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Trainee officers tackle traffic offences
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Eid policing helps family atmosphere
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IN a reconstruction for BBC Crimewatch, Det Con Carolann Eaton, of GMP's Major Incident Team, stands in a house in Cheadle Hulme where five paintings and sketches by L. S. Lowry worth more than £1.4m were stolen.

An armed gang tied up the owner and threatened his wife and two-year-old daughter after knocking on the front door at 7.50am.

Along with the artwork, Lowry's palette and brushes, value unknown, were also taken.

Officers raided several addresses in Hyde and Denton last month. Four men arrested on suspicion of robbery are on bail.

PHOTO: BILL MORRIS

Body-in-cellar murder team praised by judge

A HIGH COURT judge asked for the transcript of a murder trial involving GMP's Major Incident Team to be passed to Chief Constable Michael Todd last month.

Mr Justice Holland said he wanted Mr Todd to be officially informed because he had been so impressed with the way the case had been investigated.

The judge said at Manchester Crown Court that officers from Syndicate 8 of the Major Incident Team had done a vast amount of

work in bringing what started as a missing person case to a murder trial.

The case involved a man who stabbed a woman to death at their rented home in Rochdale and buried her body in the cellar. It remained undiscovered for eight years.

Neil Flewitt QC, prosecuting, named five officers who he said ought to be recognised for their work.

They were former Det Ch Insp John Dineen, who is now the

Force Vetting Officer, Acting Det Ch Insp David Lever, Det Sgt Darren Meeks, Det Con Tony Hope and Det Con Andrew Jameson.

The judge said: "The Chief Constable should look very carefully at this."

He said hard work had gone into seeking witnesses who could speak from personal knowledge of what had happened at the house where the murder was committed.

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THE VIEW FROM THE TOP

WHERE has this year gone? Christmas seems to come around even more quickly every year. This is the time when I find myself thinking about all of the events of the last year and the challenges of the year ahead.

Leading GMP this year has made me feel extremely proud of our men and women who continually deal with so many difficult events and strive to reduce crime, who make Greater Manchester a safer place to live and work and make a real difference to so many people's lives.

We all know that police work is hard and at times dangerous, and during the year I have met with and spoken to colleagues who have suffered injury as a result of doing the job. I have also been

pleased to be able to give out numerous commendations and awards to many of our people who have done absolutely outstanding things, showing professionalism, dedication, bravery and saving lives.

I have said before that we are not always good at rewarding our people for doing a great job, and it is frustrating for all of us when valuable work goes unrecognised and unrewarded.

This year, we were able to redress the balance with the introduction of the first Chief Constable's Excellence Awards, which gave me the opportunity to recognise and celebrate some of the outstanding work that you and your colleagues are doing, and your

contribution towards 'fighting crime and protecting the people' of Greater Manchester.

Thank you for all you have done this year and for what you will do in the year ahead. As the year draws to a close, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank your families and loved ones.

I know that policing has an impact on them as well and that they give you the support to carry on doing an extremely difficult and demanding job.

I would like to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year

Michael J. Todd

Bienvenido a Manchester!

MUCHAS GRACIAS: A commendation from Det Ch Supt Steve Heywood for Insp Jefe Carlos Del Valle marked successful police collaboration between Manchester and Madrid.



FOLLOWING an international operation to rescue a kidnapped 17-year-old girl, Spanish police officers who assisted GMP's Serious and Organised Crime Group were welcomed to Manchester last month.

The Romanian girl was seized in the Manchester area in September and investigations showed she had probably been taken to Spain.

Liaising with the Serious and Organised Crime Agency and Interpol, SOCG detectives flew to Madrid.

Despite the short notice, the GMP officers were able to work closely with their Spanish counterparts, find the girl and return her to the UK. Arrests were also made.

Det Ch Insp John Lyons said: "Though our visit was impromptu, the Spanish officers were extremely helpful, despite their involvement in equally important work.

"The exchange of information was excellent and they showed commitment, professionalism, dedication

and patience during our time working with them.

"Despite the language barrier, they worked hard to understand and communicate with us, making us feel welcome and part of the team."

Last month, when three officers from the Comisaria General de Policia Judicial visited GMP, Insp Jefe Carlos Del Valle received a commendation from Det Ch Supt Steve Heywood, head of the Serious Crime Division.

"This was an excellent example of two police forces from different countries working together," Det Ch Supt Heywood said.

"Creating these strong professional relationships with our European partners is crucial in fighting serious and organised crime."

The wording of the commendation certificate presented to the officer was translated into Spanish by PC Duncan Shuttleworth (Corporate Development), who has a degree in Hispanic studies.

brief

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Next issue: January 10
Deadline: December 12

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

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

Brief can be read on the web at:
www.gmp.police.uk/mainsite/pages/brief.htm

Behind the headlines, TV follows murder team

A DOCUMENTARY about a GMP murder investigation was shown on BBC3 in October.

Honour Kills followed Det Supt Martin Bottomley and his officers as they worked to trace and convict a man who killed his wife and three children last year at their home in Cheadle Hulme.

The TV team shadowed detectives through every stage of the investigation, from the discovery of the bodies, to Rahan Arshad's arrest on his return from Thailand where he had fled, and

finally to his conviction.

It showed the meticulous work that goes into investigating a murder and the obstacles officers often need to overcome.

Det Supt Bottomley said: "The documentary crew was with us for the whole of the investigation and the programme showed the hard work my team put in.

"It was one of the most brutal and devastating murders I have ever dealt with. We were all affected by the depravity of this crime.

"What is even more horrifying is that we now know that Arshad feels totally justified in what he did and believed that his wife had brought it all on herself."

Arshad, 37, was convicted in March of four counts of murder.

He was jailed for life and told that he would never be released.

He murdered his wife and children with a baseball bat, claiming it was an 'honour' killing because his wife had been having an affair and had brought shame on the family.



KEY EVENT: Insp Faz Zaman accepts the keys to a police post in the Manchester BBC building from Facilities Manager Peter Gillings. With them (from left) are Crime Reduction Adviser PC Stuart Pizzey, PCSO Jacob Eaton, Security Manager Lee Taylor and Sgt Pat McKee.

PHOTO: BILL MORRIS.



JAILHOUSE CROC: An 8ft crocodile spent a night in police cells in Australia's Northern Territory for menacing fishermen.

CRIME WATCH: Three Romanian girls were arrested in Germany posing as store detectives. They had developed a skill for spotting shoplifters in a Munich department store. Then, with fake IDs, they would stop the thieves outside the store, make them hand over stolen items and let them off with a 'caution.'

ILLEGAL TENDER: A shopper at a grocery store in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was arrested after he flew into a rage when an assistant refused to accept a \$1 million dollar note, supposedly worth around £500,000. The \$100 bill is the largest note in the US.

GRAVE CONCERN: An 81-year-old woman was rescued by police while riding in her electric wheelchair the wrong way on a motorway near Nuremburg, Germany. She told them she was en route to visit a cemetery.

TEST DRIVE: A driver in Bulgaria lost her licence three hours after passing her test because she went for a celebration drink with her instructor. Police in Sofia stopped the 23-year-old for erratic driving and found she was three times over the limit. So was the instructor.

STEALS ON WHEELS: A burglar in a wheelchair was arrested after officers saw him with a chisel and a screwdriver trying to open an office front door in Saarbrücken, Germany.

RED ALERT: Two robbers armed with carrier bags containing bottles of tomato ketchup held up a car carrying supermarket takings in Athens. They jumped out of bushes, threw the bags at the windscreen to stop the car and fled on a motorcycle with £280.

And nearer home.....

RUSH JOB: A man stole a bicycle so that he wouldn't be late arriving at Reading magistrates' court....where he was due to appear on a charge of burglary.

Here is the news...

A policing team has moved into the BBC

BROADCASTING police messages should be easier from now on for Manchester city centre's Neighbourhood Policing Team.

They have been provided with a base inside the BBC's Manchester headquarters on Oxford Road.

The police post was offered following discussions between PC Stuart Pizzey, Crime Reduction Adviser for the city centre, and the BBC's Security Manager, Lee Taylor.

"Lee arranges for us to park a mobile police station at the BBC for our student freshers' weeks,"

said Stuart.

"I was discussing plans with him when I asked if there happened to be any space that could be made available for our Neighbourhood team.

"The next thing, Lee had liaised with BBC management and the result is an excellent room

located on a busy route in and out of the city centre, an ideal location."

Jan Healey, BBC Service Manager for Manchester, said: "It will not only be a useful facility for the police and general public, but will also help to reassure our own staff."

DISABLED BADGE CHEATS FINED

ILLEGAL use of disabled parking badges was highlighted by a judge last month.

Deputy district judge Duncan Birrell said: "It's my experience that Manchester seems to be awash with these badges."

He fined five permit cheats at Manchester Magistrates' Court, including a teacher who used her dead mother's badge.

She was fined £170 with £200 costs.

A man from Worsley caught using a badge a friend gave

him 10 years ago was fined £350 with £300 costs.

A mother and daughter from Rochdale were fined £550 between them and ordered to pay costs of £200 each.

And a woman from Leeds who claimed it was the first time she had used a badge was fined £250 with £294 costs.

Sweeps

AT BOLTON, a joint operation by police, the local

council and National Car Parks last month resulted in 52 disabled badges being confiscated and 45 drivers issued with summonses.

Nine other people illegally using badges - some of them forgeries - were arrested for these and further offences.

The operation followed a sweep at Bolton earlier this year in which 44 badges were confiscated and 36 people summonsed, with a further eight arrested for associated offences.

The 36 summonsed were subsequently fined a total of £5,000.

Bolton Council has now introduced new blue badges for disabled drivers.

A hologram has been added, making them harder to forge.

NCP spokesman Tim Cowen said: "There is a problem with blue badge misuse throughout the UK.

"Bolton police and the council have taken the lead in showing how to crack down on the problem."



Letters of Appreciation

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

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

TIRED, DISTRESSED, ROBBED – THEN AIRPORT OFFICERS CAME TO MY RESCUE

I HAD just returned from an overnight flight from Hong Kong and on entering Terminal 3 at **Manchester Airport** found I had left a folder with money and my passport on the plane.

I was told it had been found by BA and handed to the airport staff to be taken to lost property.

When it failed to appear, I contacted the BA supervisor and, in light of the contents, he called the police.

I was very tired and not a little distressed at this time, but **PC Craig Birkett** and **PC Mark Edwards** immediately put me at ease.

They asked if I and my husband could wait while they investigated. Within a short time, they had recovered the folder and taken a suspect into custody.

Thanks to the efforts of your officers, I recovered my money and passport, not to mention treasured photos of

my grandchildren.

All too often, one hears criticism of the police, yet my experience showed the professional skill, dedication and quality of your staff.

*Mrs B. M. Mackenzie,
Churchdown,
Gloucester.*

VICTIM PUT AT EASE

I HAD the pleasure of working with **Det Con Kevin Telford** and **PC Sally Skellern (Wigan)** when I was supporting a rape victim through a video interview. The victim had tried to do the interview on two occasions, but was unable to. She was very nervous about doing it, especially when she knew a male officer was conducting the video. But she managed to do it and this was due to **Det Con Telford** putting her at ease and the way the interview was conducted.

*Gail Morgan,
Sexual Assault Referral Centre,
St Mary's Hospital,
Manchester.*

WE DIDN'T EXPECT SUCH HELP

MY mother lived in **Chadderton** and passed away suddenly. It was an awful shock to the family and very distressing, especially when we found her body just after 7pm. **PC Richard Adams** attended the scene and took control of events. He told us precisely what we needed to do, answered all our questions and stayed with us until the duty undertakers arrived (not until 11pm).

He even went to hospital with my mother, which was reassuring. We didn't expect anywhere near as much help and guidance as we got from him.

He was prepared to go out of his way to help in a difficult situation and there aren't many people who would do that these days.

*Mrs Pauline Sheila Kabani,
Altrincham.*

OVER AND ABOVE HIS DUTY

MY daughter, aged 13, had been experimenting with cannabis and generally displaying defiant behaviour.

Unfortunately, she seems to have found herself friends with a girl of her own age whose mother's approach is laissez-faire.

As a single mother without the support of an ex-husband, I was finding her behaviour increasingly difficult to handle and, in despair, I went to **Altrincham** Police Station to ask for advice.

I had a discussion with **Sgt Dave Curry**, who made a visit to my home to have an informal chat with my daughter.

Her behaviour is now 'work in progress,' but I believe he helped enormously.

I was extremely impressed with the help **Sgt Curry** offered and can only praise the service I have received as over and above his call of duty.

*D.P.,
Altrincham.*

CONFIDENCE IN THE SERVICE

A SECURITY officer at an **Oldham** town centre store was the victim of a racial incident and verbal abuse. He was assisted at the scene by **PC Jamie Smart** and visited at home by one of our volunteers.

He was very complimentary about **PC Smart** and grateful for the actions taken by the Hate Crime Incident Unit.

He told us that **PC Smart** had dealt with the situation very caringly and gave him the confidence that the police service would do all it could. I understand an arrest has been made.

In these times when people are quick to complain, it is nice to hear

a victim appreciating what was done for him by the local police service.

*Steve Critchlow,
District Manager,
Victim Support & Witness
Service Oldham.*

LEADERSHIP MUST BE GOOD

AFTER I reported a burglary, the response was very quick and the officer who first attended, **PC Alison Henderson**, was calming, reassuring and with the highest of professional standards.

Later, we were visited by **Det Con Dave Phillips** and **Det Con Kim Hine** and once again the reassurance, attention to detail and sheer professionalism was of the highest order.

All teams respond to good leadership, so I can only assume that the training and leadership offered to these officers is again of the highest order.

*E. Foreman,
Ashton-under-Lyne.*

COMMUNITY CARE

I AM 82 and living alone. A police officer called at my home to enquire if I had any information regarding a burglary that had taken place nearby.

Unfortunately, I could not help him. He then asked if I had an alarm. I had, but it wasn't working as it needed new batteries and I didn't know how to fix it.

The officer left and returned about an hour later with batteries and made my alarm functional again.

A big thank-you to **Det Con Darren Byrne** for being so friendly,

understanding, helpful and kind. It means so much to people of my age.

You all do such a good job, not only attending to criminal matters, but also caring for older people.

*E.H.,
Denton.*

RESPONSE AVERTED TRAGEDY

MY 16-year-old granddaughter was seriously assaulted when her ex-boyfriend burst into the house, dragged her outside and beat her with a bat.

Thanks to the fast response of the police at **Stretford**, a tragedy was averted. I'm convinced that if the police hadn't arrived so quickly, she would have been killed.

The investigation was undertaken by **Det Con Barry Conway** and his investigative skills were brilliant. The time he spent comforting my family, helping with advice, meeting lawyers and attending court (where the attacker was jailed for five years and three months) was very much appreciated by us all.

*J.F.,
Urmston.*

REASSURANCE

MY purse was stolen in **Wigan** town centre and I would like to say how impressed I was with **PC Fiona Mackey** for reassuring me and making me feel better.

I was going on holiday the next day. When I returned, she took the time and trouble to contact me, give an update on the stolen purse and ask about my welfare. I appreciated her help that day.

*S. Fairhurst,
Orrell.*

THANKS.....

.....to **PCSO Neil Bevan** and the team for moving youths from our street. According to our neighbour, this had been an ongoing problem for the past 30 years. It's good to be able to look out of our kitchen windows or go outside without abuse.

*Mr & Mrs A.,
Cheadle Heath.*

.....to **PCSO Carl Bray** for being so understanding regarding the problem we've had over the years with the 'Adams' and 'Munster' families in our road.

*F.C.,
Reddish.*

.....to **PC Sobia Yasin (Bootle Street)** for attending our Iftar programme at short notice and to **Salim Sameja (Community and Race Relations Officer, Collyhurst)** for arranging the visit and attending. The evening was attended by 500 parents, pupils and other guests and Sobia was warmly received as a uniformed officer, particularly as few members of our community have opportunity to engage with positive role models from the Muslim community.

*Paul Barnes,
Head Teacher,
Cheetham Community School.*

.....to **PC Jayne Marsh** and **PC Robert Hunt (West Didsbury)** for helping with our mum. We were all very grateful and even more so when they stopped by on the day of the funeral to see if everything was all right.

*J.B.,
Didsbury.*

(In response to an emergency call, officers broke down a door and found the letter writer's mother collapsed with chest pains. She died in hospital).

Body-in-cellar

(From Page 1)



MAKESHIFT GRAVE: The site where Dorothy Carre's body was uncovered. A crime scene investigator is kneeling at the side.

Frederick Lawlor, 54, was found guilty of the 1999 murder of mother of four Dorothy Carre, 56, by repeatedly knifing her in the front room of the house before burying her in a shallow grave under flagstones in the cellar.

He was jailed for life and told he must serve at least 17 years.

Lawlor was already serving an indeterminate sentence for sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl when he was charged this year with Dorothy Carre's murder.

After the jury had found him guilty by a 10-2 majority, two women jurors burst into tears and others shook their heads as details of his paedophile past and record of violence were read out.

In April last year, he was jailed after admitting 18 sex offences against the 13-year-old.

In 1981, he was convicted of actual bodily harm after repeatedly punching his pregnant girlfriend and then jumping on her stomach.

In 1987, he was jailed for seven years for trying to electrocute another woman by putting flex from an electric fire into her bath. When that failed, he inflicted

multiple knife wounds.

In a Crimewatch programme, Lawlor was named as the leader of a paedophile ring in North Wales.

Dorothy Carre's family, who had reported her missing, recognised him when his photo was shown on the screen and passed on their suspicions.

Lawlor, then living in Bolton, told police that Dorothy Carre was alive and living in Ireland.

The investigation, however, was referred to GMP's Major Incident Team and detectives started to delve in more detail into Lawlor's past.

In February this year, officers searched the house he and Dorothy Carre had shared in Equitable Street, Rochdale.

They noticed that flagstones in the cellar were uneven and cracked, indicating they may have been lifted.

Forensic scientists and archaeologists then discovered human remains wrapped in a duvet cover under the cellar floor.

The remains were identified as those of Dorothy Carre and an examination showed she had died of multiple stab wounds.



KILLER: Frederick Lawlor stabbed Dorothy Carre to death

Award nominations are up by a third

A TOTAL of 150 nominations - nearly 30 per cent more than last year - had been made for the Chief Constable's Excellence Awards when the list closed last month.

The highest number submitted in a single category is for the individual achievement award, for which 33 nominations have been received. The next highest, 31, is for the outstanding team performance.

The other six awards are for the police staff employee of the year

(21), partnership working (19), outstanding leadership (17), outstanding communication (12), community focus (11) and communications officer of the year (six).

Judging panels are to produce shortlists of five nominations in each category from which Chief Constable Michael Todd will select three finalists for each of the awards.

The winners and runners-up will be announced at a sponsored awards evening at the Midland Hotel in Manchester on February 29.

Uniform melted in fire rescue

THE heat inside a burning house was so fierce that PC David Martin's yellow jacket began to melt.

Realising he had only seconds to act as scorching embers showered down, the Rochdale officer rescued an elderly man who had been overcome by smoke.

PC Martin, who was among the first on the scene after the 3.15am alert in Roch Valley Way, found the man lying on the kitchen floor after hearing a cry for help.

He forced the door, grabbed the man and pulled him outside to safety.

The man made a full recovery after hospital treatment.

PC Martin was treated for smoke inhalation and burns to his head and hands.

At a Rochdale awards ceremony last month, the officer was highly commended by Chief Constable Michael Todd for 'outstanding courage and bravery' in saving the man's life.



TESTING TIME AS MEDIA FACES FIRST TERRORISM THREAT EXERCISE

JOURNALISTS turned detective in the first media exercise developed by GMP's Counter Terrorism Unit.

The aim was to increase the media's understanding of the difficult decisions officers have to make every day when investigating terrorist threats.

Selected representatives of the TV, radio and newspaper media in the region made decisions around issues such as managing intelligence, admissibility of evidence, timing of arrests, when to involve the community and how legislation can restrict communication.

With the growth of the Counter Terrorism Unit to more than 300 officers and staff, the likelihood of the media reporting on investigations and arrests is increasing.

Det Ch Supt Tony Porter, head of the CTU, said: "The media reporting of counter terrorism operations has a significant impact on whether they are viewed by communities as successful.

"If we fail to get the communication right, it can create tensions and hit community confidence.

"The CTU aims to be as open as possible, and the exercise was part of our ongoing work to improve

understanding among communities, media and partners of what we do."

Insightful

The scenario the media faced was developed by CTU officers Det Supt Mark Roberts and Det Insp Julian Richardson.

Representatives from the BBC, Granada, Key 103, the Manchester Evening News and national newspapers were among those taking part.

Feedback included comments such as 'a really good proactive exercise,' 'useful and insightful' and 'well worthwhile.'

Additional work to educate people includes training for North West police force press officers, increased liaison with partner agencies and the promotion of the Anti-Terrorist Hotline.

* The CTU has established a communication group to improve internal communication both within the unit and to the wider Force.

If you have any suggestions on how to extend proactive communication on terrorism issues, e-mail Amanda Coleman, Deputy Director of Corporate Communications.

PCSO'S KNIFE ATTACKER SENT TO SECURE HOSPITAL

THE man who stabbed PCSO Gary Etchells in the neck with a carving knife a year ago has been sent to a secure hospital indefinitely.

Gary Etchells nearly died after Albert Williams, 64, lunged at him while being evicted from his Stalybridge flat.

The PCSO, who was among the first in GMP to go on patrol in 2003, suffered severe damage to arteries in his neck.

He has been left with permanent damage to his vocal cords and his voice has changed.

Gary also had two life-saving operations at Tameside General Hospital after a neck vein suddenly ruptured while he was in intensive care.

Williams was cleared of attempted murder, but convicted of wounding with intent at his trial in June.

When he came up for sentencing last month at Manchester Crown Court, hospital and restriction orders were imposed after doctors said he was suffering from a delusional disorder.

He was told he would be released only if a mental health tribunal ruled he was cured and no longer posed a threat to the public.



£75,000 savings

The former gas fitter, who hadn't worked for 30 years, had savings of more than £75,000.

His eviction from his housing association flat had been put in motion for not paying his rent, prosecutor Vanessa Thompson told the court.

She said Williams had told several people before the eviction that he would stab and pour boiling water over anyone who tried to get into his flat – which he did.

Gary was at the eviction to make sure there was no breach of the peace.

Judge Jonathan Geake told Williams: "I

doubt you will ever accept your behaviour was wrong or dangerous. You plunged that knife deep into the face and neck of Mr Etchells, causing him a life-threatening injury.

"He was a community officer bravely going about his business."

Now back on normal duties with Stalybridge Neighbourhood Policing Team, Gary said after the hearing:

"My family and I can finally put this whole ordeal behind us.

"Having the support of our friends and colleagues has certainly made a difference, and the support from the Stalybridge community has been immense."

'I wanted to give something back'

BLOOD transfusions saved his life – and PCSO Gary Etchells was determined to show his gratitude to the anonymous donors.

So he organised a mass blood-giving session.

Spurred on by Gary, 17 colleagues from GMP and local agencies in Stalybridge volunteered.

They all gathered at the town's Methodist Church for the session, with Gary the first in line.

In all, Gary was given nearly 12 pints of blood after the knife attack last December.

It took doctors at Tameside General Hospital more than two hours to stop the bleeding.

"Without blood donors, I wouldn't have survived," he said.

"I received so much help while I was in hospital and I wanted to give something back.

"I was really pleased with the response from my workmates and associates from partner agencies."

Rachel Hollingworth, of the National Blood Service in Manchester, said Gary had been 'an inspiration.'

It was hoped his actions would prompt others to donate blood, she said.

DONORS

There are 1.3 million active donors in the UK, giving some 2 million pints a year.

The National Blood Service says only 5 per cent of the eligible population give blood regularly.

Every day in Greater Manchester, more than 200 donations are needed to save the lives of patients, says the NBS.

For details of local blood donor sessions and other information, call 0845 7711 711 or visit www.blood.co.uk.

QUALIFIED: They wrote six essays, each running to 4,000 words, and sat six exams. And every Tuesday evening, work permitting, that spent three hours in a university lecture room.

Det Sgt Richard Timson (Headquarters) and Det Sgt Laurence Rumley (Manchester Airport) recently gained Higher Education Certificates in Islamic and Middle Eastern studies from Manchester Metropolitan University.

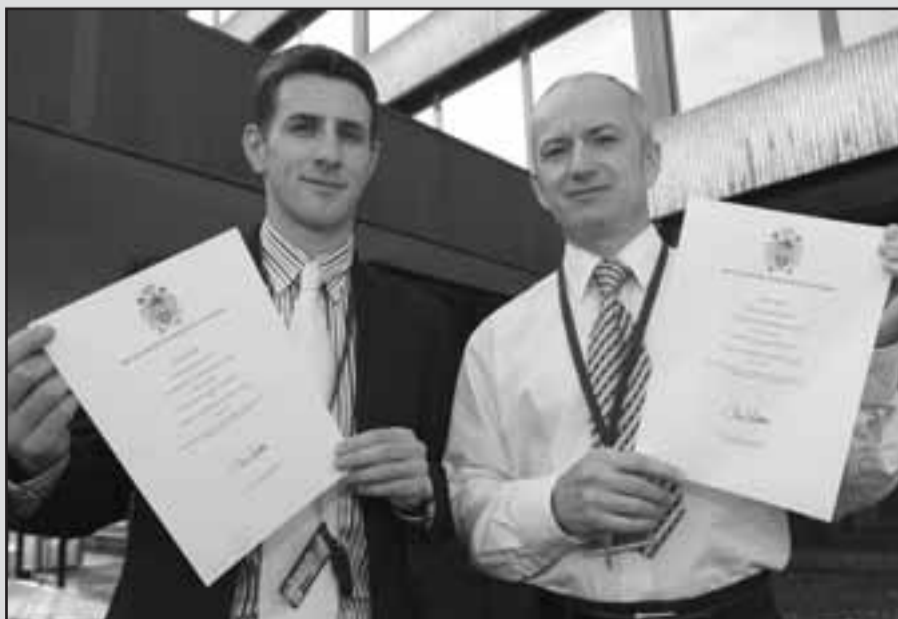
The two-year part-time course

included historical elements as well as modern-day topics.

Young British Muslims wanting to learn more about their cultural and religious roots made up almost half of Richard and Laurence's classmates.

They and others on the course were mostly working in the public sector.

Said Richard (pictured on the left) said: "We both feel the studies will be of value in our day-to-day work and increase our community awareness."





Burglars and illegal drivers (who often turn out to be the same thing) are rounded up

THE aim was to bring about a further reduction in burglaries in Greater Manchester and disrupt criminal activity on a wide scale.

Operation Corral was a one-day blitz across the Force in which divisional teams were joined by officers from the Volume Crime Task Force, Traffic Network Section, Tactical Aid Unit and the dog and mounted units.

There was also extensive use of

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology, which checks moving vehicles for road tax, insurance and MOT status.

Vehicle checking featured in the operation since research has shown that half of all vehicles being driven illegally are probably being used for criminal purposes.

Twenty-three of the 149 arrests came as a result the ANPR checks.

The operation followed on from police

work earlier this year that resulted in Greater Manchester experiencing its lowest rate of burglary for four years.

In the first half of the current financial year – the six months to the end of September – there was a decrease of 15 per cent compared with the same period last year.

The Force's lead on burglary, Ch Supt Steven Hartley, head of Tameside Division, said:

"Corral is one of many initiatives

designed to nip burglaries in the bud.

"Visits, searches, warrants and arrests of burglars, as well as confiscation of illegal vehicles, all help to curtail this activity.

"The hard work and commitment of police officers, police staff and partner organisations to drive down burglary is really paying off, and operations such as Corral underline our determination to taking the fight to the criminal and reduce these crimes even further."

WRONG PLACE, WRONG TIME

by Rachel Bradley

OFFICERS from North Manchester's City Safe Team are among the first in the country to arrest an offender for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Police have now been given powers to order anyone out of an area if they are believed to be involved in alcohol-related crime.

'Direction to leave' notices can be issued to anyone suspected of causing disruption in the area.

Anyone issued with a notice is given a ticket and a map and told not to return for 48 hours. Failure to comply with the notice leads to immediate arrest and a fine of up to £2,500.

Four notices were issued in the city centre in one weekend last month on

Oxford Road and Sackville Street. Each individual was issued with a notice and told to leave the city immediately.

A man was arrested in the city centre on November 11 for being in breach of the notice's conditions (Section 27 of the Violent Crime Act 2006) when he was seen by police officers re-entering the area.

He was later charged with the offence and now faces a court appearance and a fine.

Insp Stuart Wrudd, of the City Safe Team, said: "This new legislation is already assisting us in our fight against alcohol-related crime in the city and the notices will continue to be used in the lead up to Christmas and beyond."

500 - Number of police officers who took part in Operation Corral

459 - Number of homes and premises visited

149 - Number of arrests

167 - Number of vehicles impounded as a result of ANPR checks

55 - Number of search warrants served

39 - Number of positive searches

130 - Number of summonses issued

380 - Number of fixed penalty notices issued

1,731 - The reduction in the number of domestic burglaries in Greater Manchester in the six months to the end of September



Traffic duties for student officers at Bury.
Pictures by Bill Morris.

Trainee officers target law-breakers on the roads

By Shelley Armstrong

In a training exercise in public, 15 student officers at Bury stopped drivers who were using mobile phones at the wheel, failed to wear seatbelts or had bogus licence plates.

The exercises are part of the student officers' ongoing training to become fully-fledged officers.

They patrol in public areas with tutors and training staff on hand to advise and assist them.

Previously, this type of training was carried out in a controlled environment at

police training centres.

But with the establishment last year of the Initial Police Learning and Development Programme, student officers are now trained in the communities where they will eventually work.

Sgt Melita Worswick (Learning and Development Branch) said: "These types of training exercises are an excellent way of boosting the confidence of student officers.

"Divisional problems in the local community can be tackled without having to take

experienced officers away from operational duties.

"The exercises also allow us to examine the practical knowledge of the student officers in relation to everyday policing issues and incidents, since community engagement is an important part of their development."

Other exercises for the trainee officers include role-playing scenarios focusing on personal safety, entering premises, conducting stop-searches and drug questioning.



FIGURE OF THANKS: When student officers undergo training at various venues around Greater Manchester, a thank-you contribution – such as books for the library – is usually made by Learning and Development Branch.

Recently, Cheadle House Hotel, near Stockport, was made available free for a day of talks and presentations to be given by recruits from

West Didsbury Area Training Base.

This time, the Force's thanks took larger-than-usual form – a carved barn owl made from an oak stump from the Queen's Sandringham Estate in Norfolk.

Now standing in the hotel foyer, it was commissioned from retired Ch Supt Tim Burgess, former head of Learning and Development

Branch, who has a new career as a chainsaw wood carver.

Tim is pictured with (from the left) Pam Fletcher, General Manager of Cheadle House, Sgt Mike Davies, Insp Steve Hall and PC Steve Wroe.

Tim is one of about 30 chainsaw wood carvers in the UK and there are more details about his work on his website – www.thetimbουργess.com

Donations to police charity can be made via eBay

IF you sell anything on eBay, you can now raise money for the Northern Police Convalescent and Treatment Centres (NPC&TC) in Harrogate and Perthshire at the same time.

When listing items on the site, sellers can choose to donate from 10 to 100 per cent of their final sale

price to NPC&TC.

All charity listings will be marked with a blue and yellow ribbon icon.

Publicity Officer Gemma Pettman says she is hoping people having a pre-Christmas clear-out will help raise vital funds for the treatment centres.

"It costs more than £3 million

each year to operate the charity, so we are always looking for new ways to raise funds," she said.

"eBay is extremely popular and presents a great way for people to make a donation to NPC&TC while selling their unwanted items."

To make a donation through your eBay listing, go to the Pictures and

Details section of eBay's Sell Your Item form. Under Pricing and Duration, look for 'Donate a percentage of sale to charity.'

You will be asked to register with MissionFish, the partner charity that ensures donations reach NPC&TC, before completing a listing.

More information on the Northern Police Convalescent and Treatment Centres can be found at www.npch.org

Further details on the eBay for Charity scheme and how to register can be found by visiting <http://pages.ebay.co.uk/community/charity/index.html>.



PINK cakes, pink lemonade, pink balloons, pink tee-shirts....and a pink rose for Chief Constable Michael Todd.

Staff in GMP's four Operational Communications Rooms marked Breast Cancer Awareness Month by taking up a suggestion from Helen Haigh, Training Co-ordinator in Tameside OCR, and holding a pink-themed fundraising day.

Purchases, collections, donations and raffles brought in more than £1,200 for the cause.

A further £230 was donated to the breast cancer fund after members of the Serious Crime Division held a 'think pink' day at Bradford Park.

Mr Todd is pictured having a pink rose pinned on him in Trafford OCR by Customer Enquiry Officer June Thompson, accompanied by manager Diane Grandidge, after he had joined staff for a pink iced bun. His reaction? Tickled pink, of course.

PICTURE: CHRIS OLDHAM

PR(ize) campaign

ONE of GMP's PR campaigns won a top award last month from the Association of Police Public Relations Officers.

Extensive media coverage on how students could avoid becoming victims of crime opened the way to the accolade for the best planned campaign of any police force in the UK.

The GSL Excellence in Planned Communications prize followed two 'highly commendeds' for the GMP team in previous annual awards from APPRO.

It brought with it a trophy and a £1,500 bursary.

The student campaign, led by Acting Assistant Head of PR, Laura Bimpson, ran for a month last autumn.

It was later credited with helping to bring a fall of more than 11 per cent in crimes against students in Manchester and Salford, the two areas where the initiative focused.

students to secure their homes and look after their belongings out of doors.

'Keep your assets out of sight' was one of the straplines accompanying artwork of a lightly dressed female student.

Interactive screensavers on university computers and adverts in student publications were also featured.

It was estimated that the timing of the campaign, just after the start of the new academic year, meant that more than two million people were reached through PR and advertising.

Laura said it had been necessary to 'push the boundaries' so as to overcome the traditional difficulty of getting crime prevention warnings across to the students.

Second award

In a second APPRO award, GMP's use of YouTube, the worldwide video-sharing website, was 'highly commended' in the e:communications category.

The website was used this year by the Force, assisted by the then divisional PR officer, Tom Bassford, in an appeal for information about the gun killing of Moss Side teenager Jessie James.

The film used was created by Tom and the GMP Corporate and Media Imaging Unit. This category attracted the most entries - 24 - from police forces nationwide, and only one other 'highly commended' was awarded in addition to the winner.

Speaking after the announcement of the winners, Corporate Communications Director Colette Booth said the accolades were particularly pleasing as both the campaign and video directly supported operational policing.

"Once again, GMP has been recognised as at the top of the field in providing excellent communications," she said. "Our creativity and quality is consistently among the best in the UK and this formal recognition is part of the proof of that."

Poster advice

The campaign included colourful posters advising



EYE-CATCHING: One of the posters from the award-winning student safety PR campaign

THE TWO-MINUTE WARNING by Helen McFarlane, Operational Communications



LOOKING at the latest Operational Communications Branch posters, you may be wondering 'What on earth are they thinking?'

That's exactly the reaction we want in the first stage of our three-part campaign aimed at improving response times for Grade One (immediate response, risk to life, crime in progress) incidents.

The target for a radio operator to resource a Grade One emergency incident is two minutes - hence the campaign's theme.

Our campaign is running for 30 weeks in Operational Communications Rooms and is different from anything OCB staff are accustomed to.

The first 10 weeks are designed to get people talking about the 'two-minute rule,' using images that

prompt them to think about it in different contexts.

Adopting a different approach from the classic 'do as you are told' poster has generated much positive feedback, the key result, in phase one, being that people are communicating, discussing work issues and relating them to their own experiences.

Having raised interest and generated discussion, we'll

maintain momentum by publishing different two-minute messages every two weeks via the Chief Superintendent's Orders.

There will be two further sets of posters, with the second set coming in February

The images are stunning, thanks to the guidance and creative flair of the Force's Corporate and Media Imaging team, who have worked with us on the campaign.



A SPECIALIST team to investigate suspect fires or where causes are difficult to pinpoint has been formed for the first time by Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.

The move has been welcomed by GMP as further enhancing the working relationship between officers, fire experts and the Forensic Science Service.

The creation of the team follows a review of fire investigation in Greater Manchester, which looked at rising expectations from the police, courts, coroners and CPS.

Previously, investigations were carried out by officers with a background in fire prevention.

"But expectations from all directions were on the increase," said team manager Deon Webber.

"As knowledge and experience grew, relationships were formed with our colleagues in GMP and the multi-agency investigation was born.

"It was becoming difficult to devote time and effort to specialisms such as fire investigation, so the formation of a dedicated team was a logical step."

Deon, former commander of Rochdale Fire Station, said the establishment of the team means:

- A smaller number of investigators to focus their skills and experience
- The release of other fire officers to concentrate on their main roles
- Investigators can devote all their time to an investigation
- A shorter turn around time for reports and statements
- One point of contact for partner organisations such as the police.

MOBILE OFFICES

The team is based in new offices next to Oldham Borough headquarters and fire station on Broadway, Chadderton.

It can assemble mobile office equipment at the scene of a fire, along with lighting, excavation tools, thermal imaging cameras, sampling equipment...and two specialist dogs.

The team, which gives round-the-clock cover, consists of six fire scene investigators, a dog handler and an administrator.

They respond to range of incidents, including the discovery of a body, explosions and hate crime fire attacks.

And they are called in when, in cases of suspected arson, it is felt they are better placed to record and document the scene, provide statements to police or give evidence in court.

Fire service forms dedicated new investigation team (plus two dogs) Arsonists



Fire dogs are vital at investigations

THE nose of a dog is 250 times more sensitive than that of a human being - so their skill in identifying ignitable liquids at fire scenes means they are in high demand.

In addition, the speed with which they search a scene can leave an investigator standing.

But it was only in the 1970s - in the United States - that they began appearing at fire scenes.

They started appearing in the UK in the mid-1990s and were mostly provided by insurance companies.

There are now 16 fire investigation dogs working with the UK fire service, attending hundreds of cases of suspected arson

every year.

In addition to their operational duties, they are used widely in schools, helping to give children arson reduction and fire safety messages.

The Greater Manchester team has two dogs, both golden retrievers, run by handler Mike Dewar.

Cracker is trained to detect accelerants at fire scenes and can search buildings, vehicles, open areas, clothing and recovered items in a fraction of the time it would take an investigator.

Echo works for the National Urban Search and Rescue Team and is trained to detect live human scent in collapsed buildings. She is on call for such incidents anywhere in the UK.



TEAM WORK: PC Keith Holden, a Salford CSI, observes as colleagues get down to details.

Investigation (gs) s beware

SEARCHING: CSI Jayne Raine (Bury) makes notes during fire scene training.

By Derek Hornby



Double murder quickly solved

Suggestion from Scientific Services means... **All CSIs train with the fire experts**

COLLABORATION between fire investigators, the Forensic Science Service and GMP was typified by an investigation into a double murder last year.

Belgian national Eddy Swerts, 37, had killed his former girlfriend, Melanie Edwards, 32, and her 14-year-old daughter Kerrie by setting fire to their house in Altrincham as they slept.

Det Supt Ian Foster, of GMP's Major Incident Team, said a dog with the fire investigation team had quickly shown that petrol had been poured through the letterbox.

"Then it took us round to the backyard and showed us that petrol had also been deposited down the drain," Det Supt Foster said.

The speed of the investigation was such that after Swerts had driven to Folkestone to leave the country by the Channel Tunnel, he was detained by Kent police officers before he could get away.

He was returned to Manchester the same evening, questioned and charged with the two murders.

Four weeks later, he hanged himself while on remand in Strangeways Prison.

FOUR times a year, GMP crime scene investigators undergo fire investigation training with officers from the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.

The week-long courses began two years ago – before the fire investigation team became a self-contained unit – and all 85 CSIs have undergone the training.

The exercises are split between the Force's Sedgley Park Centre and a site at Lancashire Fire Service headquarters near Chorley, where real fire scenes are created.

The training was commissioned by

GMP's Scientific Services Branch.

"Though there was training available at a national level, we didn't feel that it met our local needs," says Scientific Services Assistant Director Kate Salesse.

"We took the lead in this field and it was at our request that the training was launched."

REFRESHERS

The initial training weeks are to be followed by a refresher course, which is currently under development, and there is close monitoring by Scientific Services Branch.

All the sessions are attended by CSI Training and Development Co-ordinator Angela Gelder, as well as either Senior CSI Bob Gallagher (Ashton-under-Lyne) or his Rochdale colleague Dave Hayes.

Conversely, fire investigators have been undergoing training with GMP for several years on the National Investigative Interviewing Course.

A tripartite agreement for the investigation of suspicious fires has been in force since the late 1990s between Scientific Services Branch, the Forensic Science Service and Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.

Main contact telephone number for the Fire Investigation Team is 0161 909 8634.

Photos: Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service

TRAINING: Crime scene investigators from GMP during a fire training session in Lancashire. Second from right is CSI Training and Development Co-ordinator Angela Gelder and next to her (white helmet) is Senior CSI Bob Gallagher, with Deon Webber, manager of the Fire Investigation Team, on the far left.



On patrol for Eid festival



Briefing with Supt John O'Hare, who headed the Metropolitan Division Eid operation.



PICTURES: BILL MORRIS

Policing helped create a family atmosphere at the big Muslim celebration weekend after likely trouble-makers were told to stay away

TEN THOUSAND people descended on the Rusholme district of Manchester for the Eid celebrations in October.

And for GMP, it meant a huge policing plan had to be put into operation at short notice.

The exact date of Eid is fixed only on the sighting of the new moon, leaving little time for detailed plans to be drawn up.

Eid ul-Fitr is one of the holiest days in the Islamic calendar, marking the end of Ramadan, the month-long period of fasting.

For Muslims across the North West, it was a time to take to the streets and celebrate – and the shops and restaurants of Rusholme are traditionally high on the list of places to be.

Supt John O'Hare, who headed the Metropolitan Division operation in which 200 officers policed the weekend celebrations, said the festival was very much a family event.

LIAISON

Policing plans, which included road closures and diversions, meant close

liaison with Manchester's Muslim community, Rusholme Business Association and the Council of Mosques.

In the past, a minority of visitors to Rusholme were responsible for incidents of disorder and anti-social disorder.

TOUGH ACTION

But community relations leaders said the days of such disruption were a thing of the past, thanks largely to tough action by GMP and the repeated message that trouble-makers were not welcome.

Khan Moghal, Chief Executive of Manchester Council for Community Relations, said before the festivities:

"If anyone is intent on causing problems for the local community, then please stay away.

"We will support Greater Manchester Police in taking effective measures to ensure family-friendly celebrations are enjoyed by all."

There were just 12 arrests over the two days and nights.

'It was another credit for the Force,' says IAG member

AFTER the celebrations, messages of praise for the policing operation arrived at the Metropolitan Division headquarters at Longsight.

One addressed to Supt John O'Hare, who headed the operation, was from Falah Kanno, a member of the division's Independent Advisory Group:

"On the two nights I spent on the streets during the Eid festival, I witnessed and sensed beyond any doubt the high standard of professionalism of our Force in handling such an operation.

"Understanding the nature of the occasion, the level of communication with the participants, handling the odd behaviour and the overall organisation is just another credit to be added to the record of our great police force.

"I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude to you and all GMP members who were involved in the operation to keep law and order in our city.

"And special thanks to my companions during the two nights, Sgt Emma Taylor and PC Kalyani Vyas."

Text messages give anti-crime advice – and don't cost anything

TEXT messages about crime prevention and safety are being sent out by officers in Oldham.

Two portable transmitters beam messages to mobile phones, laptops and satellite navigation systems.

The Bluetooth system enables an officer to send a text message or picture to users of equipment with the same technology.

The messages feature slogans such as 'Lock up! Keep 'em out – warning - burglars are currently operating in this area.'

In the run-up to Bonfire Night, the message read 'Bang goes your money - £80 fine for the



illegal use of fireworks.'

Text messages are also being transmitted by police in South

Manchester, but are aimed specifically at giving safety advice to students.

At Oldham, Ch Insp Chris Sykes said: "We are using these devices at the moment for crime prevention purposes, but they could be used for such things as appeals for witnesses or missing people in the future.

"The transmitters have a range of between 10 to 100 metres and all phones with Bluetooth in the area receive the message once.

"The user then has the choice of accepting the message or not.

"There is no cost in sending or receiving the messages."

WE'RE COMING BACK

GMP planning starts for Labour's 2008 conference in Manchester

THEY were so impressed with the policing and security arrangements that they are coming back next year.

The Labour Party returns to Manchester for its annual conference next September – and GMP planning for the event is already under way.

Ch Insp Chris Ullah has moved from his operational role at Manchester Airport to Bootle Street as planning co-ordinator for Operation Protector and a list of key task commanders and managers covering 17 specialities has been drawn up.

This month, a special site giving information about Operation Protector opened on the GMP Intranet.

The blueprint was laid down last year when up to 18,000 people were accredited to the conference and at least 1,000 police officers and staff were involved in the security operation each day.

Sedgley Park Centre became the command-and-control operational base, and all non-essential training was cancelled for the week of the conference and the week before.

No more than five per cent of GMP members were allowed to take leave while the conference was on.

Afterwards, the way that GMP policed the week – which included a Stop the War rally that saw 20,000 marchers descend on the city – drew praise from all quarters.

Letters, e-mails and calls from the then Prime Minister, Tony Blair, delegates, backroom staff, hotel workers, visiting police officers and even some of the demonstrators testified to the firm but friendly way officers carried out their duties against the background of a possible terrorist attack on the conference.

The 2008 event runs from September 21 to 25.

Commended – the officer who led 2006 planning

SUPT Bryan Lawton, who headed Operation Protector for last year's Labour Party conference, received a commendation last month from Chief Constable Michael Todd.

It was in recognition of his 'extreme professionalism and dedication' during the planning phase of the operation.

"It involved planning on an enormous scale, compounded by the threat of terrorism," Mr Todd said.

"Supt Lawton displayed a highly-structured, organised and methodical planning ability, with his determination and commitment second to none."

He had built constructive working relationships with key

task commanders and managers and crucially a range of influential partners, including the Labour Party, Home Office and Manchester City Council.

"His attention to detail was outstanding, and his excellent communication skills were evidenced in the presentations he made to a wide range of audiences," Mr Todd said.

"During the conference, he led the vital liaison with the organisers and worked tirelessly to ensure that the individually demanding elements were policed as a coherent whole."

In a letter to Mr Todd, Supt Lawton was praised by the Labour Party General Secretary as 'a credit to policing.'



PRIZE NIGHT: front from left, South Manchester officers Insp Kevin Marriott and Ch Insp Jim Liggett with ACO Human Resources Andrew Marston at the Public Servants Awards. Back row, newsreader and ceremony compere Nicholas Owen, fellow compere Felicity Barr, a newsreader on Al Jazeera TV in the Middle East, and Cabinet Secretary Sir Gus O'Donnell.

You win again

South Manchester neighbourhood team picks up third award for its work with an immigrant community

A YEAR after winning Police Review's Diversity in Action award, the Neighbourhood Policing Team covering Wythenshawe and Northenden has won another prize.

The team picked up the First Among Equals diversity accolade last month in the National Public Servants Awards, organised by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

Earlier this year, the team won the Diversity in Action prize in the Chief Constable's

first Excellence Awards.

All three awards were in recognition of the team's work with the immigrant Malayalee community in the Wythenshawe area.

Ch Supt Alan Cooper, head of South Manchester Division, said that as a result of the efforts of officers, police staff and staff from partner agencies, crime and racist incidents against Malayalee families had fallen dramatically.

"It shows what can be achieved

when the police work closely with communities, local authorities and housing associations," he said.

* The Wythenshawe and Northenden team received £5,000 as its Diversity in Action award from Police Review last year.

It spent it organising a conference for officers and staff from 35 UK police forces in October on the policing of 'emerging communities.'

The Thin Green Line

CONFIDENTIALLY, RECYCLING WASTE PAPER IS PAYING OFF

By Helen Wilson,
Facilities Branch

HOW much paper does GMP recycle in the course of a year? I don't expect answers on a postcard (they would, of course, go in the green bins afterwards), so read on to find out.

Last December, Janet Ackary, the then Environmental Manager, reported on the implementation of the new green waste paper bin scheme. A year later, it is time for me to report back on its success.

The scheme to recycle ALL paper waste, including confidential paper, works simply and disposal is free to GMP.

All the waste bags from the green bins are collected by GMP drivers from Business Services Logistics Department, who take it directly to a paper mill where they witness the bags being destroyed on entering the process to make new recycled paper.

Because the bags also go into this process, it is essential that there are no plastic wallets, files, tapes

or other such items in them, which would have a detrimental effect on the mill machinery.

If this occurred frequently, the mills may no longer accept our waste paper and an alternative route for disposal would have to be found at a cost to divisions and branches.

So now back to the original question - how much paper does GMP recycle in a year?

Over the course of 12 months, we estimate that just over 343 tons have been recycled - so well done to you all and a big thank-you for using the scheme.

Not only have we stopped a rather large space in a landfill site from being filled, but we may have saved money as a result of not using a company to shred and dispose of confidential waste paper.

It's an excellent start to the scheme, which I hope with your help and continued use of the green bins we can carry on into the New Year and beyond.



On watch at his crime prevention stall at Altrincham market, Bill Machin gets a visit from PCSOs Claire Chrystal (left) and Barbara Smith.

BILL, 87, IS STILL HELPING THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

BILL MACHIN shows no sign of easing up in his voluntary work for GMP.

At 87, he single-handedly runs a crime prevention and advice stall at Altrincham market every Saturday from 7.30am to 5pm.

At other times, he can be found compiling information packs for victims of vehicle crime, running meetings or recruiting new Home Watch members.

In fact, despite his age, Bill is known as one of the most active and knowledgeable Watch co-ordinators in Greater Manchester.

Recently, the Second World War RAF pilot and former bank executive was one of six co-

ordinators on Trafford Division who were presented with gold badges to mark Home Watch's 25th anniversary.

The presentation ceremony at Altrincham Police Station was held during Not In My Neighbourhood Week, a national scheme encouraging people to learn more about work being done to tackle crime.

Bill became a Home Watch co-ordinator 20 years ago and has been a member of South Trafford Crime Prevention Panel for 15 years.

"One day, I walked into the police station in Barrington Road and asked if I could help or do

anything and it all developed from there," he said.

At Altrincham market, Bill's stall is provided free by the market authorities.

Every week, Trafford Division's Crime Reduction Advisers, Eleanor Kelly and PC Tony Crompton, visit Bill at his home and provide him with new leaflets and posters if he needs them.

Ch Insp Neil Bhole, who presented the Home Watch gold badges, said:

"Bill and his fellow co-ordinators have made a great contribution to Home Watch and we thought it was time to celebrate their work on behalf of the community."



LIGHT WORK: Manchester City Centre Crime Prevention Panel has given all PCSOs in the city centre a UV detector lamp, together with five centrally-based larger lamps, for scanning found and recovered property and security marking items.

The lamps have been donated to the Neighbourhood Policing Team, following a request by Crime Reduction Adviser PC Stuart Pizzey, the panel secretary.

The panel's vice-chairman, Phil Yates, of Reliance Security, is pictured with one of the PCSOs, Jacob Eaton, at the handover of the lamps.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIVISIONS

HATE CRIME: Twenty-five hate crime reporting centres have been established across Salford in a joint move between police, council and Refugee Action.

The centres are alternative venues where victims can report incidents if they are unable or unwilling to involve the police directly.

"While we are always willing to help victims, we accept some are reluctant to report incidents to us directly and that's why these centres are important," Supt Leor Giladi said.

A NEW phone line to improve hate crime reporting has been launched in Oldham.

The Stop Hate UK line, 0800 138 1625, offers 24-hour help for people who have been a victim of crime as a result of race, sexuality, colour, faith or impairment.

Details are then passed to the police, Oldham Race Equality Partnership or Victim Support.

COMMENDED: Three PCSOs and a PC received commendations from Ch Supt Steven Hartley, head of Tameside Division, for their dedication investigating a burglary.

The awards went to PCSOs Lauren Budd, Jean Kelly and David Renshaw and PC David Wright.

One suspect was identified as a result of Lauren and Jean's vast knowledge of a particular area and local residents, Ch Supt Hartley said.

DRUG ARRESTS: Eight women and 13 men were arrested in Salford in an operation to smash a major drugs ring.

Operation Marengo involved divisional officers as well as the Tactical Aid Unit, Dog Unit and Finance Investigation Unit, while PCSOs distributed advice leaflets and carried out high-visibility patrolling.

"To hit so many addresses is a remarkable achievement," said Councillor David Lancaster, deputy leader of Salford Council.

TOWN WATCH: Dozens of town centre workers have signed up to be extra eyes and ears for the police to help curb crime and anti-social behaviour in Bolton over the next few months. It is part of the pre-Christmas Operation Sherry, now in its second year.

TRYING: Performing arts students from Oldham College staged a mock trial as part of Inside Justice Week last month. Based on a youth court scenario, it was developed with the help of Oldham officers, magistrates, Youth Offending Team, the CPS and Witness Care.

CAR LOAN: A new sponsored car has been lent to neighbourhood officers covering Dukinfield and Stalybridge wards for a trial period six months. The Kia C'eed is on loan from Premier Automotives.



Speaker Dr Peter Collins (left) with Det Supt Mick Lay (Public Protection) and Det Sgt Bob Willis (Abusive Images Investigation Unit).

GMP audience for child sex expert

OFFICERS who deal with sex offenders and serious crimes against children listened to a presentation last month by a world expert, Canadian psychiatrist Dr Peter Collins.

He had an audience of more than 120 at Hough End Centre for his talk on the psychology of the child molester, with particular focus on offenders who use the internet.

Dr Collins was invited by GMP's Abusive Images

Investigation Unit while visiting the UK to speak at a conference of senior investigating officers.

His presentation was aimed at investigators, especially those who have dealings with child abuse and indecent images.

Dr Collins is manager of the Forensic Psychiatry Unit in the Behavioural Sciences Section of the Ontario Provincial Police.

He is a member of

the Interpol Specialist Group on Crimes Against Children and has been consulted by (and instructed) police agencies in Canada, the United States, the UK, mainland Europe, Central and South America, Africa and Australia, including the FBI, Interpol and Europol.

Most of the audience for his presentation were from GMP. Others included guests from the National Policing Improvement Agency.

OBITUARIES

Former Sgt **Bernard Butler**, 81, died on November 10, leaving a widow, Tessie. He joined St Helens Borough Police in 1951 and retired from GMP in 1981.

Former PC **Kevin Hampson**, 58, of Bury, died on November 1, leaving a widow. He retired from GMP through injury in 1987 after serving for 12 years.

Former PC **Duncan Price**, 66, of Bolton, died in September, leaving a widow, Hilary. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1963 and retired from GMP in 1990.

Former Ch Insp **Keith Taylor**, 66, of Leigh, died on October 26, leaving a widow, Audrey. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1960 and retired from GMP in 1990.

Former PC **David Warren**, 77, of Abergele, died on November 6, leaving a widow, Muriel. He joined Manchester City Police in 1953 and retired from GMP in 1979.

Former Det Supt **John Wheater**, 79, of Rochdale, died on November 3, leaving a widow, Jean. He joined Rochdale Borough Police in 1950 and retired from GMP in 1976.



THIS poster warning against shoplifting is aimed at teenagers and is being distributed to high schools on North Manchester Division before they close for Christmas.

The posters have also gone up in city centre stores, including changing rooms, and thousands of postcards carrying the message are being given out.

The shoplifting warnings are being coordinated by Sgt Gareth Jones as part of the division's Operation Santa.

Demand for the posters has been so great, however, that the campaign is expected to feature during subsequent school holiday periods.

Lollipops are to be handed out to revellers leaving nightspots in the city centre as Christmas approaches.

Carrying the message 'Let's lick crime,' lollipops were distributed for the first time last year and were said to have helped to stop people shouting in the street and having confrontations.

This year, they are also being given to pupils by school-based officers in North Manchester.

At Rochdale, officers are giving out 6,000 warning bells to attach to handbags and purses to deter pickpockets and sneak thieves among Christmas shoppers in the town centre.

They are also distributing 5,000 purse chains, 1,000 wallets and 1,500 mini attack alarms bells as part of the anti-crime campaign.

Rising to the crime challenge - P20

JASON WRIGHT joined the GMP Special Constabulary seven years ago shortly after coming to the UK from Australia.

In his first year, he won the Bill Turner Trophy as Probationer of the Year and has since received a divisional commendation for arresting a violent offender.

He now holds the rank of special sergeant, balancing his volunteer duties with family life and his job as a senior karate instructor for the North of England.

Recently, he had an idea for expanding the role of special constables by improving their driver training and skills so as to enable them to take part in pursuits.

While there are no plans to adopt this policy at present, the suggestion was well received by the Divisional and Partnership Support Unit, which 'owns' the policy on specials.

Since the issue of specials' driving

JASON'S SPECIAL PAYMENT

by Pat Garside,
Suggestion Scheme Manager

authority was already under review, details were passed to the review team.

TAX FREE

As a result of Jason's initiative in contributing a suggestion, supported by a comprehensive proposal for change, he was awarded a tax-free £25 encouragement award at the last meeting of the Suggestions Award Panel.

Though the Suggestion Scheme is open to all GMP staff and is well supported overall, suggestions



AWARD: Special Sgt Jason Wright gets his £25 cheque from Pat Garside, Suggestion Scheme Manager.

from special constables account for less than one per cent of all submissions.

We want to do more to encourage them to contribute ideas.

The award to Jason is an example of the commitment of the Awards Panel in recognising initiative and good ideas – and I hope to see more examples from his colleagues as a result.

David Gilmartin B.E.M., former Secretary of the Greater Manchester Joint Branch Board, writes in tribute to his late colleague, PC Jack Kent



JOHN Edward (Jack) Kent was not only my mentor in the Police Federation, but also a close personal friend for many years.

I often read in the Brief obituary column of former colleagues and friends passing away and it is always sad to hear.

On occasions, however, a former colleague dies who had such a massive impact on the Force that one feels it would be wrong not to place on record a tribute.

It is difficult to emphasise the importance Jack Kent had on the formation of GMP and on the Police Federation as an organisation.

The lives of former and serving officers have been changed beyond recognition since the 1960s and 70s when Jack took the helm as Joint Branch Board Secretary.

He was involved in two amalgamations – Manchester City Police with Salford City Police and then amalgamation of Greater Manchester Police, a monumental task that involved all his time, together with other members of the Joint Branch Board.

Times were completely different for the

Police Federation in those days - a representative organisation with little funds and no means of legally representing and defending officers, no matter how just the cause.

It was left to individual officers to stand against the might of the Force to represent the interests of the officers to the best of their ability.

It required great personal courage to carry out these tasks and Jack was always at the front of the battle.

When the formation of GMP was announced, the Police Federation office was in Park Lane Police Station and consisted of one officer and a closet.

Together with his then Deputy Secretary, Michael Bennett, and other members of the executive committee, the decision was taken to move to larger premises.

It was decided to move our offices completely outside police premises and the Federation moved to Progress House at Stockport.

Jack was the main driving force behind

this decision. Thanks to him and other officers, the Police Federation grew apace and we were in a position to be a truly representative organisation to the officers of GMP.

Jack organised the opening of the Credit Union, the North West Police Benevolent Fund, the group life and insurance scheme and many more benefits for our officers.

He was a leading exponent in police discipline, both nationally and locally, a marvellous orator and defence counsel.

Many officers had cause to thank him for the support and advice he gave in times of need.

He was also an outstanding member of the Police Federation at national level.

The saddest part was that his contribution to the police service was never recognised officially.

If, however, at some time in the future the Force decided to raise a tribute to those outstanding men and women who served the Force so well, I would hope a pride of place would be given to John Edward Kent.

Three years since they started.... and how will YOUR next appraisal turn out?

by Daniel Caborn,
Development Manager,
Leadership & Development Unit

THE Force has come a long way in the three years since the appraisal process was launched. Sustaining and improving our current level of performance is the next challenge. How? By effectively managing and developing the full range of skills and competencies of our staff. The re-issuing of appraisal guidance and forms supports managers in doing this.

THE CHALLENGE

WE need to manage people effectively in all aspects of their work, not just their targets.

Targets are vital in that they set operational standards for policing our communities. But they will be achieved only if staff are sufficiently focused and have the relevant skills and abilities to meet them.

As ACO Human Resources Andrew Marston says: "Managers need to make the best use of their staff. This can be achieved only by understanding the full contribution and impact each member has on the team's output, on customers and on the organisation.

"The appraisal process is the primary way to gain this level of understanding because it provides the framework for the appraiser to discuss the full range of competencies required for the appraisee's job and how it should be done. "There's a shared role here. Everyone can use their appraisal to create plans for future performance and to get an understanding of priorities.

"It's an ideal opportunity for appraisees to talk through their views and new ideas with their manager and decide how to take things forward."

Holding appraisals in this manner should be a motivating experience for both appraiser and appraisee, and an opportunity not to be missed.

The benefits to an appraisee are receiving constructive feedback on performance, knowing which priorities to focus on and developing a structured plan for personal development.

MOTIVATING AND SUPPORTING STAFF

AN appraiser should continuously observe individual performance throughout the year, giving guidance and encouragement. This is then discussed in detail in the appraisal meetings.

Care is needed so that completing the forms does not become the main purpose of the meeting.

Recognition of work done well can lead to ideas for future development. Just as important is advising a person, who is not meeting performance standards, about what is expected.

Not only can this be seen in their work, but it may also hinder team members reaching their goals. This needs to be highlighted by the appraiser so that changes are made.

Good measures of the meeting's conduct are the amount of two-way discussion that occurred and how motivated the appraisee was, as they left the room, to address areas for development positively and build on past achievements.

Everyone can consider how to get the best from the next appraisal and take responsibility for their own development. And to help, we have collected some top tips for an effective appraisal.

LEADERSHIP AND APPRAISAL

GOOD quality feedback is an essential tool for leaders to motivate others to change their attitude or behaviour.

You need to be able to detail why their performance did not meet standards and discuss what affected it. Then you can explain how you'd like it to be different, in a constructive way.

Janet Campbell Smith, Leadership and Development Unit Manager, says:

"It's important to use every opportunity, and specifically appraisal, to help people learn and develop by giving good and effective feedback."

NEW GUIDANCE

THE various appraisal guidance documents have been updated, taking into account the Force's collective experiences since the roll-out three years ago.

These take immediate effect and more details are given below.

What's available on the appraisal (website) -

- Simplified guidance documents with a clearer explanation of the roles and responsibilities within the appraisal process, to show what an appraisal should be like.
- Links to other HR policies, to help you find the right information more quickly.
- The new Behavioural Competency Guide, incorporating the latest version of the national Integrated Competency Framework (also used in promotion and selection processes).
- New versions of forms 185A (Annual) and 185B (Interim), used to record the appraisal meetings.
- Appraisal GRIP reports.

And coming soon -

- Bite-sized best practice guides to appraisal.

Improve your appraisal with these Top Tips

- Read the new material on the appraisal website.
- Evaluate your past appraisal meetings.
- Decide what you will do differently.
- Make time to prepare.
- Work out how you can provide the best service to customers and colleagues.
- Prepare for your meeting
- Take an active role in the meeting.
- At the end, know what happens next
- Implement feedback for sustained performance.



THE UK Better Regulation Executive has a website (www.betterregulation.gov.uk) designed to give you an opportunity to influence the way Government regulates.

They want your ideas or suggestions on how public sector regulations impacting on either you, GMP or any other organisation can be improved.

Every idea or suggestion submitted is published on the website, and they guarantee to provide you with an authoritative response to your idea within 90 days.

Some element of red tape/bureaucracy is essential in all of our lives, but the key task for us is to identify and address the unnecessary or unwieldy bureaucracy that stops or delays us achieving our aim of fighting crime and protecting the people of Greater Manchester.

If you have an example of a Government policy, practice, procedure or requirement that you believe comes into that category, then I encourage you to use this site to put forward your ideas for improvement.

However, please remember that this site is designed to address Government and not GMP policy.

So if you have an issue regarding bureaucracy linked to local practices and procedures, please continue to submit them to Pat Garside, the Force Reducing Bureaucracy Coordinator, via email in order that they can be addressed either by local managers or by the Force Reducing Bureaucracy Steering Group.

Dave Whatton,
Deputy Chief Constable

COST CUTTING MOVE

PCSOs wore theatrical burglar masks and distributed handbills around Oldham thanking people for leaving doors and windows open and unlocked so that thieves could steal items worth £1,160,976 over the past two years.

"We are always trying to find new ways of getting across the message that one in every three burglaries occur because of open or unlocked

doors and windows," explained Ch Insp Chris Sykes.

He said it was intended that people would have been shocked to learn the high cost of burglaries across Oldham, which equates to an average of £11,000 a week.

"After being approached by one of our 'burglars,' we hope people will have taken note and locked up," he said.



New Zealand win rugby series

In a three-match Rugby League test series that ended last month, New Zealand Police emerged 2-1 winners over Great Britain.

Three GMP players were in the British squad – Dan Atherton and Mark Elvidge (Rochdale) and Adam Fogarty (Wigan).

There were also three Lancashire officers who play in the regular combined Lancs/GMP team – Eugene Swift, Mike Kearns and Dan Ambler.

The Kiwis arrived in the UK in late October to play against their British counterparts.

The first match at Staningley Rugby Club ended with the New Zealanders winning by 28 points to 16 after leading 16-4 at half-time.

Four days later, Britain levelled the series in the second match at the home of Castleford Tigers, leading at half-time 12-0 and going on to win 20-10.

The final test in the series was played at the home of Wakefield Wildcats last month.

Though Britain were first to score after 11 minutes, the encounter ended in a 46-14 victory for New Zealand.

Atherton, who played in all three matches, scored four conversions in the second match and went on to notch up three in the final game.

Basketball call

The GMP men's basketball team is looking to score with new players for the forthcoming Police Sport UK championships.

Anyone interested in joining the team should contact Chris Bennett in the Crime Management Unit at Wigan on extension 67267 or e-mail him: chris.bennett@gmp.police.uk

Launching the Blue Line Yacht Club

EVER looked at the elegant yachts in the Mediterranean harbours, dreamed of sipping sundowners on the poop and wished it could be you? Then this could be your chance, writes Insp Andrew Hudson.

Come to the first open meeting of GMP's brand new Blue Line Yacht Club at Hough End Centre on January 17, starting at 7.30pm

We want to bring together people with an interest in yachting, from complete novices to experienced boat owners.

Supported by the Force Sports and Social Club, Blue Line's aims are to help people to get on the water, explore a possible new hobby, get sailing qualifications and meet those with a shared interest.

But don't get too carried away. You will be in the UK, on a boat with five or six strangers, it may be cold, it may

be hot, it will be a few days away from work.

But it's a great way to socialise and it will be subsidised by your very own GMP Sports Club.

What's the catch?

You must be a fully paid-up member of the GMP Sports club or immediate family of a member.

The invitation is open to anyone who ever fancied giving sailing a go.

We will be having a long weekend on Windermere during April for those who are unsure if it's for them.

In May, we will be entering a boat in the police racing championships on the South Coast (not for the faint-hearted), followed by a week in Scotland in June, commonly known as a Malt Cruise. No prizes for guessing what that's all about.

CONTACTS

Mark Powell - Commodore
Tel 69044 or 07786 748067

Dave Willcocks - Treasurer
Tel 68821

Andy Massey - Secretary
Tel 66384

Andy Hudson - Events Co-Ordinator
Tel 65384 or 07990 647636

Paul Hobson - Events Co-Ordinator
Tel 66015



HEINZ MEANZ GIFTZ: A donation of £750 to the Greater Manchester High Sheriff's Police Trust by Heinz at Wigan has bought 11 digital cameras for PCSOs on the division to gather evidence of anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping, criminal damage and graffiti.

The pictures they take are analysed by police or sent to the appropriate council department for action as part of the borough's 'Cleaner, Greener, Safer' campaign.

Insp Bob Pell, of Pemberton Neighbourhood Policing Team, said: "It's good to be working in partnership with a company that is so committed to the communities in which it operates."

Insp Pell is pictured in the boardroom at the Heinz plant at Kitt Green with Edmund Gartside (left), a trustee of the High Sheriff's Police Trust, the plant's Operations Director Brian Leech and a permanent display of the company's products.

Greater Manchester Police Sports & Social Club Ltd.

Vacancy for Chief Executive

A vacancy will occur in Spring 2008 for the post of Chief Executive at the Force Sports & Social Club, based at Hough End Centre.

Applications will be formally invited in December, but in the interim, potential applicants are requested to contact the current post holder, Ian E Campbell, at Hough End (ext 61763), with a view to informal discussion relating to the post and job description.

The ideal candidate should have a good knowledge of police sports and social matters as well as an ability to manage a busy sports and function centre.

Do you know we have 93 ensuite rooms at the Sedgley Park Centre?

The Centre is within 3 miles of the rail and motorway network and Manchester City Centre.

Special weekend accommodation rate for GMP personnel - AND guests staying with you!

Single £16
per night [room only]

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Why not treat yourself to a night out and stay with us?
To make your reservation call Alison or Marion on 60425/60590
or email QA Room Booking -Diary

Each bedroom is equipped with:
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tea/coffee making facilities,
hair dryer, trouser press,
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Plus on-site, secure
FREE parking!



Rising to the crime challenge



TO help protect Christmas shoppers from street crime, officers in Manchester city centre are standing on 2ft (0.6m) elevated platforms.

Using the two vantage platforms means they can watch out better for pickpockets and muggers.

They are also targeting illegal street traders, bogus charity collectors and beggars as part of Operation Santa.

The platforms can be dismantled and moved to various areas throughout the city centre.

They are never left unmanned and are taken down after use, Crime Reduction Adviser PC Stuart Pizzey said.

"The vantage platform is a first for Manchester and gives officers a clear elevated view over busy areas of the city centre," he said.

After Christmas, the platforms may be used at football matches and other crowded events.

PLATFORM PARTY: Pictured at a photo-call outside Manchester Town Hall are, from the left, council street warden Damien Matthie, Insp Nicky Porter, Santa (PC Stuart Pizzey), street warden Kelly Hutchinson and PCSO Uzo Asidanya. Picture: Lisa Marks.

SWIMARATHON

RAISING money for a school project or favourite charity next year? Then retired Sgt Terry Harding hopes you'll do it through Swimarathon 2008 which he and Marple Lions at Stockport are organising.

"As in previous years, we will carry out all the organisation and pay for the pool," says Terry.

"In return, we will share the sponsorship proceeds 50-50.

"Our share will go into the club's charity

account and will be put to good use helping those in need at home and abroad."

The event takes place at Romiley Marina on Saturday, March 8, from 4.30pm to 7.30pm.

Each team, consisting of one to 10 swimmers, depending on ability, will be allocated up to 20 minutes to swim a maximum of 30 breadths or lengths.

For more information, call Terry Harding on 0161 303 0011.

TRIBUTE NIGHT: Musical colleagues of Sgt Carl Pilling, who died of cancer last year just before he was due to retire, helped to raise more than £1,200 for Christie Hospital at an evening held in his memory last month.

"The money will be added to a fund that has been growing since Carl's untimely death," said band member Sgt Phil Davies, one of the organisers.

The fundraising night was held in Wigan at Highfield Cricket Club and Parish Hall.

Carl, a Tactical Aid Unit officer, lived in the Wigan area and his son-in-law, Mark Hepplestone, is a sergeant on Wigan Division.

The band also included Sgt Dave Clarke (Wigan), PC Jon Aizlewood (Manchester Airport) and PC Warren Caddick (Tactical Aid Unit).

Previously, the band helped to raise thousands of pounds for the special baby care unit at St Mary's Hospital in Manchester after a friend's premature baby was nursed to safety.

No 1 CopperPot Credit Union

NOVEMBER LOTTERY

- £2,000 – Lillian Tebbutt, retd
- £1,000 – Lynne Jarvis-Evans, N. Wales
- £500 – Mark Akers, GMP
- £250 – John Carlin, retd
Michelle Race, Thames Valley
- £100 – Ian Garner, GMP
Peter Callaghan, Leics
Ian Armstrong, retd
Kathryn Norgate, GMP
David Butler, retd
- £50 – Jennifer Lowe, GMP
Lynne Eastham, GMP
Michael Rees, GMP
Maxine Burns, resigned
Julie Connor, GMP
Lynda Sherwin, Leics
Caroline Gate, relative
Mark Lyon, GMP
Darren Little, Thames Valley
Robert Vivian, Leics
Alan Armstrong, retd
Christine Redford, GMP
Barbara Parker, Leics
Philip Burrows, Leics
Frederick Sutherland, retd

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Sleeping Beauty

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