

# Casebook

YOUR CHANCE TO SOLVE A CRIME . . .

## Lock up to beat burglars

WIGAN police are urging residents to keep burglars locked out this month.

With the weather warming up, doors and windows could be left open at homes.

Det Ch Insp Dean Fraser said: "Over the last six months through Operation Guardian, Greater Manchester Police and its partners have taken the fight against burglary to the offender.

"We have been visiting them in the home, increasing patrols and surveillance in the areas that they live and disrupting any opportunities they might have to commit further crime.

"We have also brought a whole range of specialist policing resources such as our Mounted and Dog Sections, Tactical Aid Unit, Forensic Response Unit and Traffic Network Section to bear on these criminals.

"As well as actively targeting burglars, we have also been increasing awareness among residents of how they can protect their property from these criminals.

"Residents can play their part by following simple advice such as always shutting and locking doors and windows to keep burglars out in the cold."

One in three burglaries in the county are still down to opportunistic thieves entering properties through insecure doors and windows.

Householders can check out how secure their homes are from burglars by completing a simple three-minute online test that will give them an instant security score.

Visit [www.gmp.police.uk](http://www.gmp.police.uk) to take the test.

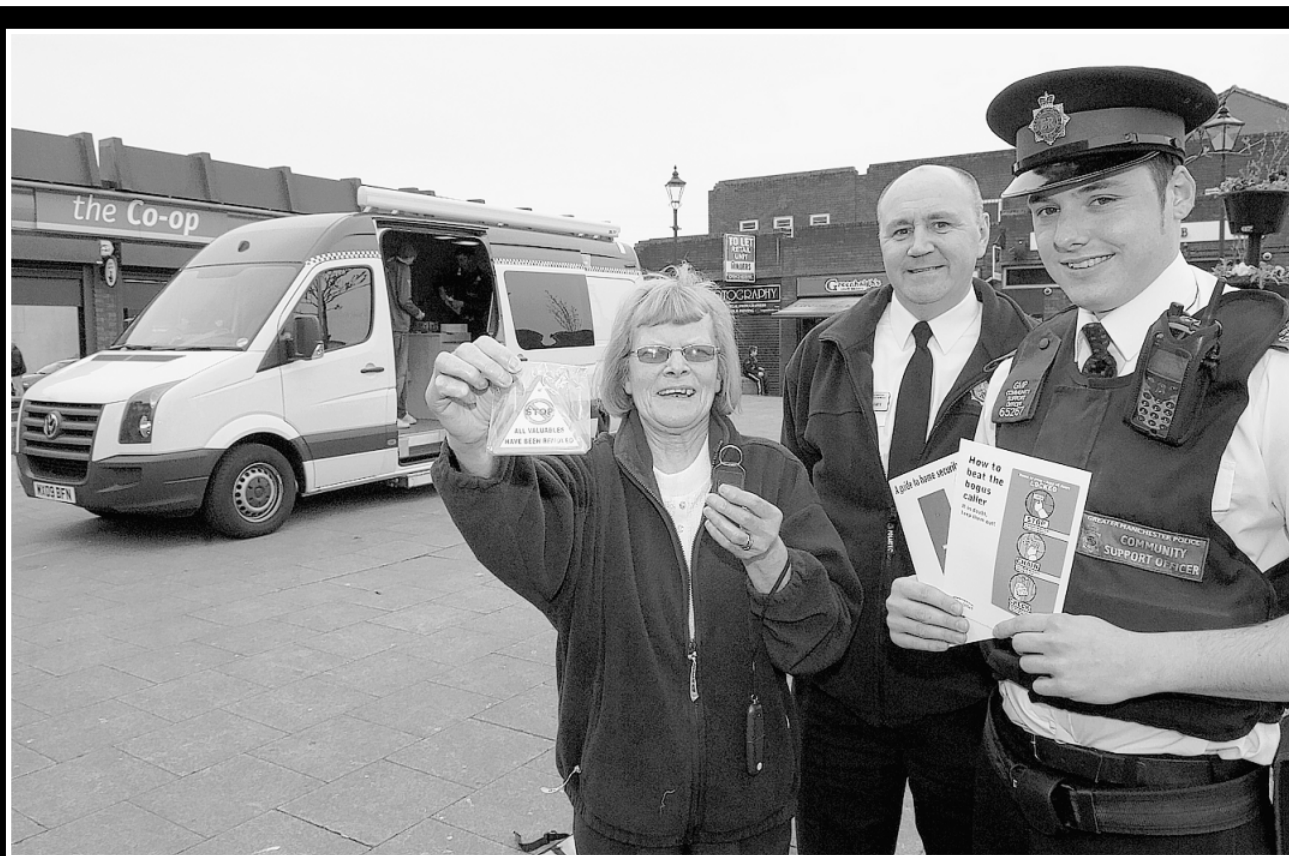
## Police set to meet the public

THREE new police surgeries have been announced for Platt Bridge.

They will take place on Thursday, April 16, Thursday, May 14 and Thursday, June 18, from 4pm to 6pm at the Platt Bridge Community First School, Rivington Avenue.

The surgeries are an opportunity for members of the community to meet their local officers and raise any concerns they may have about crime and anti-social behaviour in their area.

People can also express their views on how the community is policed.



ON THE MOVE: Fire Safety Officer Tom Bailey and PCSO Richard Ogden with Tyldesley resident Annie Osbourne. Police brought their mobile police station to the area for a crime reduction day

## Roll up for mobile reduction day

A CRIME reduction day was held by Wigan police after a spate of crimes in the borough.

The initiative focused on retail and business premises in response to a recent increase in offences committed at stores in Atherton and Leigh.

Officers from the Atherton Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) ran the crime reduction day in Tyldesley.

A mobile station was staffed by police

and fire officials on the day, we were not just looking at crime prevention with shop keepers."

To contact the Atherton Neighbourhood Policing Team call 0161 856 7319 or e-mail [atherton.apt@gmp.police.uk](mailto:atherton.apt@gmp.police.uk)

For non-emergency calls, or to report crime, call police on 0161 872 5050 or for more information visit [gmp.police.uk/wigan](http://gmp.police.uk/wigan). Or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Insp Liz Sanderson of the Atherton NPT said: "As we were joined by council

community support officers was set up on Tyldesley Square, where people had the chance to chat to police and receive crime prevention leaflets.

A crime reduction advisor and police officers visited premises along Elliott Street and adjoining streets, giving owners, managers and staff the opportunity to receive crime reduction advice.

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## New way to report a crime

A NEW scheme will make it easier to report crime in Wigan.

Police are rolling out a customer-focused appointment system across Greater Manchester to make it easier for people to report non-emergency incidents and allow officers to provide a speedier response to more serious incidents.

The Public Service Team arranges an appointment at a convenient time for the resident. An officer will visit their home, speak over the phone or meet at a police station, meaning people do not have to stay in and wait for officers who may have been diverted to a more urgent incident.

The new system has been introduced following a successful pilot scheme and is part of GMP's ongoing work to provide a high-quality policing service.

Ian Hopkins, GMP's assistant chief constable for public protection, said: "The Public Service Teams have been set up because we recognise that people lead busy lives and it may be inconvenient for them to wait in for an officer to take a report of a crime.

"The teams arrange a mutually convenient time for an appointment or to provide information over the phone. People have welcomed this because it means they can fit the appointment into their day."

# THE ANTISOCIAL CHALLENGE

## Police ready for Easter

A POLICE crackdown on anti-social behaviour over the Easter school holidays has been launched.

Operation Challenge, which runs until April 16, will see officers across the borough carry out high-visibility patrols in hotspot areas to help stop youth nuisance and criminal damage and to gather intelligence on offenders.

Young people will be directed towards the positive activities

BY ANDREW COONEY

provided by the X Zones and Nowt 2 Do initiatives.

Packs containing information on water safety, reporting incidents to Firestoppers and the consequences of criminal damage have also been distributed at Hesketh Fletcher, Golborne, Westleigh, Hawkley Hall, Fred Longworth and St John Fisher High Schools.

Officers will be seizing illegally bought alcohol, working with

the council to target licensed premises selling booze to under 18s and issuing fixed penalty notices for acts of criminal damage.

They will also pass the details of youngsters engaging in anti-social behaviour to the council.

Supt Robert Lomas of GMP's Wigan division said: "This initiative is driving home the message that any form of anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated.

"Our teams are determined to channel as many young people as possible into positive activities.

This will help keep them off the streets and ensure that residents of the borough have a pleasant break over Easter."

Paul Whitemoss, of Wigan and Leigh Community Safety Partnership, said: "Operation Challenge tries to engage with young people in their communities.

"Instead of purely enforcing against young people on the back of a call to police regarding a disturbance, we're testing whether we can positively divert

young people into fun, constructive activities.

"There's loads going on for young people in every community, and who better to get that information from than their local neighbourhood police officer?"

"As well as giving them information about what's on in their local area, police and other staff will be giving them advice about the risks of taking part in nuisance behaviour and drinking excessively."