



Conference catering challenge

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A history of silver service

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GMP's new eye in the sky

Centre pages

FORCE BLITZ ON BURGLARY

By Patricia Jones

A MAJOR crackdown on burglaries has been launched by the Force to blitz a rising trend of break-ins.

Operation Guardian focuses on divisions with the highest volume of domestic burglaries and deploys a range of specialist officers to hit the streets.

In the past month alone, there have been 297 more burglaries across Greater Manchester compared to last year – an average of 10 more burglaries every day of the year.

Detective Chief Inspector Dean Fraser from the Operation Guardian team said: "This operation is different to the approach used in the past. We will have additional resources at our disposal, such as the Tactical Aid Unit, Major Incident Team, Traffic Network Services, Mounted, and Dog Section and will target high volume areas.

"This isn't about taking over the day to day running of the division, but working more closely with them and targeting key areas with additional resources."

Crime analysts are looking at

divisions that have a high volume of domestic burglaries to assess how these can be addressed.

Superintendent Warren McGuire is leading Operation Guardian. He said: "This Force has seen the biggest increase in the number of domestic burglaries than any other force across the North West.

"We need to do something now as we expect the next six months to see a rise in the number of burglaries as the nights draw in."

Chris MacKenzie, crime reduction advisor in the Force Intelligence Branch, is supporting the operation by providing a profile of the crimes in the targeted areas, while the new Forensic Response Unit set up by the Forensic Services Branch will also be utilised to provide a more robust crime scene investigation.

Supt McGuire said: "With an average of one in eight domestic burglaries being detected so far this year, the investigation of domestic burglaries is a main priority.

"We need to build on the good work divisions are doing by sharing good practice and ensuring we provide a thorough and professional investigation. It is about providing the best possible service to the public by following up every opportunity to identify and arrest offenders."

Operation Guardian is being supported by a widespread publicity campaign advising householders on the home security steps they need to take to prevent falling victim to burglary.

Posters and leaflets bearing the 'Lock

up, keep 'em out!' message are being distributed with the message that one in three burglaries across Greater Manchester are the result of people leaving doors and windows unlocked.

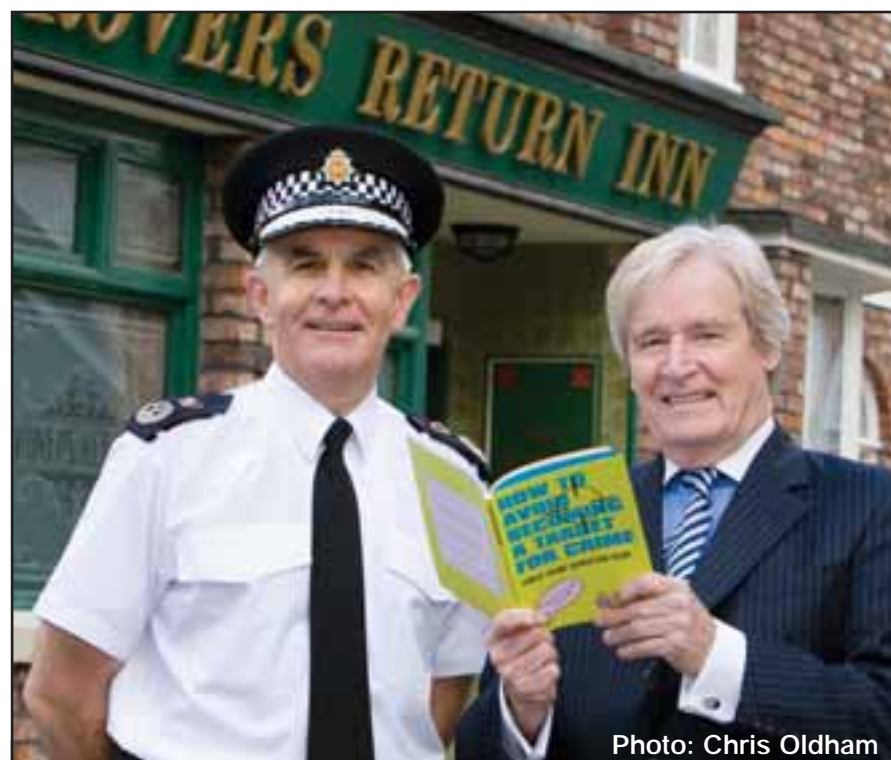


Photo: Chris Oldham

CRIME AWARE: Television's most famous street has been enlisted in a campaign to improve home and personal security.

Coronation Street's Ken Barlow joined Chief Constable Peter Fahy to launch a campaign to distribute 1,000 free copies of crime prevention manual 'How to avoid becoming a target for crime' in public locations – with the first being placed in the Rovers Return.

More than 30,000 copies of the 100-page GMP manual, first published in January 2007, have so far been sold by the Greater Manchester Police High Sheriff's Police Trust, with copies ending up as far afield as Nigeria, Jamaica, Australia, Norway and the United States.

Each of the 1,000 booklets bears a label encouraging people to pick it up, read it, and pass it on by placing it in another public location.

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

FROM all the conversations I've had with officers and staff around the Force, one thing is clear – the best ideas about improving an area of GMP's work come from those actually doing the job.

These are very often the same people who voice real frustrations about processes which prevent them getting on with the job. They know the solution to providing a better quality of service to the people of Greater Manchester. It is the role of leaders to listen to those ideas.

I've said that processes and structures are important, but it is people who make the difference.

You'll see a number of changes

taking place to put the focus firmly on achieving increased levels of public confidence and satisfaction in the service we provide.

Putting People First pulls together the change programmes which will provide us with a more citizen focused approach; the Core Leaders programme is developing leaders who will assist their staff to give of their best; while Operation Quest is a project largely funded by the Home Office to examine the way we deal with incidents, investigate crime and deal with prisoners.

It's about removing unnecessary tasks and bureaucracy and ensuring officers and staff have realistic, but challenging workloads.

There are indeed challenges ahead. Last month, we launched Guardian - the Force's new operation against burglary to tackle an increase in break-ins. This will lead to more burglars being locked up, but it will also help us to look at the way we investigate burglary and seize every opportunity to bring burglars before the courts.

We should always be looking where we can identify best practice which enables us to remain several steps ahead of the criminal. That means understanding the latest crime trends and patterns in the area where you work, but most importantly, who the active local burglars are.

It's about making it easier for our staff to achieve results, more difficult for the



offenders, and improving the service families across Greater Manchester receive from us. That for me is what *Putting People First* is about.

Peter Fahy

Focusing on quality work

CAPTURING the many examples of high quality work carried out across the Force is the aim of a new initiative beginning next month.

A six-month pilot scheme "Focus on Quality" will see teams from Wigan, Bolton, Rochdale and Oldham Divisions highlighting examples of how they have provided an enhanced level of service to the people of Greater Manchester.

The scheme has been developed as part of the Excellent People programme of *Putting People First*.

Inspector Chris Makin, who is leading the programme, said: "Staff surveys have shown in the past that we have concentrated on quantitative

targets, and to some extent neglected the quality of the work that our people do on a regular basis - because it was not reflected in current performance indicators. With the move to a balanced performance approach, we will be capturing that great work in a simple way that gets staff and managers alike to focus on the quality jobs we do on a daily basis. Jobs that build trust and confidence between us and our customers."

This system involves officers and staff sending a short email to their supervisor at the end of each month detailing around four to six jobs where their work has made a difference.

"This could, for example, be PCSOs who have addressed ongoing problems of anti-social behaviour or officers who have focused on persistent offenders in their area to prevent crime taking place," said Insp Makin.

"Really they should be communicating the jobs where they have felt they have gone the extra mile. It's about valuing the work people are doing and capturing that great work. This enables those examples to be used in appraisals and formal reward and recognition processes - so that staff across the Force can see and share what is needed to really put people first."

Letter to the editor

Sir,

In your obituary column of the September 2008 edition, you mention Elsie Gray.

No-one will recognise that name as she was known as Jacqui Franklyn-Gray. She was well known throughout her service, and in retirement, did a lot of work for NARPO (National Association of Retired Police Officers).

I ask that you put her name in the obituaries as people knew her.

I wish you and all members of GMP well.

Joan Reay Barker

NO1 COPPERPOT CREDIT UNION LOTTERY WINNERS

£2,000

G Copeland-Johnson, retired

£1,000

Andrew Hayward, GMP

£500

Sam Smith, GMP

£250

Marcia Young, retired
Martin Johnston, GMP

£100

Christine Rowland, GMP
Robert Carr, Cambridgeshire
John Burgess, retired
Terence Bebbington, GMP
Jennifer Hayward

£50

Helen Wild, GMP
James Braidwood, retired
Wayne Tolton, retired
Ann Consterdine, Leicestershire
Peter Cave, retired
Stephen Ogden, retired
Alvin Salmon, GMP
Jacqueline Ashdown, GMP
Janet Crank, GMP
Mary Kershaw, Leicestershire
Karen Ebdon, Hampshire
Eric Holliday, retired
Denise Collins, GMP
Rhodri Troake, Humberside
Derek Tattersall, retired

OBITUARIES

Former PC **Frederick Wright**, 73, of Aberystwyth, died on 7 October, leaving a widow. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1957 and retired from GMP in 1985.

Former PC **Eric Raymond**, 81, of Failsworth, died on 11 October, leaving a niece as next of kin. He joined Manchester City Police in 1952 and retired from GMP in 1978.

Former PC **Eric Graham**, 86, of Hindley Green, died on 2 September. He joined Lancashire Constabulary in 1947 and retired from GMP in 1976.

Former Ch Insp **Harold Cooper**, 83, of Bolton, died on 2 September, leaving a widow, Marjorie. He joined Bolton Borough Police in 1951 and retired from GMP in 1984.

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brief

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DISORDER INQUIRY'S VISION OF THE FUTURE

CUTTING-edge video technology is being used to isolate individuals involved in the large-scale City Centre disorder during May's UEFA cup final.

Within a larger inquiry team, GMP has a 10-strong video team reviewing more than 1,000 hours of CCTV and other video footage taken during clashes in Manchester City Centre when tens of thousands of Rangers fans travelled to watch their team play Zenit St Petersburg. A total of 39 officers reported injuries.

Senior Investigating Officer Detective Superintendent Geoff Wessell says the scale of the task facing officers when they started to collect camera footage was unprecedented.

He said: "We've collected a vast amount of footage from tens of sources, including local authority cameras, those from private homes or commercial premises, as well as mobile phone footage from internet video sharing and social networking sites."

UNPRECEDENTED

"The scale of the video viewing requirements has been unprecedented within GMP, with each and every bit of recovered footage taken between 4pm on 14 May and 3am the following day having to be viewed and documented virtually frame by frame. You're talking about thousands of people on camera, and having to look at individuals as they move from one piece of footage to another."

"We will very shortly be moving to the stage of identifying and naming in a controlled and methodical manner those people responsible. In excess of 50 facial images have already been isolated as being responsible for one form of disorder or another."



Rangers fans assemble in Manchester City Centre

The evidence was gathered by Major Incident Team and North Manchester Division officers immediately after the end of the disorder – and 'state-of-the art' video capture and editing software deployed to handle it.

For Deputy Senior Investigating Officer Detective Chief Inspector Howard Millington, overseeing the work of the officers involved in video viewing and evidential production, science fiction has become science fact.

"To process that footage, the Force has spent more than £70,000 on high-powered, high-memory computers

and state-of-the-art software – meaning more detailed and enhanced work can be done by dedicated officers – work than previously could only have been done by our Force Imaging department.

The sheer scale of the recovered footage meant that Imaging would have been overwhelmed, leading to the Force making this significant investment in technology. That equipment is based in a room at Collyhurst police station with strictly controlled entry so the integrity of the evidence isn't compromised.

"This is as close as reality gets to what you might have seen on

a futuristic cop programme. It will allow our officers to describe the involvement of an offender and their movements in such detail that we can track individuals within a crowd of hundreds. This will be very powerful when it comes to court."

Detective Superintendent Wessell said the inquiry team were working closely with Strathclyde Police, Rangers Football Club and supporters' groups as part of their investigation. Almost 800 GMP officers involved in the policing operation have also responded to an email request for information from the inquiry team.

BOUNDARIES

He said: "I will explore every avenue to try and obtain names for the images we have. We are pushing the boundaries of identification recognition procedures, which may well become recognised nationally as best practice."

"It is certainly true that we have the most sophisticated equipment anywhere in the UK outside London – equipment that will be permanently available to the Force. The sheer amount of footage now available is something that any investigator now has to consider whenever they investigate a crime in a public place."

WELL-WISHERS: Longsight-based PC Mick Regan is pictured with the many dozens of get well cards and letters of support he has received from the public.

PC Regan was seen on national television being kicked and stamped on by a group of people during the UEFA cup final disorder.

He said at the time: "I suffered a puncture wound to my right elbow because of the bottle being thrown at me and I feel like I've done a few rounds with Ricky Hatton, but other than that I've been lucky. My body armour bore the brunt of it."



PARTY PLANNERS

"Logistics is the backbone of any operation," according to Inspector Steve Worth who headed the planning of the Force's logistics operation during September's Labour Party Conference. He tells *Brief* why catering for the welfare of staff is a crucial part of any operation.



Tea for two thousand: Catering staff prepare breakfast

NAPOLEON said an army marches on its stomach, but even having 2,000 police officers take up position in a city centre involves a considerable amount of food.

Logistics – the often unseen background staff of any operation – was given its biggest test of the year at the Labour Party Annual Conference.

As the operation's Key Task Commander for logistics, Inspector Steve Worth knows a thing or two about planning a large party.

"We had 2,000 officers and staff who needed some form of logistical support during a 24 hour period," he said.

"We had to get them to where they needed to go, feed them and make sure they had the right equipment for the task, from spare radios and batteries to additional uniform and vehicles.

"This is by far the biggest logistical operation during the year and preparation really is in the planning."

With his team of five responsible for the logistical planning, the close cooperation they established with staff from the Business Services Branch and divisional contacts ensured that what was needed reached the frontline when it was needed.

At the city centre 'Island Site', the catering department ran a 150-seat marquee canteen capable of serving 2,500 officers a day around the clock, while an adjacent 200 capacity briefing room, complete with audio-visual equipment, was also built.

These were backed up by catering facilities at Sedgley Park and use of the Territorial Army's Haldane Barracks in Salford, while drivers and workshop staff ensured supplies and vehicles kept moving around the clock.

"Each year brings new challenges and 2008 was no exception," said Insp Worth. "We are always looking to improve the service we provide to GMP staff."



Keeping vehicles on the road was one of the many challenges



Pictures by: Lisa Marks and Bill Morris

Policing by numbers

During the conference:

- 400 vehicles were used, which travelled a total of 26,000 miles and used 4,000 litres of fuel
- 20,908 main meals were served and 2,979 packed meals provided
- 4,000 tomato sauce portions, 6,600 sachets of brown sauce, 7,667 portions of scrambled eggs and 5,500 of baked beans were consumed by officers and staff
- 18,369 teas and coffee were drunk, as were 7,890 fruit juices, 11,070 other cold drinks and 7,548 bottles of water
- The number of butter portions eaten outnumbered margarine by 12,000 to 6,200
- 15,500 barm cakes and 11,000 cakes were consumed
- 13 tonnes of rubbish was created and disposed of

Police disciplinary process simplified

THE most significant changes in police discipline procedures for a decade are introduced from next month. Chief Inspector Jonathan Lowe from the Professional Standards Branch explains below the impact they will have.

ON Monday 1 December, the Police Conduct Regulations 2008 and Police Performance Regulations 2008 come into Force.

The changes have significant implications for management of police officers, for all officers involved in complaints or discipline matters and in particular for the work of the Professional Standards Branch.

A review of police misconduct was undertaken in 2004 led by the former Commissioner of the City of London Police. The review looked at the current systems for dealing with complaints and misconduct investigations, the current arrangements for police discipline, the police Code of Conduct and the Police Unsatisfactory Performance Procedures.

The current arrangements were seen as being overcomplicated, unnecessarily lengthy and costly, and often quite disproportionate. There was concern that discipline proceedings were being used inappropriately to deal with poor performance. The review recommended a legal and procedural framework to speed up the process, give greater satisfaction to complainants, increase confidence to officers under investigation, allow for more proportionate investigations, and make a clearer distinction between performance and discipline. The changes aim to create and support a culture of learning rather than blame.

At the outset of any complaint or misconduct allegation, the Force must carry out a severity assessment of each case. Cases will be divided into four broad categories

Gross Misconduct: serious misconduct for which at the outset it is clear the alleged conduct is either criminal, or so serious that if proved, an officer could be dismissed.

Misconduct: less serious misconduct which, even if proved, would not result in an officer being dismissed.

Neither Gross Misconduct or Misconduct: including poor service or behaviour, which may justify some form of informal management intervention

Performance Issues: It is about officers who 'can't do, rather than won't do'.

The idea of categorising matters at an early stage allows the Force to ensure that if the matter is to be treated as misconduct only, rather than gross misconduct, a proportionate investigation can be carried out, and an officer will be told at an early stage the matter under investigation will not lead to proceedings which could result in that officer losing his or her job.

It is hoped officers will feel more confident, be more open and cooperative with any investigation and have the confidence of knowing at what level the matter is being dealt with. This approach should reduce the time spent on investigations.

The new police performance regulations are

designed to ensure that where an officer needs developing or needs management intervention, this happens in a positive, effective and quick way.

The procedures are in three stages.

Stage 1: Where an officer's performance or attendance is not up to standard, a first stage meeting will be set up with the line manager. This leads to a Written Improvement Notice, including specific details of what performance improvements are expected. The Written Improvement Notice will become the basis for a specific action plan and it must be completed within three months of being issued. If the action plan is not completed to the satisfaction of the line manager, the officer will go to stage two of the process.

Stage 2: A second line manager will repeat the process as for stage 1 and a second final Written Improvement Notice will be issued. If this is not completed to the satisfaction of management, then the officer will go to a Unsatisfactory Performance or Attendance (UPA) meeting at which they could be dismissed.

Stage 3: This is the final stage chaired by a senior officer or police staff equivalent. They will hear from witnesses if relevant, and listen to representations from the officer concerned. Following this, an officer can be dismissed (with or without notice).

Gross Incompetence: If at the outset, the performance of an officer is considered so grossly incompetent that it would not be appropriate to issue an improvement notice, the officer can go straight to a third stage meeting at which the officer could be dismissed.

Reduction in rank: At any third stage UPA meeting an officer can be reduced in rank if their performance is not up to the level expected.

Maintaining Performance: Where a Written Improvement Notice is issued, this should seek to ensure improvement happens straightaway. The notice will require the officer to evidence improved performance over a period of six weeks to three months. If after three months, an officer's performance is considered up to standard, the improved performance must then be maintained for a period of 12 months. If at any time during the 12 months following the issue of a notice, the performance of the officer falls below the required standard, the officer will go straight to the next stage.

The main changes from the old code of conduct are that there are now only 10 specified standards of professional behaviour as opposed to 12 paragraphs in the old code of conduct. Nine mirror the old code of conduct, while the codes for propriety and sobriety, appearance and criminal conduct are removed.

These parts of the code have either been amalgamated or redefined and incorporated into nine of the new standards of professional behaviour.

Honesty and Integrity remains, while Authority Respect and Courtesy replaces politeness and tolerance. Equality and Diversity replace fairness and impartiality with the caveat that officers have a responsibility to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between people from diverse groups. Use of Force is retained. Orders and Instructions replace lawful orders and places the onus on officers to abide by Force policies, as well as regulations and lawful orders.

Duties and Responsibilities replace performance of duties, and Confidentiality is retained. Fitness for Duty replaces sobriety, appearance and also includes the reference in the old performance of duty code, which relates to activities that are likely to aggravate a medical condition or illness or which are against the advice of a doctor, and which would retard an officer's return to duty.

Discreditable Conduct incorporates the old codes for general conduct and criminal convictions or fixed penalties, which can lead to disciplinary action.

A brand new tenth standard of professional behaviour is defined in the regulations which expressly places a duty on officers to challenge, report or take action against colleagues where they have witnessed or are aware of a breach of the standards of professional behaviour. Officers should be assured that this standard of behaviour would only be dealt with as a discipline matter after careful consideration of all the facts.

Changes to Misconduct Procedures: Under the new misconduct procedures if an officer is shown to have breached the professional standards of behaviour in a way that warrants action more serious than management advice or management action, an officer may face formal disciplinary proceedings.

If the matter is considered as Gross Misconduct, the officer will face a hearing at which he or she could lose their job. An officer can be dismissed following a hearing or can be issued with a Final Written Warning or a Written Warning.

There will no longer be fines for officers in breach of discipline and officers cannot be reduced in rank at the hearing. Superintendents' Formal Written Warnings have also gone.

If an officer has a current Final Written Warning in place at the time when a second incident comes to the attention of the Force, then if this second matter is proved the officer must go to a gross misconduct hearing at which they could lose their job even if the second matter is only a simple misconduct matter.

Officers who are found to have breached the standards of professional behaviour in a way which amounts to misconduct, as opposed to gross misconduct, will be required to go to a misconduct meeting.

The senior officer conducting the meeting will consider all the facts of the case and, if necessary, hear from witnesses. If the matter is found proved, an outcome can be imposed such as Final Written Warning, Written Warning or simply management advice. At the meeting an officer can be represented, normally by an experienced Police Federation representative.

If an officer has a Written Warning in place at the time when a second misconduct matter comes to light, then a further written warning cannot be issued. If a second matter justifies the issue of a written warning in these circumstances then this must be a Final Written Warning. A Written Warning is valid for a period of 12 months and a Final Written Warning is valid for 18 months.

If at any stage during misconduct proceedings it is more appropriate to deal with the matter as a performance issue, then it can be changed to be dealt with under police performance regulations.

Band's note-worthy contribution to South Africa

GREATER Manchester Police Band has come to the aid of a South African youngster with a dream of playing jazz.

Fiona Murray, local policing improvement officer (funding) for the Force, spent six months in South Africa in 2005 whilst studying a degree in Third World Development at Derby University.

In South Africa, she taught and set up an IT suite at Khensani Primary School, Soshanguve township, near the capital Pretoria. One of her many 'inspirational' pupils was Lucky (Lehlohonolo), now aged 13, who was keen on playing the trumpet.

Fiona said: "Playing the trumpet was Lucky's respite from all the problems in the townships – including the death of his admired and loved cousin Thabiso – but musical instruments are very expensive in the townships.

"However, when I was speaking to the Force's Director of Music, Geoff Williams, he very kindly said they had a trumpet they didn't need which could be donated to Lucky."

Fiona hopes to travel out to South Africa later this year to hand over the trumpet in person.



Helping high note: Fiona with Geoff Williams, and (inset) with Lucky.

CAREER CRIMINALS ADMIT TOTAL OF 800 VEHICLE OFFENCES

MORE than 800 car crimes have been solved – with just two men from Salford claiming responsibility.

Career criminals Wesley Radford, 31, and David Whiteley, 30, admitted stealing from vehicles in a crime spree going back 15 years.

At one point they were breaking into as many as 20 cars a night to steal CD players to fund their £500-a-day drug addiction.

The two owned up to the crimes by taking part in Cleanslate while in prison in Liverpool.

On 17 occasions between May and July this year, they travelled from prison with officers from Salford Volume Crime Team to point out the areas where they had broken into vehicles.

Each was charged with one offence and the rest were taken into consideration. They were sentenced to six months prison suspended for two years, with a two year supervision order, and drugs and alcohol rehabilitation orders.

Detective Chief Inspector Howard Millington, senior investigating officer,

said: "With so many offences to be taken into account, getting through them involved a tremendous amount of dedication, tenacity, enthusiasm, and planning.

"As part of Operation Ely, we also used a Tier Five interview advisor and a dedicated Crown Prosecution Service lawyer."

Because of the scale of Radford and Whiteley's offending, it took 10 full days to interview them.

DCI Millington added: "The officers involved worked long days in excess of

14 hours so that the operation could be run as professionally and as smoothly as possible.

"The result is amazing – it equates to around two years' worth of detections when compared to the divisional vehicle crime detection target."

Since the two were released from prison, there has been no reported increase in vehicle crime in the area.

*Cleanslate and the Force's guidelines on taking offences into consideration appeared in the September 2008 issue of Brief.



COMING TO A SCREEN NEAR YOU: City centre shopping complex Manchester Arndale has agreed to display crime awareness messages on all its 23 plasma information screens.

Awareness messages will include those related to personal and travel safety, vehicle crime, and counter terrorism.

PC Stuart Pizzey, crime reduction advisor for North Manchester Division, said: "This is a wonderful gesture by the Manchester Arndale to offer this

facility to the police to help pass on key and important messages simply and effectively – without the cost of having to print the same information on leaflets. It reminds the public of the need to take care, keep safe and to protect valuable property."

Manchester Arndale attracts around 650,000 visitors each week and is a member of the Manchester City Centre Crime Prevention Panel.

PC Pizzey is pictured with Glen Barkworth, the centre's general manager.

Letters of Appreciation

putting people first

I CAN'T THANK HER ENOUGH FOR ALL SHE HAS DONE

I had to report an incident, which happened to my daughter who is aged 12. She was being bullied and on this occasion the bully physically attacked her in front of several other children.

She was absolutely petrified and managed to run away. She received several bruises, swollen lips, gash to her neck and scratches. She was in shock and hysterical.

After I reported this attack **PC Claire Howarth** arrived at my home just a few hours later and spoke to my daughter. She has a wonderful way with children and made her feel totally at ease. She advised her of a few self-defence methods, which has given her the confidence to play out again.

I can't thank PC Claire Howarth enough for all she has done and I would just like to let you know that my family and friends feel that she is a total credit to your Force and we feel privileged to have people like her out there looking after us.

*Mrs D. R.,
Rochdale*

DEDICATED

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the two police officers that came to see me after our recent robbery. The first officer on the scene was **PC Patrick Stanley** who was kindness itself in taking details of what had been stolen knowing how upset I was. He was very patient and gentle. The second officer, **PC Andy Read** was also very kind and told me I could phone him anytime if I was worried about anything. They should both be commended for their dedication to their work.

*Mrs M. O.,
Romiley*

AMBASSADOR

I write to commend the work of our school-based police officer, **PC Craig Denton**. He is a real asset to the school and his work with students, staff, parents and the general community is of the highest standard. He is, in my opinion, a real ambassador for your Force and one whom I can commend to you without reserve.

*S Preston,
Head Teacher,
Bedford High School,
Leigh*

HELPING OFF DUTY

I was driving on my way to work having just gone through Altrincham towards the M6 when I had a puncture. **PC Andy Walford** stopped to help me even though he was on his way home after just finishing his shift.

As I struggle to kneel down, his help was much appreciated. This young policeman is a credit to your division and the Force.

*Brian North
Davyhulme*

GAINED COURAGE

I am writing to say a massive thank you for the dedicated service that your officer **PC Dave Malloy** gave to our son when he was a victim of a crime at Manchester Airport.

He gave my son the courage to follow the case through to the end, which in turn enabled him to move on knowing that justice had been done. The advice he gave was second to none, giving him the confidence to overcome his disability. Thank you once again.

*Mrs G. W.,
Stockport*

TRULY PROFESSIONAL

Our daughter has learning difficulties and works in two charity shops. For some time, she was stalked by an older man and on a number of occasions touched inappropriately. When we contacted the police **PC Janet Lowery** and one of her colleagues persuaded our daughter to provide a video interview. The suspect was arrested and taken into custody. Although there was no formal charge because of lack of corroborative evidence, the stalking and interference stopped at once.

We are very grateful for the professional way the case was dealt with so sensitively freeing my daughter from her fear and anxiety. The police force should be proud of such officers.

*B.D.,
South Manchester*

SUPPORTING SCHOOLS

PCSO Molly Barnett, **PC Natalie Barlow** and **PCSO Ben Morton** recently visited our Foundation Stage Unit. The visit was arranged to support our topic about people who help us. We would just like to thank you all for a fantastic afternoon, the children had a brilliant time.

We hope we will be involved many more times with the community support officers who were pleasant, helpful and enthusiastic. All three members of your team are a credit to the police force.

*Mrs Lesley Corcoran
St Annes R.C. Primary School
Ancoats*

Sincere thanks to **PCSO Bill Walsh** and **PCSO Dominique Grimes**. They have worked really hard to develop their relationship with local schools and have made a number of visits to our school. The session on mobile phone

safety to Year 5/6 children was excellent.

*Steve Cowan
Saint Thomas More R.C.
Primary School
Middleton*

SUPPORTIVE

My husband and I have been suffering at the hands of an individual since 1999 and it was not until **PC Neil Coulson** became involved in August last year that things began to progress.

He provided exceptional professional support, was available on numerous occasions and always patient and supportive during the difficult times. He also provided reassurance and gave concise and clear instructions in areas of law that were unfamiliar to us.

This case was heard in court and PC Coulson has continued to update us throughout. I feel sure that without his dedication, this case would never have been heard.

*A & M,
Ashton-under-Lyne*

A GOOD JOB AT THE AIRPORT

I would like to commend two of your officers, **PC Gary Homa** and **PC Jeremy Riley** following the theft of my handbag from my car. They were not only efficient and prompt in their actions but were also unfailingly kind and considerate in their dealings with my partner and I. They extended every courtesy and made what was an unpleasant and traumatic incident bearable.

In the current climate of often unflattering press about the police, it is a pleasure to encounter the very best and I should be most grateful if you would convey my comments and heartfelt thanks to them.

*Julia Baynes
Stoke-on-Trent*

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

THANK YOU...

Please will you give **PC David Hodgkinson** a pat on the back, he was the young man who helped me. I am so very grateful to him, he is a fine officer and a thoughtful caring young man. Its true the old saying 'aren't our policemen wonderful'.

*M Sharrocks
Rochdale*

Just to say thank you to **PCSOs Caroline Smith** and **Danny Vickers**. For months we have been hassled with young teenagers throwing stones and other missiles at our property. These two young officers have gone out of their way to help us and the matter is now resolved. We have been treated kindly and sympathetically by Danny and Caroline and have been assured that they are still keeping an eye on our property and us. They are a credit to the force.

*E.B.,
Wigan*

Sincere thanks and appreciation for the outstanding professionalism of **PC Dominic Bennici** who supported me following the discovery of the sudden death of my brother-in-law in Mossley. PC Bennici was extremely supportive and offered me valuable guidance during this harrowing time.

*Mrs Catherine Nolan-Burnitt
Cheshire*

My son had his bicycle stolen earlier this year. **PC Steven Le Cheminant** did a great job by returning the bicycle. I'd just like to say you are doing a great job.

*Carole Graham
Wythenshawe*

FOR EXEMPLARY POLICE SERVICE

EVERY year dozens of the Force's officers receive the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal after completing 22 years' unblemished service.

But how much is known about the medal itself?

It was created in June 1951 by King George VI to acknowledge officers who had attained the required number of years of service and it could be 'certified that their character and conduct have been of a very high standard.'

"1951 was really an attempt to standardise a medal that one or two forces had previously been issuing for long service," says Force Museum Curator Duncan Broady. "When it was introduced, officers were able to be awarded it retrospectively."

Carson Jones of the Royal Mint at Llandrisant, South Wales, says 500 of the medals are produced each month and despatched to forces across the country.

"We use the same high-quality cupro-nickel material as is used for the five pence, 10 pence and

50 pence. It is cast on site and engraved with the officer's name on the rim while still at the Royal Mint."

On one side of the medal is an effigy of the Queen, and on the reverse, a female figure depicting Justice holding scales in one hand and a wreath in the other. At her feet lies a truncheon and inscribed are the words 'for exemplary police service.'

The ribbon worn with the medal and also worn on the left breast tunic pocket is dark blue with twin white stripes at each end.

In May 1956, awarding of the medal was extended to officers from Australia, Papua New Guinea and Nauru – although Australia replaced it with its National Medal in 1976.

Of greater antiquity, though, is the Special

Constabulary Long Service Medal. It was introduced in August 1919, is made from bronze, and is awarded for nine years' unpaid service.

It is worn with a ribbon with a broad red stripe flanked by black and white stripes.



Citizen-focused award for Rochdale

ROCHDALE North Neighbourhood Policing Team has scored top marks for providing the 'best service' to families living in the town.

The team fought off competition from 113 other firms, including major high-street retailers and local and national businesses, to be named winner of the 'best customer service' category at the annual Rochdale Town Centre Business Awards ceremony.

Judges were impressed by the team's approaches to citizen focus, which included the way it organised meetings and surgeries to ensure policing met the needs of local people.

The awards ceremony is sponsored by Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council.

Inspector James Troisi heads the team. He said: "We're delighted with the award which acknowledges how the team is working hard to put people first when policing Rochdale North.

"Mystery shoppers were used to assess how we respond to the needs of people and we apparently scored 100 per cent.

"They will have looked at examples of our citizen-focused approach, such as 'Super Surgeries' where officers engage with the community at places where there are high-levels of customers, such as supermarkets. At these places we not only provide a reassuring high-visibility presence, but we get a lot of community intelligence in return.

"We also hold regular town centre PACT (police and communities together) meetings, where three priorities are identified by the public each month, which officers then report back on."



Award-winning: Insp Troisi is pictured (centre) with his team

JAIL FOR 'SEX SLAVE' TWO FROM HUNGARY

TWO men have been jailed for forcing young and uneducated Hungarian women to work in the sex industry in Bolton.

Janos Bogdan and Sandor Sarkozi, both from Hungary, pleaded guilty and were sentenced to nine months and 18 months respectively for controlling prostitution.

They were part of an organised prostitution network and had little difficulty in persuading their unsuspecting victims to come to Bolton.

One woman escaped from them to alert police. She was told by the two that she would be providing sexual services at least 10 times a day and was forced to hand over her earnings. When she wasn't working as a

prostitute, she was forced to work in a salad factory.

Detective Constable Richard Armstrong, of Bolton CID, said: "This woman was used as a slave. Driven by greed, Bogdan and Sarkozi wanted to make as much money as possible with no regard for the victim."

"There were a couple of complications during the investigation as we had to apply for a copy of Bogdan and Sarkozi's criminal records from Hungary, which was extensive to say the least, and arrange for the victim to be video interviewed using an interpreter."

"With a dearth of interpreters, this was difficult but we got there in the end, and pleased that they both received prison sentences."



**BOGDAN:
JAILED FOR NINE YEARS**



**SARKOZI:
18 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT**

Fingerprints in the family

By Janet Wilcox

LIKE many others who have watched the popular BBC programme *Who Do You Think You Are*, which follows the progress of people discovering their ancestors, Richard Case, Fingerprint Officer in Forensic Services Branch, decided he would find out more about his own family tree.

Little did he know that his studies would lead to the discovery of a family connection with a fingerprint pioneer and to his being the subject of his own BBC interview.

"I was looking for interesting stories about my ancestors," said Richard. "I knew I might find dark secrets, and like people in the programme, I thought I might find one or two criminals somewhere in my family tree!" But Richard's ancestors proved to be involved in criminal identification in quite a different way.

Richard's two-year research, using census records and with help from contacts in the Metropolitan Police, revealed that he is related to Charles Stockley Collins, who helped set up the first ever fingerprint bureau at Scotland Yard in 1901. Charles Stockley Collins, who is Richard's first cousin four times removed, was also the first ever person to give fingerprint evidence in court. This makes him, technically, the first ever fingerprint expert.

"I'd learned about Charles Stockley Collins from my fingerprint training. When the two surnames Collins and Stockley emerged in my family tree, this made me look into it further," said Richard.

Many people featured in the programme seem affected in a positive way by what they find out about their family and Richard is no exception.

"Obviously it's given me more understanding of my ancestors and I am proud of where I come from. It's also given me more of an interest in how the fingerprint bureau of New Scotland Yard was established," explained Richard. "The funny thing is I went along to the Centenary of New Scotland Yard Fingerprint Bureau in 2001. Little did I know then that my ancestor was one of the people who set it up."

Before 1901, habitual criminals were identified by the use of body measurements, an unreliable method. Due to scientific breakthroughs investigating the unique characteristics of fingerprints, a Government committee decided to start using fingerprints as a primary means of identification. All the fingerprints

would have been filed using a classification system. The 1990s saw the introduction of automated identification systems.

His enthusiasm fuelled by this discovery, Richard has already continued his research and found another family member, James Stockley, who joined the Metropolitan Police in 1885 and went on to become a chief inspector. He and Charles Stockley Collins would have known each other. Chief Inspector James Stockley was involved in many high profile cases, including the case of Jack the Ripper.

Richard's discoveries are the subject of an article in the October edition of the BBC *Who Do You Think You Are* magazine.



Putting his finger on family history: Richard researches in the Force Museum archives



**Fingerprint pioneer
Charles Stockley Collins**

High in the sky is GMP's new

Kitted out in a striking yellow and dark blue livery is the Force's new helicopter for aerial surveillance and search and rescue. Amy Rudd of the Specialist Operations Branch went to see the new helicopter was unveiled.

AIRWORTHY: Sgt Rainford (centre) with other members of GMP's Air Support Unit and the new helicopter.

FOR an aircraft which will clock up thousands of hours airtime in the skies above Greater Manchester, it seemed only appropriate that its life began with a flight – from Arizona to Scotland's Prestwick Airport in a series of crates.

The empty shell of the helicopter – a McDonnell Douglas MD902 Explorer – was then transferred to Cheltenham where specialist company Police Aviation Services

equipped it with the latest in helicopter-borne gadgetry.

Only then was it ready for inspection and a public unveiling at its Barton base by Police Authority Chairman Councillor Paul Murphy.

Keeping the existing call sign India 99, this latest addition replaces the previous Force helicopter – also a MD902 Explorer – which had seen service with the Force for seven years, flown more than 8,000 hours, dealt with around

5,500 incidents and been integral in the arrest of more than 700 criminals.

But there the similarities end. At the touch of a button, its state-of-the-art searchlight can adjust from narrow to wide-angle and a range of filters selected to reduce glare, enhance natural colour or introduce infra-red light. Where dense vegetation or darkness may make missing people or offenders effectively invisible to officers on the

new eye in the sky

s latest addition to the aerial fight against
Barton Aerodrome to watch as the new

How things have taken off...



New dawn: The Force's first helicopter.

WHEN GMP's first helicopter arrived in 1989, Phil Rainford was the youngest member of the newly-formed Air Support Unit.

Now as unit Executive Officer, Sergeant Phil Rainford, can look back on almost 20 years of helicopter service with the Force.

Hailed as the 'cutting edge' of police aviation, GMP were deemed ahead of the game when they purchased the AS 355 twin-engined Squirrel helicopter.

In those days there were no flying suits - officers had to wear police uniform (jumpers were a concession) and a headset with a police radio wired into them.

"A pair of binoculars, an A-Z and a handheld searchlight was all we had," said Sgt Rainford, pointing out it was a far cry from the hi-tech cameras and Trakka beam on board the new MD 902.

"If something needed videoing, we used a large shoulder held Panasonic M7 Video camera - tied to our waist with a rope to stop it from falling out of the aircraft - while we filmed sat on the side of the helicopter with our feet on the skids.

"It was all improvised, but we provided a good service and we got results."

FACT FILE

MCDONNELL DOUGLAS MD902 EXPLORER:

- Maximum speed: 145 knots/167 miles per hour.
- Ceiling: A maximum operating height of 16,000 feet, although will rarely be used above 2,500 feet
- Noise: 50 per cent quieter than a conventional tail rotor helicopter.
- Operational standby: ready to be in the air within two minutes

ON THE ROTA: The helicopter comes in to land at Barton for the first time.

ground, the crew of India 99 get a bird's eye view.

And with an engine that means it's 50 per cent quieter than a conventional tail rotor helicopter, it has that element of stealth - though when it wants to be heard it comes equipped with a public address system to make direct contact with officers and members of the public on the ground.

The aircraft is also fitted with high-definition

daylight and thermal imaging camera systems and Automatic Number Plate Recognition, while navigation is aided by moving map technology, which can be aligned to the camera system and enables the helicopter crew to identify accurately specific locations

The £4.3 million price tag on the new helicopter was offset by the sale of the previous aircraft and a £1.2 million grant from the Home Office.

Clothing catalogue for museum

THE Force Museum is currently undergoing a number of re-cataloguing projects. One of these is the font store uniform project.

Museum Officer Claire Mayle is appealing for help in cataloguing the museum's store of historic uniforms.

She said: "We are fortunate to have a wealth of historical uniform in our collection, but we have got to a stage where the storage facilities that were once adequate are no longer meeting our demands. We desperately need to look at improved methods of storage to ensure the

long-term preservation of the individual garments.

"The first thing on the agenda is to go through all the pieces and re-check for damage and deterioration. Then we need to re-categorise the garments, put them onto new rails and design simple calico protective covers and padded hangers."

Claire is asking for volunteers to assist with the project and is also looking for a sewing machine in full working order that could be lent or donated to the museum. She can be contacted on 0161 856 4500 or by email to claire.mayle@gmp.police.uk.

Christmas Celebration 2008

GMP's festive music celebration takes place at Manchester Cathedral on Thursday 11 December.

Performing on the night are the Greater Manchester Police Band, vocalist Clara Williams (a chief inspector in the Operational Communications Branch) and Handbag of Harmonies from BBC's Last Choir Standing.

Tickets for the free event – which begins at 7.30pm – can be booked via the Intranet home page.

Due to an increase in demand for tickets in recent years, tickets will be subject to availability and restricted to a maximum of six per person. They will be issued on a first come, first served basis.



HIGH FLYING: Pictured are five GMP officers chosen for a scheme developing senior police leaders of the future.

Inspector Arif Nawaz and Sergeant Tariq Butt from Tameside Division, Sergeant Marcus Noden and PC Ilana Journo of South Manchester Division, and DC Jason Eddison of Wigan Division, are among the 80 successful candidates for this year's intake on the national High Potential Development Scheme.

Dan Caborn, of GMP's People and Development Branch, said: "There isn't a reserved number of places per force. All the 200-plus applicants from forces across the UK had to go through a rigorous selection process before being chosen."

Earlier this year, the National Policing Improvement Agency finalised a reassessment of the scheme's format, which applies from this year. Current members of HPDS – of which GMP has 13 going through the scheme – will continue on the previous format.

Assistant Chief Officer Julia Rogers described the five places awarded to GMP officers as a 'fantastic achievement.'

"Their achievement is all the more remarkable as with HPDS having a new system this year, they didn't have much time to prepare," she said.

"This scheme is about investing in the development of our staff who have the potential to become senior leaders of the future."

SERIOUS CRIME OPEN DAY

THE Serious Crime Division throws open its doors for its very first open day on Wednesday 26 November.

The event takes place at the Chapel Howard Suite, Sedgley Park, between 9am and 3pm to give officers and staff an insight into the division's work.

Detective Chief Superintendent Steve Heywood said: "When we changed our name to the Serious Crime Division, it was important that the name reflected what the division does.

"There is probably still a lack of awareness among officers and staff

about our work, so this is a great opportunity for them to find out. On the day, members of the HR team will also be on hand to talk about the opportunities to work within this division."

The informal event sees members of the division's different units and sections available to talk about their work, their experiences and successes, as well as answer questions.

For further information, contact Detective Inspector Rick Jackson on extension 66404.

Jail for men who put 88-year-old through burglary ordeal

A FRAIL 88-year-old woman was prevented from getting out of bed as two masked men ransacked her home.

Shaun Sumner and Craig Mackin have been jailed for six years and six years nine months for their raid on the woman's Wigan home.

Wearing stockings over their heads, they entered her bedroom and demanded to know where she kept her money – and even snatched away her stick as she tried to get out of

bed, and lifted the mattress to see if there was anything underneath.

They seized a number of bank cards and threatened to tie up the frightened woman if she didn't tell them her PIN.

Detective Constable John O'Donnell of Wigan CID said: "Mackin and Sumner put a frail and vulnerable victim through a terrifying ordeal. Fortunately these nasty criminals were caught and brought to justice."

The victim has sadly since died from an unrelated illness.

Life for six-week robbery spree

A MAN has been sentenced to life after a six-week robbery rampage in which a punched a pregnant woman and fired a gun at another victim.

A court heard that Michael Kiely was prepared to terrorise his victims to get his hands on anything he could.

In a six week period in July and August last year, he robbed three people at gunpoint.

He knocked on the door of a house in Longsight and demanded cash from a 17-year old girl when she opened the door.

In another incident, he drove into a car driven by a pregnant woman. When she got out of her car to exchange details, Kiely punched her

in the face, climbed into her car and drove off. He also shot at another victim who had to jump from an upstairs window to escape, breaking his ankle in the fall.

Detective Sergeant Rob Couson, of Longsight police station, said: "Kiely is a dangerous person. On the day he was followed by police officers from the Metropolitan Division, he was in a stolen Corsa. Even after his arrest he tried to make out he wasn't driving the Corsa, but he had left a trail of evidence from the stolen car to clothing and equipment he had used during the robberies."

Kiely was ordered to serve a minimum of five years behind bars before being eligible for parole.

Federation Open Meeting

The GMP Federation Open Meeting takes place on Thursday 27 November at New Century House, Manchester. Doors open at 6.30pm, meeting starts at 7pm.

Charter makes mark on witness support

By Emma Payne

THE consequences of people having too many bad experiences of the criminal justice system – such as victims and witnesses not being kept informed of the progress of an inquiry – has seen them withdrawing from cases or failing to help the police on subsequent occasions.

The Witness Charter sets out standards of care for witnesses in criminal cases in much the same way as the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime does for victims.

Much of the charter is already embraced within existing policies and practice, for example the completion of initial needs assessments on the reverse of the statement form, and the

identification of those witnesses who are vulnerable and intimidated.

The most significant changes for the Force are set out under standard seven of the charter and requires police officers to keep witnesses updated during an investigation of a serious offence before a suspect is charged. Once a case is before the court, the joint police/CPS Witness Care Units take on responsibility for updating witnesses.

Greater Manchester Police is adopting a phased approach and from Monday 1 December, standard seven will apply to the most serious offences, listed as Tier One by the Home Office. This includes, homicide cases, sexual offences, wounding with intent and death by dangerous driving. The full list can be seen on

the Victim and Witness section of the Criminal Justice operations intranet site along with a copy of the charter.

An Ncalt e-learning package has been developed for those officers in specialist units likely to deal with the relevant cases and for divisional CID officers, but all officers are encouraged to complete the package. While the Charter sets out minimum standards, officers should strive to provide a quality service to all people who come into contact with the Force and particularly victims and witnesses. In time, the Force is aiming to extend standard seven to other witnesses.

Questions about the charter can be sent to Inspector John Gill or Emma Payne in the Victim and Witness Section of Criminal Justice Operations.



PICK UP A PENGUIN: Children who smuggled a penguin out of a zoo were caught when teachers found it on their coach on the way home. The 10-year-old German classmates stole the bird from Cologne Zoo by stuffing it in a rucksack. A zoo spokesman said: 'Penguins look cute but can give a very nasty nip when they want to.'

SHANGHAI SURPRISE: A Chinese couple dressed their dog in a tee shirt to beat a train ban on pets. Rail officials weren't fooled, however, and the couple fled Shanghai rail station with the dog - accidentally leaving behind their five-year-old son.

FOUR STAR SERVICE: A car driver filled up his car in Brazil then had his £37 bill paid by a masked woman calling herself the Fuel Phantom. 'I felt like I'd been visited by an angel,' said the motorist.

NAKED AMBITION: A naturist jailed for hiking naked is sitting out his sentence in the buff – because prison clothes depress him. Siegfried Grawert has a private cell for his ten-week term in Nuremberg jail. 'I do not offend anyone – being naked is the most natural thing in the world,' said the rambler.

CRIME BOSSES LICKED: Jailed Mafia godfathers in Italy have turned their back on putting their rivals on ice – and have created an ice cream-making business from their prison cells.

CRIMINAL IN-TENT: A man was surprised to find his stolen tent being offered for sale on ebay – by a man living in the same building in Bochum, Germany.

BEST OF BUDDIES: Emergency services in Pheonix, Arizona, were alerted after heart attack patient Joe Stalnaker's dog dialled 911. Buddy, the German Shepherd, had been trained to whimper and bark down the phone if his owner required assistance. Joe made a full recovery.

Full marks for police cadets

BURY'S second set of volunteer police cadets have passed their course with flying colours.

The 16 teenagers, who successfully completed the Police Cadet Scheme, were all presented with Level One certificates at the Bury Volunteer Police Cadet Awards, held at Sedgley Park.

Divisional Commander Chief Superintendent Jon Rush attended the awards evening along with officers who trained the cadets, and the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Bury (pictured).

Ch Supt Rush said: "This course has once again been a great opportunity for the young people taking part to get a

real insight into the variety of work undertaken by the police. We are very proud of the group who have been fantastic and a delight to work with. They have worked hard and deserve their success."

The teenagers were trained in first aid, physical fitness, crime reduction and the history of policing.

The scheme – which is funded by the High Sheriff's Trust – will begin again next summer.

To apply, candidates need to be aged between 16 and 18, either live in or have been educated in Bury, and be prepared to give up two hours of their time each week.



CALLING ALL CARS

THE Force Museum is looking for pictures of Greater Manchester Police vehicles to add to its existing archive. Photos of vehicles, with or without their crew and from the 1960s through to the 1990s, are sought. Contact Gary Scott at the museum on extension 63287 or 64500 or by email at: police.museum@gmp.police.uk.

A night in the life of the City Safe Team

Changes to the Licensing Act in 2005 has meant a substantial difference in the way GMP works with pubs and clubs. **Rachel Bradley** joined the Manchester City Safe team to see how they are tackling city centre crime and anti-social behaviour.

WHEN office staff and other workers look to unwind at the end of the day, one team's work is just about to get busier.

The Manchester City Safe Team exists to reduce alcohol-related crime inside licensed premises and the type of crime associated with the night-time economy.

And a rapid regeneration of a city, which has seen around 500 new licensed premises open in the space of a few years, means there is plenty of work to do.

Covering North Manchester, Metropolitan Division, South Manchester and the airport, the team comprises one inspector, two sergeants and five PCs. It also includes three police staff who deal with licence applications, premises variations, temporary event notices and other similar issues.

The team traces its origins to the City Safe Project, set up in 2002 to deal with the expanding number of pubs and clubs. In the past 12 months, a key area of work has been to work with partner agencies on improving late-night transport to ensure that people can enjoy a night out – and get home safely.

The team's Sergeant Gareth Parkin said: "This work has proved to be successful in reducing the level of harm crime in the city centre this summer by 27 per cent compared to summer 2007.

"Buses are being provided for students at major events and the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive has prolonged services at Shudehill bus terminal to ensure people can get out of the city in the early hours of the morning."

With Manchester having the largest number of students of any city in Europe, much work is focused on



Insp Ron Orr and Sgt Brooks speak to the licensee at a city centre pub.

Photo: Chris Oldham

ensuring that young people – most away from home for the first time – don't fall victim to crime. Later licences, with more temporary events taking place in the city and more bars and pubs staying open later, has required a similar change of focus from policing.

Sergeant Andy Brooks said: "The city centre has always been busy, but events taking place during the week can create as many challenges as a busy weekend. Student nights generally run on a Monday and Wednesday and these can continue until as late as 4am.

"This obviously means there is a greater demand on officers, who constantly have to adapt to the ever

shifting landscape of the night-time economy."

A typical Friday or Saturday night (if there is such a thing) attracts up to 150,000 revellers to the city, with even larger numbers in the weeks before Christmas and during major events such as Pride, Freshers' Week, and sporting events

Coping with poor licensing practices and badly organised events occupies a large proportion of the team's time.

Sgt Parkin explained: "These issues are generally overcome by inviting licensees into the police station for an interview, where we put together an action plan with them so that they have some guidance on how best to correct any problems they are facing on their premises."

This proactive approach to policing focuses on early intervention and preventative measures in order to solve any problems before turning to enforcement.

Sgt Parkin added: "The team prides itself on the work it does with partners. It's our job to ensure that we are all working towards common goals."

Manchester City Safe has been running Best Bar None since 2003 and this year the fifth event was held at the Hilton on Deansgate, where members of the licensing trade came together to celebrate the work that they do to keep the night-time economy safe for the public.

The team is also working to obtain a Purple Flag from the Civic Trust, much

in the same way that Blue Flags are awarded to seaside resorts and Green Flags are awarded to countryside destinations. The Purple Flag is a sign of best practice in city centres.

Sgt Brookes said: "The team hopes that this will show visitors, residents and workers in the city that everyone is working to ensure Manchester is safe and is at the forefront of best practice in tackling crime and disorder.

"There have been a lot of changes to City Safe over the last 12 months. This is a new team with plenty of new ideas about how best to shape the future of the night-time economy. Many of the initiatives that started here have now been rolled out across the country as examples of how to 'get it right'. We now plan to revisit and revamp some of the older initiatives, while looking at how to introduce new ones."



PC McManus checks for evidence of drug use in a bar's toilets

"I want the pubs, bars and clubs to expect us to visit; not think something is wrong when we do. This will take time but it will continue so that the licensees know they have our support in doing their bit to prevent crime on their premises. Inspector Ron Orr"

TIMELINE

- 20.00hrs:** The team clock on for their shift at Bootle Street and decide what licensed premises they are going to visit. Two members of staff from Environmental Health will be joining us for the evening.
- 20.40hrs:** In the police van are Inspector Ron Orr, Sergeants Gareth Parkin and Andy Brooks, PC Martin Aylett - who was driving - and PC Dave McManus. First stop was Harpurhey police station to discuss a visit to a Moston pub with the Neighbourhood Policing Team.
- 21.00hrs:** We arrived at the pub and the team use wipes to detect the presence of cocaine - evidence of cocaine use is found in the men's toilets. Two men are removed following an altercation. One becomes abusive and is issued with a fixed penalty notice.
- 21.30hrs:** Next visit is cut short as the pub we were due to call on - where there was a concern it would be serving alcohol illegally - is closed as it should be.
- 21.45hrs:** At the request of Environmental Services, visit the Metropolitan Division following a complaint of excessive noise from a house. All quiet on arrival and no apparent issues.
- 22.20hrs:** A quiet pub on the outskirts of the city is the next stop. The licensee had recently left and the license had not been changed over to the current occupier, therefore any alcohol being sold is being served illegally. The small number of customers are asked to leave and informed the pub is closed until the licence is renewed.
- 22.45hrs:** Visit a busy bar close to Canal Street where there had been complaints of under-age drinkers. One teenager found in possession of cannabis and issued with a fixed penalty notice; another girl is collapsed in a chair and her friends are told to take her home. The bar's assistant manager is given a warning about the problems the team has seen and was told he would be visited again soon.
- 23.30hrs:** A short distance away and there's a bar which is being run very differently. The manager shows us around the bar and takes us up to the next floor where they had a VIP area, 'chill out lounge' and a staff CCTV suite to detect potential drug use on the premises.
- 00.30hrs:** Back to Bootle Street where I finish for the evening, but the team continue with their visits around the city where they deal with the crowds that continue to leave bars and clubs right into the early hours of the morning.

SPECIAL ROLES



THE Force's 335-strong Special Constabulary has a new top team.

Chief Officer Paul Whittam (pictured right) and Deputy Chief Officer Bart Ganley (left) took up the reins following the retirement of previous Chief Officer David Gledhill in April 2008 and deputy Geoff Caulfield in December last year.

Chief Officer Whittam, whose full-time job involves running an IT department, has been a special constable for 14 years.

He said: "Special constables in Greater Manchester come from a wide variety of backgrounds. We have got nurses, we've got doctors, we've got teachers, we've had undertakers - all in all, we've got a wide range of backgrounds that means people bring valuable skills to GMP."

The Force's entire Special Constabulary came together last month for their annual parade at Sedgley Park. It is the occasion in the year when special constables are formally

thanked for giving up their spare time to police communities across the Force area.

Specials from Stockport Division gained the Ormiston Cup for working the most hours of special constables on any division - an average of seven hours a week each. North Manchester Division's Craig Lammas received the Special Constable of the Year Award, and the Bill Turner Trophy for special probationer of the year was won by Robert Drysdale of Oldham Division.

Chief Superintendent Neil Wain of Stockport Division said: "The hours worked by specials on this division demonstrates the level of commitment this group of volunteers has for the community of Stockport, and their support is appreciated by their full-time colleagues."

"They not only support us by policing sporting events and carnivals, but also by being a key part of Neighbourhood Policing teams targeting local crime and anti-social behaviour problems."

Award for damage reduction

A CRIME-FIGHTING partnership from Bolton has scooped the country's top problem-solving award.

The Bolton BeSafe Strategic Partnership - comprising officers and staff from Bolton Division, the local council and other agencies - won the Tilley Award by cutting criminal damage across Bolton by 13 per cent over the past two years.

The partnership fought off strong competition from many other crime reduction initiatives to win the prestigious title, which is awarded annually. Detailed analysis of hot spot locations, offenders and types of damage was used to ensure policing tactics were appropriately targeted. It was calculated that when

the initiative started, criminal damage was costing Bolton families and businesses around £6 million a year.

Bolton Division Superintendent Dave Flitcroft, also Head of Community Safety for the Bolton BeSafe partnership, said: "The achievement was only possible through an incredibly strong and effective partnership and high quality analysis, relentless delivery of a vast range of partnership interventions, and constant evaluation of our progress toward the objective."

"We know that criminal damage is a crime that has a disproportionate impact on people's fear of crime, confidence in criminal justice and policing, and their satisfaction with where they live."

ADVERTS ARE PUBLISHED ON THE INTERNET AT: WWW.GMP.POLICE.UK

Counter terrorism goes to court

By Michelle Snowden

THE Pursue strand of the Government's CONTEST Strategy is concerned with "reducing the terrorist threat to the UK and to UK interests overseas by disrupting terrorists and their operations".

While a disruption or arrest is critical, it is just one element of the overall Pursue process. Following executive action, the next stage of Pursue is to secure any relevant evidence and, in partnership with the Crown Prosecution Service, bring about the successful prosecution of the suspect or suspects in question.

Both the gathering and presentation of evidence during a terrorist investigation can be extremely complex. It is with this in mind that staff at GMP CTU must be fully equipped with the skills and knowledge to professionally present such evidence during what will be a potentially difficult trial.

One group in particular which is more likely than ever to be required to give evidence is GMP CTU's Surveillance Unit. While the Surveillance Unit has a wealth of experience in operational activity, the vast majority of staff have not had experience of terrorism trials that involve the use of sensitive material requiring protection under the Public Interest Immunity Process.

It is for this very reason that GMP CTU's Training and Development Unit created an exercise that not only provided surveillance staff with an awareness of procedures during a terrorism trial, but also highlighted some of the tactics employed by the defence counsel during proceedings.

Exercise Yak was made up of four key sections, including:

- The provision of a pre-read package highlighting areas of relevance for all surveillance practitioners and identifying specific topics of law/policy that staff may consider worthy of research
- Two full training days consisting of full surveillance scenarios incorporating all aspects of conventional and technical surveillance
- The requirement for all staff involved in the exercise to supply witness statements and any unused material pertaining to the training days
- A 'trial' held at the mock Crown Court at the GMP Museum, Newton Street, where members of the CTU Surveillance Unit were called to give evidence about the surveillance training day



Testimony on trial – the Force Museum courtroom used to bring realism to the training

In order to ensure that the trial aspect of the training exercise was as realistic as possible, the CTU Training and Development Unit secured the involvement of Mr Charles Garside QC and Mr David Friesner to act as the judge and defence counsel for the day.

As professionals in this field, both Mr Friesner and Mr Garside QC played a critical role in helping CTU staff understand how a major terrorism trial works. Furthermore, Mr Friesner – acting as the defence counsel – displayed a range of cross-examination tactics that aimed to challenge the witnesses and question their entire testimony.

This was done not with the intention of isolating or criticising any of the witnesses – but to ensure that everyone involved benefited from a realistic scenario and gave them the confidence to give strong evidence in future trials.

The trial ended with a question and answer session, where both Mr Garside QC and Mr Friesner offered key advice and guidance to staff that could not be gained elsewhere.

As is the case with any successful and worthwhile training exercise, Exercise Yak brought to the fore a number of key issues that surveillance staff must take into consideration in their day-to-day duties should it result in them being called as a witness in a future trial.

The main learning points emerging from Exercise Yak included:

- The importance of detailed and accurate witness statements drawn up from accurate source documents
- The correct seizure and handling of exhibits
- Best practice regarding the identification of suspects
- Dealing with covert policing methods that require protection under the Public Interest Immunity Process
- Compliance with national surveillance guidance

Superintendent Dave Chetwynd, Head of the GMP CTU Surveillance Unit, said: "Exercise Yak provided an excellent opportunity to develop surveillance in the field into an evidential package. This was then tested in a courtroom environment in front of members of the judiciary.

"It has been of great benefit to the staff involved and will inform and enhance the development of improved practices and procedures for the future".

Ultimately, Exercise Yak brought to light a number of issues that should be considered best practice by all surveillance officers. It succeeded not only in giving staff a valuable insight into the workings of a major terrorist trial but gave surveillance officers the confidence to accomplish this element of Pursue in the most effective way possible.

Speaking about the outcomes of Exercise Yak, Detective

It has been a privilege to be here. We've been most impressed by the way Exercise Yak has been organised. Certainly from our perspective it seems to be an extremely effective training exercise.

Mr. Charles Garside QC

DIVISIONAL ROUND-UP

ROCHDALE DIVISION

OFFICERS targeted areas in Rochdale to tackle underage drinking and made a number of arrests. During the initiative officers carried out 46 stop checks, visited local off-licences and seized a number of cans as well as bottles of lager, wine and spirits.

Inspector James Troisi of the Rochdale North Neighbourhood Policing Team said: "Young people and parents who provide alcohol need to know they will be dealt with robustly, as drink fuels the majority of anti-social and intimidating behaviour.

"Operations like this are proving successful, and we have seen 113 fewer reported incidents of anti-social behaviour during August this year compared to last year."

SALFORD DIVISION

WARNING bells were handed out to shoppers by the Central Neighbourhood Policing Team to cut purse thefts in Salford.

The warning bells, which can be easily attached to handbags and purses make a sound if thieves attempt to steal from an unsuspecting shopper. They are particularly useful for the elderly and disabled people who are more vulnerable to pickpockets.

In addition, patrols were increased in hotspot areas, officers worked with businesses and security staff to identify offenders, and officers and CCTV have been used to target pickpockets.

SOUTH MANCHESTER DIVISION

THE illegal use of off-road bikes was targeted by police in Sale. During the three-day operation, officers from the Sale Neighbourhood Policing Team were out on the streets of Sale West.

As well as the seizure of two scooters and a motorcycle, a live firearm was also handed in to a mobile police station. One man was also arrested on suspicion of driving with no insurance and 12 people were stopped and searched.

Inspector Brendan O'Brien said: "The illegal use of off-road motorcycles can have a massive impact on people's quality of life and personal safety. This is just further evidence of the excellent work that has taken place to make Sale West a safer area in which to live, work and visit."

NORTH MANCHESTER DIVISION

YOUNGSTERS in Moston and Harpurhey have been encouraged not to waste their money on alcohol or hang around open spaces.

Officers carried out high-visibility patrols, confiscated more than £1,000 worth of alcohol and spoke to parents about the money teenagers were wasting on alcohol. Inspector Leon Jacobs said: "We're encouraging parents to put a stop to their children sitting around parks and street corners drinking alcohol. It isn't safe and it causes a nuisance to local residents."

TRAFFORD DIVISION

RESIDENTS in Bucklow St Martins saw a 15 per cent reduction in anti-social behaviour thanks to high-visibility patrols of officers from the Urmston and Partington Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

Officers patrolled identified hotspots, which resulted in the seizure of six off-road bikes, the arrest of six people, 80 stop and searches and 50 intelligence submissions.

BOLTON DIVISION

LOCAL residents joined officers from the Wingates area of Westhoughton to resolve some of the local policing issues.

During the walkabout, residents were able to talk about some of the local policing issues including anti-social behaviour, litter, graffiti, underage drinking and the young people who are gathering in large groups in the community.

WIGAN DIVISION

VISIBILITY of the Hindley Neighbourhood Policing Team has increased thanks to the trial of two new vehicles sponsored by local companies. The Vauxhall Combo Van and Peugeot Partner Van are on trial for six months to support Neighbourhood Policing. PC John Mackey said: "These two new vehicles will be a real asset to the team as they will help us cover the area more effectively and increase our visibility. This will hopefully deter criminals and reassure residents in the town."

Burglar gets the message: doughnut' steal!

By Janet Wilcox



Ring of truth: doughnut leads officers to burglar

A SWEET-toothed teenage burglar ransacked a house in Burnage snatching a laptop, three watches, car keys, a mobile phone and cash – and left behind his teeth marks in a chocolate doughnut.

The 14-year-old offender took two bites out of the snack and left it on a kitchen worktop, so that when Crime Scene Investigator Susan Fowler arrived on the scene his calling card was ready for analysis.

After asking the householders the standard questions of "who, what, when, where, why and how", it was established that the doughnut was the clue which showed the offender had bitten off more than he could chew.

She had the doughnut frozen and sent to the Forensic Science Service for DNA analysis. The Forensic Science Service technicians swabbed the area around the bite mark and extracted saliva to produce a full DNA profile. This resulted in a DNA hit and the offender was identified. He was charged along with four other burglaries where his fingerprints had been recovered and received an eight-month detention training order when he appeared at court.

Senior Crime Scene Investigator Bob Gallagher said: "CSIs do not exclude anything. Asking the right questions is vital because the victim may not volunteer information. In this case the doughnut proved to be crucial."

Fingerprinting technology goes on the move

GREATER Manchester Police is among 20 police forces trialing mobile fingerprinting equipment

Project Lantern managed by the National Policing Improvement Agency is designed to save officers time by allowing them to electronically check the identity of people stopped in the street.

The hand-held device allows real-time searching of the National

Automated Fingerprint System, IDENT1, containing a total of seven million prints. Any possible matches are identified and transmitted to the officer on the street in a target time of less than five minutes.

GMP joined the latest tranche of 10 forces to gain the equipment. A further 10 forces were involved in the initial phase of the pilot scheme.

SPORTS · BRIEF · SPORTS · BRIEF · SPORTS

TACTICAL Firearms Unit officers took part in the Parachute Regiment's gruelling selection test to raise money in memory of PC Ian Terry who died in July.

Carrying 35lb backpacks and wearing army-style boots, the 12 officers (pictured) completed the 10

mile multi-terrain selection course, raising £600 sponsorship for the family of PC Terry and the Help the Heroes fund.

The course is used by the regiment to award the coveted red beret to those who complete the distance.

PC Jim Gillon, a former member of 1 Para, said: "It was a fantastic team experience, very challenging but great to have taken part in. Hopefully we will take part in this event again next year.

"We are especially pleased to have raised money for two charities that are close to all our hearts."



RED BERET CHALLENGE FOR FIREARMS OFFICERS

GMP MOTOR CLUB

MEMBERS of the Force will again be gearing up this month to support one of UK motorsports' biggest events.

Marshalling spectators at the RAC Rally and assisting with radio communications are just some of the roles members of the GMP Motor Club will be taking on at the Kielder Forest-based event.

Club Secretary David Priestley said: "Members take part in various motorsport events throughout the year and are actively involved in supporting other civilian motor clubs in putting on their events.

"We are affiliated to and receive funding from the Headquarters Sports and Social committee to enable us to attend rallies and other competitions on two and four wheels, including four wheel drive off-road events."

The Club meets every five weeks at the Sedgley Park Bar on alternate Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7.30pm onwards. The next meetings are Wednesday 19 November and Wednesday 28 January.

For further information, contact David on extension 66330.

Podium finish – third year running



GMP runners finished in second place in the Snowdonia 7s Police Mountain Race, covering the 22 mile course in five hours 23 minutes.

The event takes in all seven North Wales summits over 3,000 feet and involves 8,000 feet of ascent.

The four-strong GMP 'A' team was one of 59 teams which braved 70 mph winds and driving rain on the summits. It finished in second place for the third year running.

Team members were: Guy Heyes, Richard Timson, Dan Appleby and Paul Parker. Also competing was a GMP veterans team comprising Bryan Lawton, Jim Bentley, Craig Mann and Ged Navesey. Gary Corns, Steve Quinn, Marie McDonald and Joanne Glynn made up a GMP mixed team.

Anyone interested in running for GMP should contact team coordinator Bryan Lawton on extension 68501.

SPORTS · BRIEF · SPORTS · BRIEF · SPORTS

Combined Lancashire Police 44 – West Yorkshire Police 14

COMBINED LANCS TEAM SEIZE RUGBY TROPHY FROM WEST YORKS RIVALS

By Damieon Pickles

IN a repeat of last year's final, Combined Lancashire Police (including players from GMP) went head to head with a team from West Yorkshire Police to battle it out for the trophy in the National Police Rugby League Cup Final.

Combined Lancashire, winners in 2005/2006, were in no mood for a repeat of last year's 34-4 drubbing by West Yorkshire and started the game in enthusiastic style with some excellent ball work from Ste Brown, Dan Atherton, and Kieron Maddocks, who created a gap for Adam Fogarty to weave through and score wide out, with Atherton

adding the extras to give C/L a 6-0 advantage as early as the sixth minute.

West Yorkshire, not willing to give up the national trophy that easy, hit back with powerful drives, culminating in C/L conceding a penalty close to their line and converted to put the score at 6-2.

West Yorkshire then took the score to 8-6 in their favour, but C/L, not to be out done by their counterparts and with only 18 minutes left on the clock to half time, hit back with surging runs from Kieron Spruce, Paul Grimes and Paul McMillan. Mark Elvidge then darted from 30 yards out to score, bringing the tally

to 14-8 in the favour of C/L. As much as West Yorkshire tried to take the game to C/L, C/L closed the door on every occasion. Further tries from Phil Green, a barging drive over the line from Dan Ambler and a 30 yard sprint to the line from Daz Birch, plus a goal from Atherton, stretched the C/L lead to 28-8 at half-time.

The second half started just like the first, with West Yorkshire coming out running to take the score to 28-14. West Yorkshire were starting to falter, and on 61 minutes, C/L took the initiative where man of the match Brown shot through a gap and sped away to score under the posts. This

was then goaled by Atherton to take the C/L score to 34-14.

With only minutes remaining, C/L finished the game in style with two more tries to Alex Clemie and Brown and a goal from Atherton to settle the score at 44-14 – thus returning the silverware back to the C/L trophy cabinet.

All in all, this was an excellent entertaining game of police rugby league with Combined Lancashire running out worthy winners in a tough fought contest. Thanks to the management and backroom staff at Lancashire Police Headquarters for hosting this year's final.



Tri hard for GMP team

SEVEN members of the Force swam 1,500 metres, then cycled 40km, and finished with a 10km run, when they took part in the UK Police Olympic Distance Triathlon Championships.

The event, held in Lincolnshire, saw a total of 158 people line up at the start.

Nik Jackson was GMP's highest-placed finisher in 14th place overall with a time of two hours,

eight minutes.

Lucy Tustin, who founded the GMP Triathlon team in 2006 and finished in two hours, 28 minutes, said: "We all completed the course with some extremely respectable times. The team consisted of extremely experienced triathletes, to those who have never competed before.

"Triathlon is the biggest growing sport in the UK. I'd like to get a bigger team together next year and

would encourage anyone thinking of giving triathlon a go to get in touch by email. They can compete either as individuals or as part of a relay team.

"Thanks also to Darren Butterfield of the Sports and Social Club for supporting the event."

Results: Nik Jackson 2hrs, 8mins; Matthew Hawtin 2hrs, 19mins, Mark Evans 2hrs, 20mins; Lucy Tustin 2hrs, 28mins; Paul Frith and Adam Jones (relay) 2hrs, 32mins; James Bentley, 2hrs, 45mins.

Stroke of good fortune for GMP swimmers

A CLEAN sweep in the pool saw GMP's Graham Platt win the breaststroke, backstroke and freestyle in his age group at the Police Sport UK national Swimming and Water Polo Championships.

Graham added to his medal tally at the Coventry-based championships with a second place in the butterfly. Other medalists in their age groups were Paul Frith who won the 50 metre freestyle, Catherine Caulfield who came third in the 50 metre butterfly, backstroke and freestyle.

And in his first competitive swim in more than 10 years, Steve Davidson came third in the 50 metre backstroke.

The water polo team played in a league table format and were unlucky in a close finish. After beating the Met, Devon and Cornwall and Scotland, they had a six-all draw with the Midlands. They came second overall on goal difference, losing out to the Midlands who had scored two more goals.

GMP players compete as part of the North West police team with other players from Lancashire, Cheshire, and Merseyside making up the rest of the team. GMP players were: Andy Pearson, Steve Davidson, Clement Jones, Graham Elleray, Dave Broad, and coach Mike Short.

Anyone interested in competing in next year's Swimming and Water Polo Championships, should contact Steve Davidson on mobile no 07917 650664.