for distribution in the local community.

Policing Strategy 2005/8 (2006 update)

The Greater Manchester Policing Strategy 2005/8 takes account of the Government's priorities for the police service for the period 2005 to 2008 as outlined in the National Policing Plan.

The Policing Strategy covers a three-year period, of which we are now in the second year, but is updated annually.

The Policing Strategy contains details of the Force's initiatives planned to drive our strategic aims forward and the benefits to our community that we expect to achieve. Also included are the statutory performance measures the Force is required to respond to.

Annual Policing Plan 2006/7

The Policing Plan 2006/7 reflects in greater detail year two of the Policing Strategy and includes targets and key initiatives for this coming year.

The Plan's newspaper format ensures that it is user-friendly, easy to read and more accessible to a wider audience.

The Plan also includes articles outlining how GMP uses its human and financial resources, Best Value reviews to improve our services, a summary of HMIC inspections, consultation with our communities and key contact details for the Force and the Police Authority.

The centre pages of the Plan form a pull-out poster, showing future targets and past performance, and illustrating how these support GMP's aims and priorities.

Where to find us:

National Policing Plan – full version is published on the Police Reform website: www.policereform.co.uk/natpoliceplan

Greater Manchester Policing Strategy – full version has been published on the internet and Force Intranet.

Annual Policing Plan & Local Policing Summaries – full versions are available on the R Dept Intranet site.

A limited number of copies are available from the Corporate Development and Performance Branch, ext 60147.

In Simon's memory - a trophy for the sport he loved and led



A SHIELD dedicated to the memory of Ch Insp Simon Tovell and his love of snowsport has been donated by his widow Alison.

Simon, who was based at West Didsbury, died at the age of 40 last October of a brain tumour.

He was a co-founder of the GMP snowsport section in 1992 and captain of the team, representing the Force in the annual championships.

It was an activity at which he excelled and inspired others to compete. And when it came to remembering him, Alison and his colleagues on the team could think of no better way than a snowsport trophy in his name.

Alison is pictured at the presentation of the shield with the couple's children, Alex, 10, and Nicholas, seven, and some of Simon's snowsport colleagues past and present.

From the left, they are: Det Sgt John Kehoe, Det Insp Alan Robertson, Sgt Jack Horner, CSI Jean Cooper, Det Con Natalie Horner, Det Sgt Aaron Duggan and Det Con Mark Hindmarsh.

Austria

The Simon Tovell shield was competed for in this year's Police Sport UK snowsport championships in Hintertgless, Austria – and incredibly, GMP missed winning it by a split second.

Out of 24 teams competing, the shield was won by Essex in a time of 740.85 seconds. GMP's time: 740.96 seconds.

A special event, in which the individual times of the four competitors in each team are combined, has been created for the award of the trophy.

In the championships, Salford CSI Jean Cooper won a gold medal in the women's cross-country ski event for the second year running and a silver in the women's combined event (cross-country, giant slalom and slalom).

• Anyone interested in the various forms of snowsport can contact Det Insp Alan Robertson on extension 62564 for more information.



The GMP snowsport team that competed in Austria, with the addition of Det Con Stuart Smith in the red hat. The team missed winning the Simon Tovell shield by a fraction of a second.

Bolton 10K or 2K Fun Run

Sunday, April 23 2006

Main race starts 9.30am at Leverhulme Park, Long Lane, Bolton. 10K entry is £6 to all GMP staff (just put 'GMP' as club), £8 unattached (no club), £10 all runners entering on the day.

Aged 16 and over only. Last year saw 850 entrants. T-shirts to all 10K finishers.

Fun Run - £2.50 entry (£3 on day). Run at 9am. Medals to all finishers.

Entry forms from www.boltonharriers.org.uk or from Insp Nick Howarth on extension 63361, Abusive Images Unit, Grey Mare Lane.

Cancer Research golf day

AFTER his diagnosis with cancer in 2004, PC Andy O'Donnell has arranged a charity golf day on June 8 at Crompton and Royton Golf Club in aid of Cancer Research UK.

"I want to acknowledge the excellent care and treatment

I received," he says.

The competition is a four-ball stableford open to all standards and will be followed by a four-course clubhouse meal.

The cost is £160 per team (£40 each player), and there will be prizes and a raffle.

Sponsorship is available at £25 per hole.

For further information, contact Andy on extension 68426 or colleague PC Pete Webb in the Licensing Department at Rochdale Divisional HQ on 68469 or 07951 595501.

Darts winners

Darts results in the North West regional finals of the Police Sport UK indoor league hosted by GMP were:

Ladies' singles: Alison Hacker (Trafford OCR) beat Lynne Smith (Wythenshawe).

Ladies' doubles: Lynne Smith and her daughter Natalie (Bradford Park) beat Alison Hacker and Ruth Brown (Bolton).

Men's doubles: Harry Kearney (Oldham) and Russ Arpino (Trafford) beat Cheshire pair Karl Ellis and Colin Plover.

Mixed doubles: Ruth Brown and Russ Arpino lost to a Cheshire pair.

GMP golf fixtures for 2006

Tues, May 2: 10.00-10.30 & 13.30-15.30, Singles Medal Comp.

Tues, June 6: 10.00-10.30 & 13.30-15.30, 3 Person Team Comp.

Mon, July 24: 10.00-10.30 & 13.30-15.30, Chief Con's Cup - Singles medal.

Thurs, July 27: 14.00, Lancs v GMP at Garstang GC.

Tues, Aug 1: 13.30-15.30, Don Mac - Pairs stableford.

Mon, Aug 7: 16.30, Cheadle GC v GMP at Cheadle GC.

Tues, Aug 22: 13.30-15.30 TBC - Singles Medal Comp or Hart Trophy home fixture - dependant on draw.

Mon, Sept 4: 14.00-15.00, GMP v Pensioners.

Tues, Sept 19: 13.30-15.30, Captain's Day - Pairs stableford.

All fixtures are at Sale GC (unless stated). Fixtures with Stand Ladies, Northenden GC & Sale GC to be confirmed. The Force competitions can be booked on the CIH (Force Golf on MI page).

Any enquiries to Det Sgt Iain Foulkes, Salford CID, ext 65361.

Retired officer

A retired officer is wanted to be the 'face of a busy Stockport company delivering small merchandise across the North West.

Either two drivers working three days 9 to 5.30 with one hour for lunch, salary negotiable from £5.5 per hour – or one driver working five days (37.5 hours) at a salary negotiable from £10,000 per annum. Car available for deliveries and collections, or 33p per mile using own car.

Write with cv to: Mark Dynes, Managing Director, Pantheon (UK) Ltd, 2nd Floor, Princess Chambers, 2 Brown Street, Stockport. SK1 1RS.



Damieon Pickles: Playing for 25 years.

AFTER SCORING 50 TRIES (and setting a club record), DAMIEON HAS FINALLY HUNG UP HIS BOOTS

RETIREMENT has come at the age of 35 for PC Damieon Pickles. Not from the police, but from playing Rugby League.

He made 150 first team semi-pro appearances for clubs such as Halifax, Huddersfield, Swinton, Hunslet and Bramley – and since joining GMP in 2002, the former plumber has been one of the Force's most enthusiastic and experienced players.

But Damieon, who is currently based in Oldham Custody Office, has

reluctantly decided his playing days are over.

He is to continue as coach with the combined GMP/Lancs team formed last year and he has switched from player to coach with the British police squad, which goes to Serbia next month on a seven-day playing tour.

He will also be helping to coach the British squad for the police world cup tournament being hosted by Australia in 2008.

But there will be no more competitive running and

tackling. "I've been playing since the age of 10 and I reckon that after a quarter of a century, the time has come to quit," he said.

In his club days, Damieon scored 50 tries, and he set a milestone when he was with Bramley in 1995 by scoring five tries, breaking a club record that had stood for 90 years.

In 1993, he had a moment of TV fame when he was playing for Halifax, scoring a try in the first five minutes of a match against St Helens being televised live by Sky.

ACC leads World Cup operation

ACC Specialist Operations Stephen Thomas is to head England's anti-hooligan operations at the World Cup finals in Germany this summer.

He has been appointed ACPO's new leader on football issues, taking over from David Swift who relinquished the position to become Chief Constable of Staffordshire.

Mr Thomas and the Home Office jointly manage the new UK Football Policing Unit to improve the reputation of England fans

and their safety and security at the games.

The unit was launched last November and brings together under one roof the various strands of football policing organisations, including the National Criminal Intelligence Service football section and ACPO's policing football support team.

Orders banning hundreds of potential troublemakers from going to the World Cup have been secured, with more to follow, the Home Office said.

IN GERMANY, police have been vetting 250,000 people working in and around the 12 stadiums that will host matches in an attempt to sift out possible terrorists.

The German Government was reported to be considering the use of soldiers to help police matches.

The law has been changed to allow the German air force to shoot down a hijacked aircraft if there is reason to believe it will be used in a terrorist attack.



WINNERS: For the second year running, Salford Division's six school-based officers organised a five-a-side football tournament in which 70 pupils took part. The tournament is now expected to become an annual event.

Pictured with a group of winning pupils are, from the left, PC Keiley Pinder (Swinton), PC Paul Scott (Broughton), PC Bill Phillips (Walkden), a referee, PC Shaun Concah (Little Hulton), PC Andy Clarke (Buile Hill) and at the front, PC Lucy Tustin.

No 1 COPPERPOT LOTTERY WINNERS - MARCH

£2,000 John Stafford (GMP)

£1,000 Peter Ashworth (retired)

£500 Roger Marshall (Thames Valley)

£250 Cyril Duncan (retd) & Gary Welch (GMP)

£100 Keith Jardine (GMP)
David Truman (retd)
Ranvir Dosanjh (Leicestershire)
Yvonne Marshall (Leicestershire)
Alan Redhead (retd)

£50 Sindy Clark (Thames Valley)
Paul Baggott (Leicestershire)
Tony Williams (North Wales)
Kathryn Darbyshire (retd)
Patricia King (GMP)
Judith Bellini (GMP)
Christopher Grayshon (GMP)
Roger Hardiman (GMP)
Sandra Callender (GMP)
Adrian Tew (Gwent)
David Corcoran (retd)
Ursula Jackson (retd)
Paul Bassett (North Wales)
James Saunders (GMP)
Stephen Bardsley (GMP)