

CHIEF OFFICER'S ACTIVITY REPORT

April 1 – June 30 2014



GREATER MANCHESTER
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



Welcome / CFO Introduction



Steve McGuirk
CBE, QFSM, DL, MA, BA (Hons), BSc, FIFireE
Chief Executive/
County Fire Officer

WELCOME to your latest activity report, where you can find out about some of the activities Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) has been involved in from April to June 2014.

This period saw GMFRS reach some significant milestones after months of hard work and planning finally came to fruition.

The new North West Fire Control centre opened in Warrington with GMFRS switching over in May.

The move meant that we said goodbye to valuable Control colleagues – many of whom transferred to the new centre and others who retired or moved onto new things.

Plans for a new state-of-the-art training and community centre in Bury were submitted to the Planning Committee, which is a really exciting development for the future for both the Service and the community.

As we prepared ourselves for the anniversary of Firefighter Stephen Hunt's death, a plaque dedicated to his memory was unveiled by his family at the spot where he lost his life in Oldham Street, Manchester.

Water rescues dominated the operational incidents with firefighters urging members of the public to be aware of the dangers around open water.

There were also some excellent community fire safety initiatives rolled out across the county with an emphasis on reducing antisocial driving and how to stay safe during the summer months.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S McGuirk'.

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(ABOVE) FORMER CONTROL MANAGER JANE BANNISTER TURNS OFF FIRELINES AT GMFRS

GMFRS' Control services move to regional centre

IN May, GMFRS joined four other fire and rescue services in transferring 999 control services to North West Fire Control (NWFC).

The cutover was completed at 6.45pm on Wednesday, May 28, meaning fire engines are now mobilised across Greater Manchester and beyond from Lingley Mere in Warrington.

GMFRS joined Cheshire, Cumbria and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Services in the NWFC building.

CFO Steve McGuirk said: "After months of hard work by staff across GMFRS, particularly the NWFC transition team and to colleagues at NWFC, I want to say a big thank you to everyone for making such a smooth and successful transition possible.

"I was in the Control room at GMFRS for the final emergency call there and I was able to personally thank the outgoing watches.

"I thank all Control staff for all their hard work over many years here at GMFRS and wish them all well in the future."

Many of GMFRS' Control staff joined colleagues from the other three services working at NWFC while others moved onto new things.

Plaque unveiled in Stephen's memory

A PLAQUE dedicated to the memory of Firefighter Stephen Hunt was unveiled on the building where he lost his life fighting a fire in Manchester City Centre on July 13, 2013.

Wreaths were laid by Stephen's family and CFO Steve McGuirk before his colleagues heard The Firefighter's Prayer and fell silent in his memory.

The ceremony was held on Oldham Street and attended by Stephen's family, his watch, the CFO and representatives from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority and Manchester City Council.

Steve said: "Shortly after Stephen died his colleagues asked if there was some way we could mark the spot where he fell.

"They felt it would be nice to have somewhere where his family, friends and the public of Greater

Manchester could remember what happened and that someone gave their life on behalf of the community.

"We felt it was a fantastic idea and were able to enjoy the support of Manchester City Council, who helped us install and unveil this plaque.

"I would like to thank Manchester City Council and the elected members of the Greater Manchester Fire Authority for giving us their support."



(ABOVE) STEPHEN HUNT



(ABOVE) THE PLAQUE PROUDLY STANDING ON THE BUILDING WHERE STEPHEN DIED

Supplier of new layered PPE kit announced

AFTER a great deal of research, trials and consultation, the supplier of GMFRS' new layered PPE kit was announced in April.

The contract was awarded to Bristol Uniforms Ltd, following a lengthy evaluation exercise involving operational staff across GMFRS.

Four tenderers were included in the evaluation and each submitted their own unique designs, all of

which were very different to the current style, comprising of two layers – a trouser and mid-layer jacket and an outer jacket.

The Bristol kit has a red mid-layer that will be worn for most operational purposes and a gold outer jacket that will be worn on top of the mid-layer jacket when dealing with compartment standard fires.

The decision follows various methods of evaluation carried out over several months.

GMFRS worked with Leeds University and Rochdale White Watch to carry out heat stress tests, ergonomic trials were completed by four stations, and FDS officers took part in live trials wearing the different kit at incidents.

Feedback was compiled from these tests while a survey issued to operational staff generated more than 1,000 responses.



(ABOVE) THE MIDDLE AND OUTER LAYERS OF GMFRS' NEW PPE



(ABOVE) LEFT TO RIGHT ARE PANG CHUN-MAN AND TANG KAM-FU

Hong Kong fire officers train at GMFRS

TWO officers from the Hong Kong Fire Services Department joined GMFRS for a driver training course in May.

GMFRS has had a tradition of delivering driver training to specially selected instructors from Hong Kong for many years.

Station Officers Pang Chun-man and Tang Kam-fu arrived in the UK on Sunday, May 11.

They attended a five-week course at Leigh Technical Services, which covered LGV instructor, EFAD instructor and EFAD examiner courses – all compiled to current National standards.

Each delegate is responsible for their own subsistence costs whilst staying in the UK, which in itself

shows the level of dedication and kudos this post carries within the Hong Kong fire service.

GMFRS' Driver Training Manager, Rick Kenworthy, said: "During their stay they visited many of our training venues and it was a fantastic opportunity to develop our cultural views, build friendships and demonstrate the professionalism and dedication of our driver training team."

GMFRS hosts students from French Caribbean Island of Guadelupe

STUDENTS from Guadelupe visited GMFRS to expand their knowledge on firefighting in the built environment and learn more about prevention and protection initiatives and activities in the UK.

The 14 students were studying a pre-public services course and were due to start careers in the fire, police and ambulance services when they returned to the French Caribbean Island of Guadelupe.

The programme – the first of its kind – was a joint initiative organised by Martin Fisher and Gary Dewar from the Training and Development Centre and the Prevention and Protection Directorate.

During their visit, the students experienced many aspects of GMFRS, including Manchester and Bolton Princes' Trust Teams, Farnworth Fire Team, Leigh Cadets and Moss Side Boxing Gym.

One of the main areas of the programme was for the students to learn and understand about firefighting in high-rise buildings.

They were also given a demo on the new Future Firefighting techniques using the Ultra High Pressure Lance, Tactical Ventilation and Thermal Scanning.

Fire Engineering Manager Peter Buckley: "The feedback from the students and the teachers was extremely positive and the students can use the knowledge gained when returning to their chosen public service career in Guadelupe."

(BELOW) 14 STUDENTS FROM GUADALUPE VISIT GMFRS



(ABOVE) FIREFIGHTER TOM CURWEN WITH HIS MEDAL

Blackley firefighter scoops water polo gold

A BLACKLEY firefighter scooped a gold medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Water Polo Championships.

The tournament was held in Aberdeen in April and eight nations competed, including seven men's and five women's teams.

Firefighter Tom Curwen, from Blackley Red Watch, competed as part of the England team and faced teams including South Africa, New Zealand, Singapore, Malta, Scotland and Wales.

England were undefeated during the group stages and made it to the final where they met Malta, one of the favourites going into the tournament.

In that match, 27-year-old Tom scored five of England's goals which helped them clinch the title with a 16-9 win.

Tom, originally from Lancaster and now living in Liverpool, has been playing water polo for around 15 years.

He said: "The swimming club I went to growing up had a water polo team so everyone got involved with it and I just enjoyed it more than swimming because it's more of a team sport."

Two rescued after falling in a river

TWO women were rescued by firefighters after falling into a river in the midst of the Saddleworth Band Contest festivities.

Firefighters were called to Huddersfield Road, Delph, at around 10.25pm on Friday, June 13, after reports of two people in their 70s in the water.

Station Manager Paul Whittaker said: "They were making their way round the village enjoying the band contest when they got themselves into a bit of difficulty. It appears one had fallen into the water and the other went in to assist.

"It's a shallow river but there's a 10ft drop so they couldn't get themselves out."

Crew from Oldham attended the scene and worked with the North West Ambulance Service to help them to safety using ladders and a longboard.

Both women were taken to hospital as a precaution.

The incident led to a safety plea by GMFRS for people to take extra care around water.



(ABOVE) THE DAMAGE DONE BY STUDENT REVELLERS DANCING ON ROTTEN TIMBERS

Manchester crew attend student house party – when the living room floor collapses

MANCHESTER firefighters rescued a group of students after the living room floor of their house collapsed during a party.

They were called to Amherst Road in Manchester at 1.09am on Thursday, June 5, after the living room floor collapsed.

It was a three-storey student house where more than 100 people were thought to be having a party.

Crew Manager Craig Egerton, from Withington Fire Station, said: "Thankfully it was the

ground floor that collapsed. "It had a basement which was luckily only about two-and-a-half feet deep and all the rubble stopped it collapsing further. Other houses in the street had basements that were much deeper so if it'd happened in another house it could've been far more serious.

"We had to evacuate around 100 people and search the building to check that nobody was trapped. They were really lucky that there were no serious injuries."

It's thought that the collapse was caused by rotten timbers – exacerbated by the amount of people in the house at the time.



(ABOVE) FIREFIGHTER MICHAEL BLEASE, WATCH MANAGER MIKE DILLON AND FIREFIGHTER TONY HARRISON WITH ENZO THE TORTOISE.

Enzo the tortoise saved by firefighters

SHELL-SHOCKED firefighters used a makeshift oxygen tent to bring a tortoise back from the brink.

Crew from Withington and Stockport Fire Stations were stunned when Enzo the tortoise showed signs of life after being rescued from a burning house.

The firefighters were called to the semi-detached house in Rayham

Avenue, Didsbury, in Manchester, shortly after 1pm on Thursday, May 1, after reports of a blaze.

Watch Manager Matt Dillon, from Withington Fire Station, said: "It was a fire involving the tortoise tank and we think it had been burning for some time before we arrived at the house.

"We were digging out the tank and we came across this charred lump, which was the tortoise.

"We all thought it was dead but Firefighter Andrew Cook cleaned the shell and made an improvised oxygen tent in the back of the fire engine.

"We pumped oxygen into the tent and eventually the tortoise was resuscitated and started to move, which surprised us all.

"By the time we left it was marching around the garden as if nothing had happened."

Water rescue leads to summer safety warning

FIREFIGHTERS urged young people to take care near water in the warmer weather after two boys had to be rescued from Hollingworth Lake in Littleborough.

Three fire engines and the Water Incident Unit from Heywood Fire Station were called to the lake at 6.50pm on Sunday, May 18.

Crew Manager James Hayward said: "These youngsters were incredibly lucky – they became stranded after playing on a raft and we managed to get to them with the boat and bring them safely to dry land wearing life jackets.

"After only a couple of days of sunshine it appeared that some people had already forgotten about just how dangerous open water can be.

"Both boys were checked over by paramedics and were uninjured, but things could have been a lot worse – it's just not worth the risk."

Neighbours help family of three after fire breaks out in Little Hulton

NEIGHBOURS in Little Hulton saved a family of three after a house fire on Dovecote Lane broke out.

Firefighters from Farnworth and Atherton were called to the end terraced property at around 1.10am on Friday, June 27.

Crew Manager Michael O'Neill, from Farnworth Fire Station, said: "When we arrived at the house quick-thinking neighbours had already rescued the family after hearing the 19-year-old daughter screaming for help.

"One neighbour smashed through the front door to get the woman out of the house while other neighbours climbed up a ladder to the bedroom window to allow the man and daughter to escape.

"All three were treated with oxygen by us before being taken to hospital.

"If it wasn't for the actions of the neighbours this incident could have turned out much worse."

The fire is thought to have started when the 49-year-old woman fell asleep downstairs while smoking.

The whole of the house was damaged by the fire that firefighters wearing breathing apparatus tackled using jets.

Firefighters help man after freak gardening accident in Walkden

A FREAK gardening accident left a man needing emergency services.

The 36-year-old was cutting his hedge when he fell off a stepladder and impaled himself on the handle of a rake on Ashton Field Drive shortly after 4pm on Sunday, May 4. Watch Manager John Duffin, who was at the incident, said: "The man managed to impale himself through his groin on the handle of a garden rake.

"Paramedics were already there when we arrived, and they asked for us to shorten the handle before taking the man to hospital."

The patient was taken to Wythenshawe Hospital by air ambulance.

Statistics

Measure Name	Year to Date	Target to Date	Quarter 4	Previous Year to Date
AF-Dwellings	31	60	31	62
Deliberate Primary Fires	36	51	36	61
Deliberate Secondary Fire	186	231	186	244
False Alarms (Total)	259	0	259	260
FF Hostilities	0	0	0	2
Fires-Non-Domestic	19	21	19	21
PF - All Fatalities	0	0	0	2
PF - Casualties	3	3	3	3
Primary Fires Total	102	147	102	157
Rescues - People	1	0	1	3
RTCs-All Calls	17	0	1	3
RTCs-Rescues	4	0	4	4
Special Service Calls - Excluding RTCs	84	0	84	81

Volunteers

Volunteers Activity	Apr	Volunteers Activity	May	Volunteers Activity	Jun
Completed volunteers hours	154	Completed volunteers hours	179	Completed volunteers hours	148

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire Safety Audits and Inspections Completed	75
Enforcement Notices	0
Prohibitions	0

Home Safety Checks

Completed (year to date)	1560
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Borough Manager Contact Details

Ian Bailey
Borough Manager Bolton

☎ 01204 905 127

✉ baileyi@manchesterfire.gov.uk



Authority Members



Mohammed Ayub
Labour



Lynda Byrne
Labour



Paul Wild
Conservative



Borough News



(ABOVE) ROWENA WITH SON FREDDIE IN THE AERIAL APPLIANCE

Terminally-ill mum makes memories for son at Bolton Central

A TERMINALLY-ILL cancer sufferer gave her son a day to remember thanks to crew at Bolton Central Fire Station.

Rowena Darby, aged 34, and her husband Phil look their three-year-old son Freddie to the station on Friday, April 4, for a day with Green Watch.

Rowena has terminal bowel cancer and was sadly given just a short time left to live – so she was on a mission to create as many memories as possible for her son so that he can remember good times with his mum when she's no longer around.

The crew showed Rowena and her family around the station and appliances then after a short presentation the family got involved in some practical demonstrations in the station yard.

Staff from a local Asda store also attended and presented the family with a hamper.

Station Manager Steve Parkinson said: "Freddie and his mum loved every minute of it and we hope he will remember the experience for many years to come."

FireTeam 50 launched at Bolton Central

A GROUP of young men from Bolton's Jamia Islamia School in Deane took part in a 12-week Youth Engagement programme at Bolton Central Fire Station.

The newly-launched programme – called FireTeam 50 – was delivered by Bolton Borough staff and Bolton Council of Mosques (BCoM) as part of an ongoing partnership between the two organisations to promote fire safety and engage with the town's South-Asian community.

The Year Nine pupils visited the station on Monday evenings from April to June where they learned about fire safety in the home, the consequences of antisocial behaviour and hoax

calls, water safety, health and safety, and the role of the fire service in the community.

They were also given the '1 in 3' road safety presentation and were shown the driving simulator as well as taking part in practical drills in the station yard and team building challenges.

Firefighters demonstrated how they cut someone out of a car with two of the pupils acting as casualties and they were given scenarios where they had to explain what they would do if they were in charge.

FireTeam 50 came about thanks to PIMB (Partnerships and Innovation Management Board) funding for three cohorts.

(BELOW) BOYS FROM THE JAMIA ISLAMIA SCHOOL COMPLETE THEIR FIRETEAM50 PROGRAMME





(ABOVE) FIREFIGHTERS GIVE AN RTC DEMO WITH COLLEGE STUDENTS AS 'CASUALTIES'

Event marked success of antisocial driving campaign

STUNNED students saw the effects of antisocial driving at an event to mark the end of a community safety campaign.

Around 100 students from Bolton College took part in workshops with firefighters, police officers and community safety staff before joining dignitaries to watch crews cut 'casualties' out of an overturned car.

The event – held at Bolton Central Fire Station on Thursday, June 19 – was the culmination of months of community work, events and campaigning to help reduce antisocial driving following a number of serious accidents in the town.

GMFRS, Bolton Council of Mosques (BCoM), GMP and Bolton Council teamed up for the campaign at the end of 2013 – thanks to funding from Greater Manchester's Police and Crime Commissioner.

Over several months, a series of events were carried out at mosques across Bolton to highlight the devastating consequences of antisocial driving.

At the event in June, students and dignitaries tried out GMFRS' driving simulator and firefighters gave a demonstration of how they cut someone out of a car.

Bolton Borough Manager Ian Bailey said: "This campaign showed that when you give the community ownership of something it has much more of an impact."

Statistics

Measure Name	Year to Date	Target to Date	Quarter 4	Previous Year to Date
AF-Dwellings	26	33	26	34
Deliberate Primary Fires	18	15	18	19
Deliberate Secondary Fire	104	132	104	149
False Alarms (Total)	177	0	177	192
FF Hostilities	1	0	1	2
Fires-Non-Domestic	9	9	9	8
PF - All Fatalities	0	0	0	0
PF - Casualties	3	6	3	6
Primary Fires Total	56	66	56	74
Rescues - People	1	0	1	3
RTCs-All Calls	9	0	9	18
RTCs-Rescues	3	0	3	11
Special Service Calls - Excluding RTCs	53	0	53	45

Volunteers

Volunteers Activity	Apr
Completed volunteers hours	76

Volunteers Activity	May
Completed volunteers hours	80

Volunteers Activity	Jun
Completed volunteers hours	136

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire Safety Audits and Inspections Completed	67
Enforcement Notices	0
Prohibitions	0

Home Safety Checks

Completed (year to date)	728
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Borough Manager Contact Details

Kev Talbot
Borough Manager Bury

☎ 0161 909 8627

✉ talbotkj@manchesterfire.gov.uk



Authority Members



Alan Matthews
Labour



Stella Smith
Labour



Borough News

Plans submitted for interactive community centre and firefighter training site

IN April, plans were submitted to Bury Council for a state-of-the-art training centre and community hub in Wellington Street, Bury.

GMFRS has been working with Kier Northern and Paragon to design the centre and, if approved, it is hoped the new site will be open in 2015.

The Service intends to make use of existing features on the land – including a large

warehouse, tunnels and culverts, cellars, bridges, cuttings and embankments, rubble piles and old mill walls, a lodge and a section of river.

New elements will also be added to prepare crews for the types of incidents they are likely to face more of in the future – such as a collapsed building to train in search and rescue and a train, tram and ship to train for transport-related incidents.

A 'Fire Street' will include a variety of simulated detached and terraced homes and commercial

buildings where firefighters can recreate incidents.

The community hub will feature an interactive and immersive learning area where local people and schoolchildren can learn how to protect themselves against fire and other incidents.

During their visit, groups will be given their own fire kit to wear and they'll experience all the elements of a real fire – the smell of smoke, the heat of a fire and the sound of the sirens.

(BELOW) A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE SITE





(ABOVE) RED WATCH RAMSBOTTOM ACCEPTED THE WOW! AWARD

**Red Watch Ramsbottom
WOW! Community**

RED Watch Ramsbottom was presented with GMFRS' first two WOW! Awards on Thursday, April 17.

The team received two separate nominations for their water safety presentation from 11th Ramsbottom Brownies and Hazlehurst Primary School.

Both nominations highlighted how impressed the children were with the water safety presentation and the rescue equipment demonstrations given by the crew.

Lynn Clark, Pack Leader for the 11th Ramsbottom Brownies said: "The Brownies had a great time and we would like to thank Red Watch for going above and beyond the call of duty in preparing for our visit and staying longer than their shift to ensure our visit was a success."

Natalie Lawton, from Hazlehurst Primary School, said: "Red Watch at Ramsbottom provided a really informative and engaging presentation about water safety. Our children were really engaged and learned a lot."

The Watch accepted the awards from former Bury Borough Manager Pete Riley and Derek Williams, CEO of WOW! Ltd.

Statistics

Measure Name	Year to Date	Target to Date	Quarter 4	Previous Year to Date
AF-Dwellings	94	132	94	135
Deliberate Primary Fires	83	72	83	83
Deliberate Secondary Fire	293	459	293	499
False Alarms (Total)	830	0	830	834
FF Hostilities	1	0	1	1
Fires-Non-Domestic	31	39	31	42
PF - All Fatalities	0	0	0	0
PF - Casualties	9	12	9	14
Primary Fires Total	226	267	226	283
Rescues - People	3	0	3	6
RTCs-All Calls	46	0	46	47
RTCs-Rescues	12	0	12	22
Special Service Calls - Excluding RTCs	197	0	197	197

Volunteers

Volunteers Activity	Apr	Volunteers Activity	May	Volunteers Activity	June
Completed volunteers hours	1240	Completed volunteers hours	1038	Completed volunteers hours	1411

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire Safety Audits and Inspections Completed	419
Enforcement Notices	5
Prohibitions	0

Home Safety Checks

Completed (year to date)	2484
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Borough Manager Contact Details

Andy Heywood
Borough Manager Manchester

☎ 0161 608 5327

✉ heywooda@manchesterfire.gov.uk



Authority Members



Basil Curley
Labour



Grace Fletcher-Hackwood
Labour



June Hitchen
Labour



Tommy Judge
Labour



Afia Kamal
Labour



Borough News

Brave firefighters honoured for city centre water rescue

BRAVE firefighters from Manchester Central and Eccles were honoured for saving a man who fell in the Rochdale Canal in Manchester City Centre.

White Watch crew received a Certificate of Outstanding Performance during a ceremony at Manchester Central Fire Station on Monday, June 2.

The crew used a ladder to dredge the canal and rescue one man who survived and another who tragically died.

Deputy County Fire Officer Jim Owen was on hand to present the crew with their certificates.

He said: "It was a real privilege to be able to present the award. Anyone who has served as a firefighter knows that they don't come around every

day and we rightfully reserve them for outstanding work.

"Often when it comes to recognising people they say 'I was just doing my job' and 'it was a team effort' – we understand that but we do like to compliment people who have performed well.

"It's also about the firefighters' families, friends and colleagues being able to take pleasure in their work being recognised."



(ABOVE) WHITE WATCH AT MANCHESTER CENTRAL RECEIVE THEIR CERTIFICATE OF OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

(BELOW) PETER WOODRUFF WITH GREEN WATCH AT BLACKLEY FIRE STATION



Man shakes the hand of the Blackley crew who rescued him

FOLLOWING a fire at his Blackley flat, Peter Woodruff was able to shake the hands of those who rescued him during a visit to Blackley Fire Station.

When Peter's means of escape was blocked by a fire in the stairwell of his flat, he and his canine friend Sam had to wait until firefighters arrived to lead them both to safety.

He waited in his bedroom until Firefighter Paul Fogerty was able to climb into the bedroom and wait with 65-year-old Peter, who suffers from learning difficulties.

Paul was able to reassure Peter until it was safe to leave the flat.

When staff from Manchester's prevention team visited Peter on a routine call, he told staff that he "wanted to shake the hand of the fireman that helped me and Sam".

Peter attended the station with his brother-in-law and was able to thank the crew in person.

He thanked GMFRS, saying it was a very special occasion and he loved every minute of his visit.

Philips Park teach young people life-saving skills

PHILIPS Park crew taught Prince's Trust team members life-saving skills as part of the British Heart Foundation's Heartstart programme.

Ten team members from Manchester attended the course run by Green Watch in the station lecture room.

Firefighter James Martin said: "The course teaches people how to assess casualties, the recovery position, CPR, choking and bleeding.

"We were accompanied by Community Safety Advisor Daniel Fiddler and Deborah Gibbison who were there to help out in case we turned out.

"At the end of the course Heartstart certificates were handed out to the team."



(ABOVE) THE PRINCE'S TRUST TEAM RECEIVE THEIR CERTIFICATES WITH GREEN WATCH AND CSAS DAN FIDLER AND DEBORAH GIBBISON

Watch manager collects his royal gong

WATCH Manager Michael Dillon was awarded his British Empire Medal on Tuesday, April 8, at a ceremony held at Manchester Town Hall.

(BELOW) WATCH MANAGER MIKE DILLON COLLECTS HIS BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL FROM LORD-LIEUTENANT WARREN J SMITH



The Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Mr Warren Smith, presented the awards to volunteers who have worked tirelessly for their communities.

Michael – who helped found Moss Side Fire Station Boxing Gym – was awarded a BEM (British Empire Medal) in the New Year's Honours List for helping transform the lives of many young people in Moss Side since the gym opened in 2008.

The gym is run with the ethos of courage, discipline, dedication, focus and respect for others – attributes Michael and his fellow coaches believe are essential for being successful in boxing and firefighting.

On hearing of his award Michael said: "I am absolutely thrilled to receive this honour. I love and am deeply passionate about the work we all do at the boxing club.

"I am one of a team of very dedicated and passionate firefighters, who give so much of themselves and their time to the young people and the community of Moss Side."

Statistics

Measure Name	Year to Date	Target to Date	Quarter 4	Previous Year to Date
AF-Dwellings	41	42	41	43
Deliberate Primary Fires	36	33	36	39
Deliberate Secondary Fire	150	297	150	317
False Alarms (Total)	262	0	262	283
FF Hostilities	0	0	0	1
Fires-Non-Domestic	17	12	17	13
PF - All Fatalities	8	0	8	1
PF - Casualties	8	0	8	1
Primary Fires Total	109	102	109	108
Rescues - People	3	0	3	1
RTCs-All Calls	15	0	15	15
RTCs-Rescues	8	0	8	3
Special Service Calls - Excluding RTCs	48	0	48	54

Volunteers

Volunteers Activity	Jan	Volunteers Activity	Feb	Volunteers Activity	Mar
Completed volunteers hours	269	Completed volunteers hours	141	Completed volunteers hours	143

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire Safety Audits and Inspections Completed	51
Enforcement Notices	0
Prohibitions	0

Home Safety Checks

Completed (year to date)	1097
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Borough Manager Contact Details

Kev Talbot
Borough Manager Oldham

📞 0161 909 8627

✉️ talbotkj@manchesterfire.gov.uk



Authority Members



Derek Heffernan
Lib Dem



Bernard Judge
Labour



Steve Williams
Labour



Borough News

Easter half term football on Oldham Edge

HALF term football for young people in Oldham had a fire safety feel courtesy of GMFRS.

The caged soccer unit was set up on Oldham Edge on Tuesday, April 15, as part of a partnership event involving the Oldham Racial Equality Partnership (OREP), Oldham Athletic Community Trust and First Choice Homes.

Community Safety Advisor Sacha Girling said: "The weather was fantastic and around 30 young people took part in the tournament which was arranged between GMFRS and the coaches from Oldham Athletic.

"Children from two of our most deprived areas – St Mary's and Coldhurst – took part.

"Over time our firefighters have dealt with a number of deliberate rubbish fires in the area, so it was an ideal opportunity for us to chat to the young people informally about fire safety."

Chris Cordwell from OREP said: "We're Big Lottery funded and work with transitional communities across Oldham so it was great to work closely with GMFRS.

"Using football – a sport that lots of children love – allowed us to bring together young people from a number of different backgrounds to keep them occupied over the Easter school holidays."

Hollins station Ukrainian visit

FIREFIGHTERS at Hollins Fire Station gave a group of children from the Ukraine a special day to remember and sent them

home with a smoke alarm.

On Monday, June 30, Green Watch crews, together with Community Safety Advisors and GMFRS volunteers welcomed the young people who were all either orphaned or sick from the fallout of the Chernobyl disaster in 1986.

Watch Manager Andrew Turner said: "The morning was really enjoyable for everyone and allowed the children to learn some English and teach us some Ukrainian.

"We spoke to them about fire safety and gave them a guided tour of the station and the equipment on the fire engine.

"We also dressed each child up in fire gear and a pretend breathing apparatus set to give them an idea of our job."

GMFRS' children's fire engine was there and allowed the children to take a home a photograph and some special memories.

Before leaving each child was given a gift bag with a range of goodies and a smoke alarm for their own homes.

Watch Manager Turner added: "The children had never heard of smoke alarms as most Ukrainian homes do not have them and fire alarms are limited to selected public institutions only, so it was good to make them aware."



(ABOVE) THE YOUNGSTERS WITH THEIR GOODIE BAGS AND THE FIRE ENGINE

UK Road Safety Week launch in Oldham

SHOPPERS in Oldham got a unique insight into how driving dangerously just isn't worth the risk during the Chief Fire Officers Association's UK Road Safety Week.

On Monday, June 9, GMFRS' driving simulator was on hand and White Watch crews cut volunteers from the wreckage of a road traffic collision on a bustling Albion Street.

Mother-of- two Jenny Moran, who was watching, said: "It certainly does make you think twice about driving safely especially on a wet day.

"It's amazing how quickly and efficiently the firefighters work to get someone out of a car accident."

Borough Manager Kevin Talbot said: "Firefighters across Greater Manchester are called to road traffic collisions on a daily basis

and sadly it's often young, inexperienced drivers involved.

"So we used UK Road Safety Week to highlight some of the risks dangerous driving can have.

"They can leave drivers and passengers with life-changing injuries, so we were working to make sure drivers, particularly young people knew how to keep themselves and their passengers safe."



(ABOVE) CREW USE HYDRAULIC CUTTING GEAR ON THE CAR

Statistics

Measure Name	Year to Date	Target to Date	Quarter 4	Previous Year to Date
AF-Dwellings	38	45	38	46
Deliberate Primary Fires	36	42	36	51
Deliberate Secondary Fire	138	285	138	310
False Alarms (Total)	225	0	225	214
FF Hostilities	0	0	0	2
Fires-Non-Domestic	5	15	5	15
PF - All Fatalities	0	0	0	0
PF - Casualties	0	3	0	2
Primary Fires Total	85	126	85	137
Rescues - People	1	0	1	2
RTCs-All Calls	14	0	14	17
RTCs-Rescues	3	0	3	6
Special Service Calls - Excluding RTCs	56	0	56	55

Volunteers

Volunteers Activity	Apr	Volunteers Activity	May	Volunteers Activity	Jun
Completed volunteers hours	360	Completed volunteers hours	165	Completed volunteers hours	190

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire Safety Audits and Inspections Completed	55
Enforcement Notices	0
Prohibitions	0

Home Safety Checks

Completed (year to date)	907
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Borough Manager Contact Details

Paul Starling
Borough Manager Rochdale

☎ 01706 900120

✉ starlins@manchesterfire.gov.uk



Authority Members



Amna Mir
Labour



Shaun O'Neill
Labour



Borough News

Heywood firefighters get on their bikes for charity

HEYWOOD firefighters cycled 150 miles over three days to raise funds for charities close to their hearts.

Red Watch planned a coast-to-coast challenge after team member Firefighter Mark Lee was diagnosed with cancer.

The group – including Lee who is now in remission – set off from Whitehaven on Saturday, June 7, on their journey to Sunderland.

Firefighter Pete Griffiths said: “On the first day of the challenge the weather was horrendous, making the 56-mile cycle to Penrith dangerous with many of us falling off our bikes.

“The second day was more enjoyable as the weather picked up but the sight of the Pennines on the horizon was a reminder of what we were still faced with.



(ABOVE) FIREFIGHTER MARK LEE ON HIS BIKE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CHARITY

“Hartside was our first target of the day with a long zigzag climb to the café at the summit. Then after a few more sharp climbs we crossed the border into Durham.

“The third and final day was a nice downhill breeze into Sunderland where we dipped our front wheels into the North Sea to mark the end of our challenge.”

Those who took part in the challenge were Firefighters Pete Griffiths, Mark Lee, Ian Edgar, Ian Edwards, Gary Aston, Kate Lonsdale, Ian Matthews and Paul O’Malley, Crew Manager Chris Fowles, Watch Manager Neil Fox and Station Manager Ian Tracey.

Rochdale drivers get a wakeup call after attending road safety events

PEOPLE in Rochdale said they’d “had a wakeup call” after attending road safety events run by the borough’s community safety team, firefighters and volunteers.

Set up by Community Safety Advisor Rod Holmes, a series of events took place and included Heywood’s Blue Watch demonstrating how they rescue people from cars involved in a smash.

The driving simulator was at the events that took place at Tesco in Middleton and Heywood, with shoppers taking the opportunity to test their skills behind the wheel.



(BELOW) SHOPPERS TAKE A VIRTUAL RIDE IN THE DRIVING SIMULATOR

Rod said: “The June events were a real eye-opener to the general public, with over 90 per cent saying that they would put the information into practice and it was a wakeup call for them.

“The use of the driving simulator, the road traffic collision demonstration and the presence of the firefighters went down really well.

“It brought home the message of taking care on the roads – especially when it comes to drink-driving and using mobile phones behind the wheel.”

Firefighters in Rochdale take loose clothing campaign to school

DAYS into Ramadan, firefighters and community safety staff in Rochdale took their loose clothing safety campaign to schools.

On Wednesday, June 25, White Watch joined Community Safety Advisors Robina Yasmin David Britton and Rod Holmes at Heybrook Primary School.

Community Safety Advisor David Britton said: “We wanted to demonstrate to parents arriving to collect their children some of the hazards associated with cooking in the home.

“We took the kitchen fire safety unit and a large crowd gathered as Robina talked about safe cooking practices.

“As the pan of hot oil began to smoke, parents were ushered round to the back of the unit

where we discussed the dangers of cooking with oil and loose clothing, especially in the hours of darkness during Ramadan.

“Right on cue the pan burst into flames and water was added to the mix resulting in a huge flame and a gasp from the audience.

“Hopefully parents and children learned something and the young people can be our loose clothing and cooking safety advocates on behalf of GMFRS.”



(ABOVE) PARENTS WATCH THE CHIP PAN GO UP IN FLAMES

Statistics

Measure Name	Year to Date	Target to Date	Quarter 4	Previous Year to Date
AF-Dwellings	55	54	55	57
Deliberate Primary Fires	41	42	41	48
Deliberate Secondary Fire	172	330	172	356
False Alarms (Total)	311	0	311	324
FF Hostilities	0	0	0	0
Fires-Non-Domestic	17	15	17	16
PF - All Fatalities	0	0	0	0
PF - Casualties	4	3	4	4
Primary Fires Total	139	126	139	136
Rescues - People	2	0	2	2
RTCs-All Calls	13	0	13	16
RTCs-Rescues	1	0	1	4
Special Service Calls - Excluding RTCs	90	0	90	70

Volunteers

Volunteers Activity	Apr	Volunteers Activity	May	Volunteers Activity	Jun
Completed volunteers hours	335	Completed volunteers hours	303	Completed volunteers hours	277

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire Safety Audits and Inspections Completed	183
Enforcement Notices	0
Prohibitions	0

Home Safety Checks

Completed (year to date)	1925
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Borough Manager Contact Details

Tony Holt
Borough Manager Salford

📞 0161 608 9220

✉️ holtaw@manchesterfire.gov.uk



Authority Members



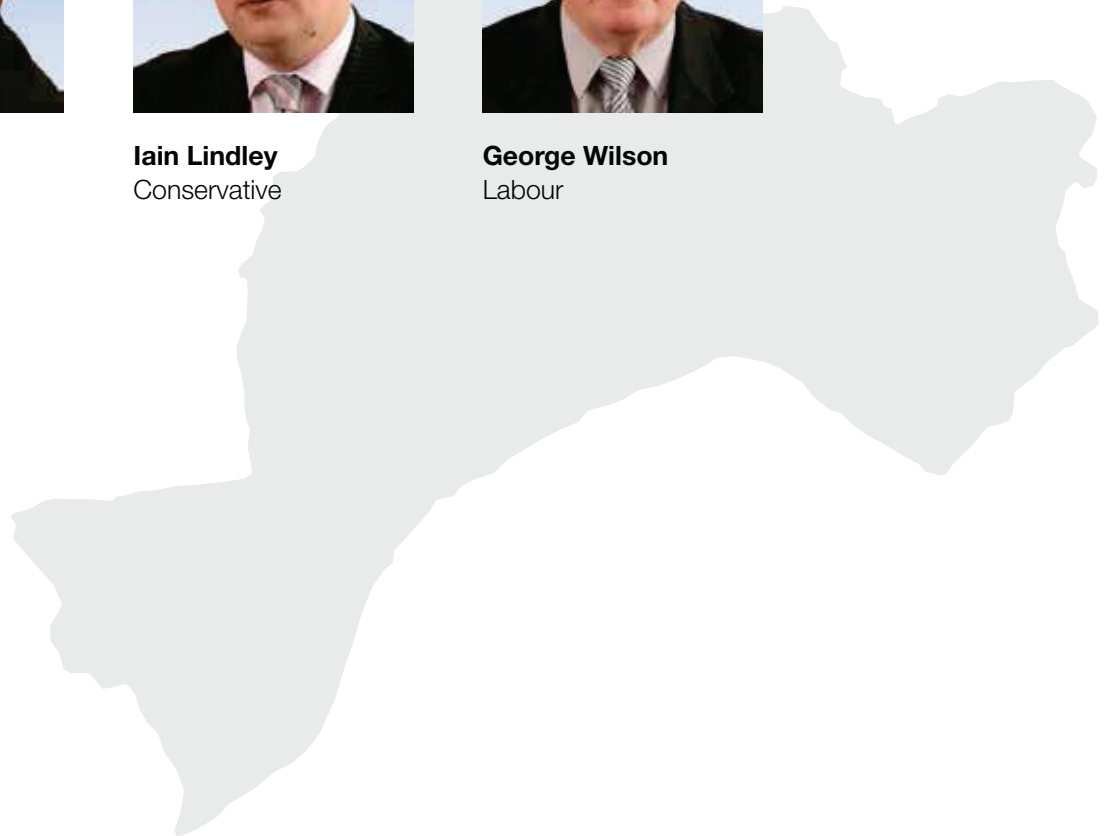
Jim Dawson
Labour



Iain Lindley
Conservative



George Wilson
Labour



Borough News

Sun shines on Agecroft open day

FIREFIGHTERS at Agecroft proved they were at the heart of the community during an open day at the station.

Despite the bad weather on Saturday, May 10, scores of people were entertained by demonstrations from the crew and a number of vehicles, including fire engines both past and present and Bolton Mountain Rescue Team's kit and vehicles.

Red Watch Manager Stuart Hall said: "Despite the weather we had a steady flow of people through the gates which was great.

"As well as a road traffic collision demonstration when a willing volunteer was cut from a car there was also a demonstration from the Technical Response Unit team from Leigh who carried out rope work from the tower.

"We had an enjoyable day and managed not only to raise money for The Fire Fighters Charity but to

engage with the community and chat to them about the importance of having a working smoke alarm."

Vehicles on display included a Dennis Metz turntable ladder fire engine from the Greater Manchester Fire Service Museum.

Bolton Mountain Rescue Team Leader Gary Rhodes said: "The heavy rain showers didn't diminish the interest from the community because thanks to GMFRS it was an interesting day out."



(ABOVE) FIREFIGHTERS PERFORM A ROPE RESCUE DEMONSTRATION



(ABOVE) SALFORD BLUE WATCH WITH CBBC PRESENTER KATIE THISTLETON AT SALFORD QUAYS

Firefighters kick-start ‘quacking’ charity duck race

DUCKS were able to race along Salford Quays thanks to community spirited firefighters from Salford Fire Station.

Blue Watch used hoses to create a current in the race which raised almost £4,000 for charity on Good Friday (Friday, April 18) during a community event.

Watch Manager Nick Pyne said: “Salford Fire Station is at the heart of the community so when I heard that the charity

MedEquip4kids was looking to put on an event for the community we saw it as an opportunity.

“Not only could we help them get their duck races started, but we were able to chat to the people there about fire safety.”

MedEquip4Kids improves the health of children and babies in the north of England by providing lifesaving medical equipment, play facilities in hospitals, specialised equipment for disabled children and resources for community healthcare projects.

Blue Watch were joined by hundreds of families enjoying the good weather during the Easter holiday and helped start the race with CBBC television presenter Katie Thistleton.

Rose Franks from MedEquip4kids said: “It was fantastic that Blue Watch came to our aid so we could hold the community fun day and fundraise at the same time.

“It was a wonderful day and I can’t thank the firefighters enough.”

Borough News



(ABOVE) JOSH AND OLIVIA ENJOY THEIR VISIT TO SALFORD STATION

Football and summer safety at Media City

FIREFIGHTERS and community safety staff chatted to hundreds of young people about summer safety at Media City.

It came as GMFRS' caged soccer unit drew the youngsters to a World Cup countdown event organised by the BBC on Tuesday, May 6.

Station Manager Steve Forster said: "It was a fantastic opportunity for us to engage with teenagers and scores of young people aged between 16 and 24 about some fire safety issues.

"As summer was approaching and with the event being so close to Salford Quays, we were able to talk about taking care near water and not swimming or cooling off in open water.

"We also talked about the importance of working smoke alarms to get the young people to go home and raise awareness of the Home Safety Checks we offer."

The soccer unit formed part of a football tournament, one of a number of workshops during the event which also involved coaches from the Football Association.

Salford Quays Safe4summer

TWO children spent an exciting morning at Salford Fire Station after successfully winning a water safety competition at a multi-agency event in Salford Quays.

Seven-year-old Josh Heywood and his cousin Olivia picked up an emergency services Lego set after successfully answering water safety questions at the event on Saturday, May 17, which was hosted by Greater Manchester Police as part of the Safe4summer Campaign.

Station Manager Steve Forster said: "Red Watch joined partners at the water safety event, which included demonstrations by the North West Police underwater search team, GMFRS' Water Incident Unit from Eccles, GMP and HMS Biter Royal Navy Patrol Boat.

"The RNLI came along and there was plenty for young people to do with Salford City Council Youth Service's climbing wall, cadet demonstrations and caged football.

"Both Josh and his cousin really enjoyed their visit to the station. They watched the firefighters train with breathing apparatus and towards the end of his visit Josh told us he wants to be a firefighter when he's older, so we must have made a good impression!"

Family affair for GMFRS search and rescue dog

SEARCH and rescue dog Ace led the way for his son Buster during a training exercise organised by Eccles Fire Station.

Ace and his trainer, Crew Manager Mike Dewar, took part in a multi-agency water rescue training exercise held at Sale Water Park on Tuesday, April 8.

The exercise was also attended by firefighters from GMFRS'

Technical Response Unit (TRU) from Leigh, two fire engines from Farnworth, HART (Hazardous Area Response Team) paramedics from the North West Ambulance Service, the Water Incident Unit from Eccles and two GMFRS volunteers who acted as casualties for the dogs to find.

GMFRS' newest search and rescue dog Ace was joined by his son Buster – a search and rescue dog who's been personally trained by TRU Firefighter Clare Louth.

The exercise scenario involved a man that had fallen into the water and was accompanied by two children who were missing somewhere along the bank of the River Mersey.

Mike continued: "It was a very valuable training exercise for the dogs and demonstrates how effective they can be in a riverbank search scenario. They are fast and agile, easy to keep on task and can search safely in areas that would put human rescuers in danger."



(ABOVE) LEFT TO RIGHT ARE ACE AND HIS TRAINER CREW MANAGER MIKE DEWAR AND FIREFIGHTER CLARE LOUETH WITH BUSTER.

Statistics

Measure Name	Year to Date	Target to Date	Quarter 4	Previous Year to Date
AF-Dwellings	43	45	43	46
Deliberate Primary Fires	27	45	27	51
Deliberate Secondary Fire	145	168	145	178
False Alarms (Total)	236	0	236	212
FF Hostilities	0	0	0	0
Fires-Non-Domestic	8	9	8	8
PF - All Fatalities	1	0	1	0
PF - Casualties	1	6	1	5
Primary Fires Total	87	111	87	118
Rescues - People	0	0	0	2
RTCs-All Calls	15	0	15	16
RTCs-Rescues	2	0	2	11
Special Service Calls - Excluding RTCs	53	0	53	51

Volunteers

Volunteers Activity	Apr	Volunteers Activity	May	Volunteers Activity	Jun
Completed volunteers hours	194	Completed volunteers hours	89	Completed volunteers hours	230

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire Safety Audits and Inspections Completed	171
Enforcement Notices	2
Prohibitions	0

Home Safety Checks

Completed (year to date)	4772
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Borough Manager Contact Details

Jon Heydon
Borough Manager Stockport

📞 0161 609 1627

✉️ heydonj@manchesterfire.gov.uk



Authority Members



Walter Brett
Labour



Daniel Hawthorn
Lib Dem



Lisa Walker
Conservative



Borough News



(ABOVE) PARTNERSHIP WITH STOCKPORT COUNCIL HELPS TO KEEP RESIDENTS SAFER AT HOME

Partnership will help us keep residents safe at home

THE health and wellbeing of older and vulnerable people in Stockport is set to improve with a partnership between GMFRS and Stockport Council.

Both organisations pledged to improve fire safety by working more closely to reduce accidental fires and consequential deaths and injuries.

The hope is members of the public known to Stockport Council's Adult Social Care will be better protected from a fire at home.

Representatives from GMFRS and the council met on Thursday, April 17, where a partnership agreement was signed by Stockport Borough Manager Billy Myers and Stockport Council's Director of Adult Social Care Terry Dafter.

Billy said: "The agreement recognises that because of a number of contributory factors some people are more at risk of fire than others, so the partnership is aimed at those at greatest risk.

"Through training and closer working with Stockport Council its staff members are now more equipped to signpost individuals to our prevention teams and our staff will have a greater understanding of Adult Social Care services."

Rotarians help to deliver Home Safety Checks

A STOCKPORT partnership between GMFRS and the Rotary Club means that hundreds of people are now safer in their homes.

Research carried out in the borough identified that those over the age of 65 were a high risk group – allowing the volunteers to target the more vulnerable residents.

Station Manager Andy Ross, from Offerton Fire Station, said: "Since April 2013, local Rotary volunteers have carried out over 285 Home Safety Checks and have generated a further 100.

"This work has complimented the good work of our firefighters and prevention staff and the results have been excellent!

"In the wards that the Rotarians targeted there have been no casualties in the over 65s 'middle class' sub group, which gives some impact on the work they have carried out.

"GMFRS would just like to say a huge thank you for the excellent work that the Rotary do for us and helping us make Stockport a safer place to live and we look forward to a long lasting partnership between the two organisations."

The four Rotary clubs that worked with GMFRS are Gatley, Bramhall and Woodford, Marple and Goyt Valley and Stockport Lamplighters.



(ABOVE) LEFT TO RIGHT ARE DEREK DE BELDER, MEL EDGE, COLIN EDGE, STATION MANAGER ANDY ROSS, JOHN SYKES, TREVOR SAVILLE AND RON MALABON



(ABOVE) FIRE CREWS TAKE PART IN EXERCISE WITH STEPPING HILL HOSPITAL

Exercise Vorago tests out hospital procedures

FIREFIGHTERS spent a morning at their local hospital – to put their training into practice while helping medical staff test out their procedures.

Crew from across Stockport were joined by the Command Support Unit and a supporting engine from Hyde on Monday, May 12, on the grounds of Stockport’s Stepping Hill Hospital.

The complex scenario put crew and Blackley Station Manager Nick Griffin to the test and involved a leak from an oxygen pipe in a tunnel under the hospital that had been cut by workmen.

Firefighters carried out an extensive search of the tunnel and dragged three ‘casualties’ to safety.

As the incident developed an acetylene cylinder was found resulting in a cordon being put in place and patients being evacuated from wards.

Stockport’s Station Manager Pete Lamb was an observer on the day.

He said: “This was a challenging exercise for the crew working in a complex network of underground tunnels in total darkness, which coincidentally was exactly the real life scenario the same crews had previously attended in the old Stockport Air Raid Tunnels.

“It tested not only breathing apparatus and command functions but also communications, telemetry and the new Protégé Gas Detectors recently issued to firefighters.

“It was also good from an Incident Command point of view to be able to link into a much bigger NHS table top exercise going on remotely in the hospital.”

Russ James from Stepping Hill Hospital said: “For any major emergency it’s likely that the NHS would work closely with emergency services so exercising together is therefore essential to ensure interoperability.”

Statistics

Measure Name	Year to Date	Target to Date	Quarter 4	Previous Year to Date
AF-Dwellings	41	36	41	38
Deliberate Primary Fires	26	15	26	21
Deliberate Secondary Fire	120	120	120	129
False Alarms (Total)	260	0	260	266
FF Hostilities	2	0	2	0
Fires-Non-Domestic	10	15	10	15
PF - All Fatalities	1	0	1	1
PF - Casualties	3	6	3	5
Primary Fires Total	87	84	87	92
Rescues - People	1	0	1	1
RTCs-All Calls	20	0	20	15
RTCs-Rescues	5	0	5	8
Special Service Calls - Excluding RTCs	45	0	45	45

Volunteers

Volunteers Activity	Apr	Volunteers Activity	May	Volunteers Activity	Jun
Completed volunteers hours	638	Completed volunteers hours	154	Completed volunteers hours	237

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire Safety Audits and Inspections Completed	81
Enforcement Notices	1
Prohibitions	0

Home Safety Checks

Completed (year to date)	901
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Borough Manager Contact Details

Jon Heydon
Borough Manager Tameside

📞 0161 609 1627

✉️ heydonj@manchesterfire.gov.uk



Authority Members



John Bell
Conservative



Barrie Holland
Labour



Michael Smith
Labour



Borough News

Mossley celebrate 25 years of serving the community

FIREFIGHTERS from Red Watch at Mossley celebrated the station's 25th birthday in style during an open day and community market.

The event, which was in partnership with Mossley Community Town Team, included 40 stalls selling everything from crafts to homemade pies.

A large number of people came to visit and our volunteers gave out fire safety advice to the public.

The fire engine proved a great hit with both children and adults attracting lots of attention on the day.

Firefighter Paul Hayes said: "The sun shone, the crowds came and everyone had a great day. Thanks to everyone involved

including the local scout group who took over the kitchen to provide refreshments.

"The event was such a success it has been said we should hold the same type of event next year."

The GMFRS stall raised over £250 alongside a fantastic donation of £75 for The Fire Fighters Charity from the Mossley Community Town Team.



(ABOVE) THE PUBLIC ENJOY A LOCAL BRASS BAND DURING THE CELEBRATIONS



GMFRS Volunteers presented with awards were:

Gold Award – Sarah Pomfret for volunteering 972 hours

Silver Award – Howard Mallard for volunteering 498 hours

Silver Award – Craig Denton for volunteering 203 hours

The awards were presented by the Mayor of Tameside, Councillor Dawson Lane and Mayoress Councillor Jackie Lane.

(ABOVE) FIREFIGHTERS FROM BLUE WATCH AT HYDE ENJOY THE FUN AT TAMESIDE'S ARMED FORCES DAY

Hyde celebrate armed forces day

HYDE firefighters celebrated our service men and women when they attended Armed Forces Day in Denton on Sunday, June 29.

Crew were joined by community safety staff and volunteers at the event in Victoria Park which attracted serving military staff, veterans and members of the public.

Tameside Borough Manager Jon Heydon said: "There is a strong link between the communities of Tameside and the armed forces.

"It was fantastic to be able to celebrate that link and honour the service of our military men and women on Armed Forces Day."

Pride event a first for Tameside

TAMESIDE Borough supported a local lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender event in style as the first ever Pride event took place.

Staff from the prevention team attended the event which was held at the Broadoak Community Centre, Ashton-under-Lyne on Saturday, June 28.

Alongside the main event, the Pride of Tameside theme was expanded to celebrate the achievements of people across the whole of Tameside in a variety of fields including volunteering.

Certificates were split into three categories, bronze (100 hours), silver (200 hours) and gold (500) and were awarded to volunteers in acknowledgement of the time given to a local organisation.

Jax Effiong, Community Safety Manager for Tameside, said: "The whole evening inspired and motivated everyone. GMFRS is hoping to support the event next year and grow from strength to strength.

"The message was very clear – GMFRS is an inclusive public service here for all our Greater Manchester communities."



(ABOVE) COMMUNITY SAFETY MANAGER JAX EFFIONG IS JOINED BY COMMUNITY SAFETY STAFF AND MASCOT CRACKER

Statistics

Measure Name	Year to Date	Target to Date	Quarter 4	Previous Year to Date
AF-Dwellings	37	27	37	30
Deliberate Primary Fires	15	15	15	19
Deliberate Secondary Fire	51	93	51	99
False Alarms (Total)	244	0	244	242
FF Hostilities	0	0	0	0
Fires-Non-Domestic	9	12	9	12
PF - All Fatalities	0	0	0	0
PF - Casualties	2	9	2	8
Primary Fires Total	72	69	72	74
Rescues - People	0	0	0	3
RTCs-All Calls	16	0	7	4
RTCs-Rescues	7	0	7	35
Special Service Calls - Excluding RTCs	52	0	52	35

Volunteers

Volunteers Activity	Apr	Volunteers Activity	May	Volunteers Activity	Jun
Completed volunteers hours	229	Completed volunteers hours	83	Completed volunteers hours	108

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire Safety Audits and Inspections Completed	177
Enforcement Notices	1
Prohibitions	0

Home Safety Checks

Completed (year to date)	983
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Borough Manager Contact Details

Tony Holt
Borough Manager Trafford

☎ 0161 608 9220

✉ holtaw@manchesterfire.gov.uk



Authority Members



David Acton
Labour



Brian Rigby
Conservative



Michael Whetton
Conservative



Borough News



(ABOVE) LEFT TO RIGHT ARE COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISOR JONATHAN COOPER AND STUDENT HAMISH

Eye-opening safety event for college students

COLLEGE students in Trafford tested their driving skills and watched firefighters in action as part of a road safety event.

Green Watch crew from Altrincham Fire Station, Trafford Borough prevention staff and GMFRS volunteers visited the college on Wednesday, May 14, where around 100 students throughout the day spoke to crews about road safety and tried their hand at the driving simulator.

Community Safety Advisors engaged with the youngsters – who were aged 16 to 18 and either new or learner drivers – and gave advice about safe driving and using the road responsibly.

This was followed by firefighters cutting the roof of a car in a road traffic collision demonstration.

Officers from Greater Manchester Police also attended along with representatives from Transport for Greater Manchester.

Watch Manager Gabriel Campbell said: “Students really enjoyed having a go on the simulator and watching the demo. It was a successful event – so much so that Blue Watch will be going back to the college to do another event later in the year.”

Marathon runners come to Trafford

FIREFIGHTERS, volunteers and young people from Trafford borough entertained runners and supporters at the 2014 Manchester Marathon.

The event saw thousands of people taking part in the 26.2-mile

race on Sunday, April 6 – many raising money for charity and others wearing fancy dress.

GMFRS volunteers manned the Service’s parade vehicle for the day to rally on the runners, while Trafford Prince’s Trust team members looked after the community event vehicle providing entertainment for the crowds.

Firefighters from Sale Fire Station were also on hand to provide fire safety advice to people in the crowds and show youngsters around the vehicles.

Trafford Borough Manager Tony Holt completed the race and raised around £700 for the Children’s Burns Foundation.



(ABOVE) THE PRINCE'S TRUST TEAM PROVIDES ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE CROWDS



(ABOVE) STUNNED CROWDS WATCH FIREFIGHTERS CUT THE ROOF OFF A 'CRASHED' CAR

Families test their driving skills at Road Safety Day

HUNDREDS of people flocked to Trafford's annual Road Safety Day at Stretford Fire Station on Sunday, June 8.

GMFRS once again teamed up with Trafford Council to run the day, which was backed by Kate Green MP.

A range of organisations including Greater Manchester Probation Trust, North West Ambulance

Service and Greater Manchester Police also took part.

The day was a hit with young families, as children got on board police vehicles, fire engines and ambulances, had their faces painted and drew pictures on road safety themes.

Our mascot Cracker made a guest appearance and at the Drivesafe stall people attempted to walk in a straight line while wearing 'beer goggles' which impair vision in a similar fashion to alcohol.

Even the most experienced drivers could brush up on their skills by having a go in the GMFRS driving simulator, or chatting to representatives from the Institute of Advanced Motorists about their courses.

The highlight of the day was when firefighters cut the roof off a 'crashed' car in front of a huge crowd to show how they respond to a serious car accident.

Statistics

Measure Name	Year to Date	Target to Date	Quarter 4	Previous Year to Date
AF-Dwellings	28	42	28	43
Deliberate Primary Fires	38	42	38	51
Deliberate Secondary Fire	209	561	209	608
False Alarms (Total)	271	0	271	312
FF Hostilities	0	0	0	1
Fires-Non-Domestic	9	3	9	4
PF - All Fatalities	0	0	0	0
PF - Casualties	9	3	9	4
Primary Fires Total	89	123	89	135
Rescues - People	1	0	1	1
RTCs-All Calls	15	0	15	18
RTCs-Rescues	6	0	6	7
Special Service Calls - Excluding RTCs	53	0	53	72

Volunteers

Volunteers Activity	Apr	Volunteers Activity	May	Volunteers Activity	Jun
Completed volunteers hours	501	Completed volunteers hours	236	Completed volunteers hours	352

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire Safety Audits and Inspections Completed	70
Enforcement Notices	0
Prohibitions	0

Home Safety Checks

Completed (year to date)	1394
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Borough Manager Contact Details

Steve Sheridan
Borough Manager Wigan

📞 01942 650 127

✉ sheridas@manchesterfire.gov.uk



Authority Members



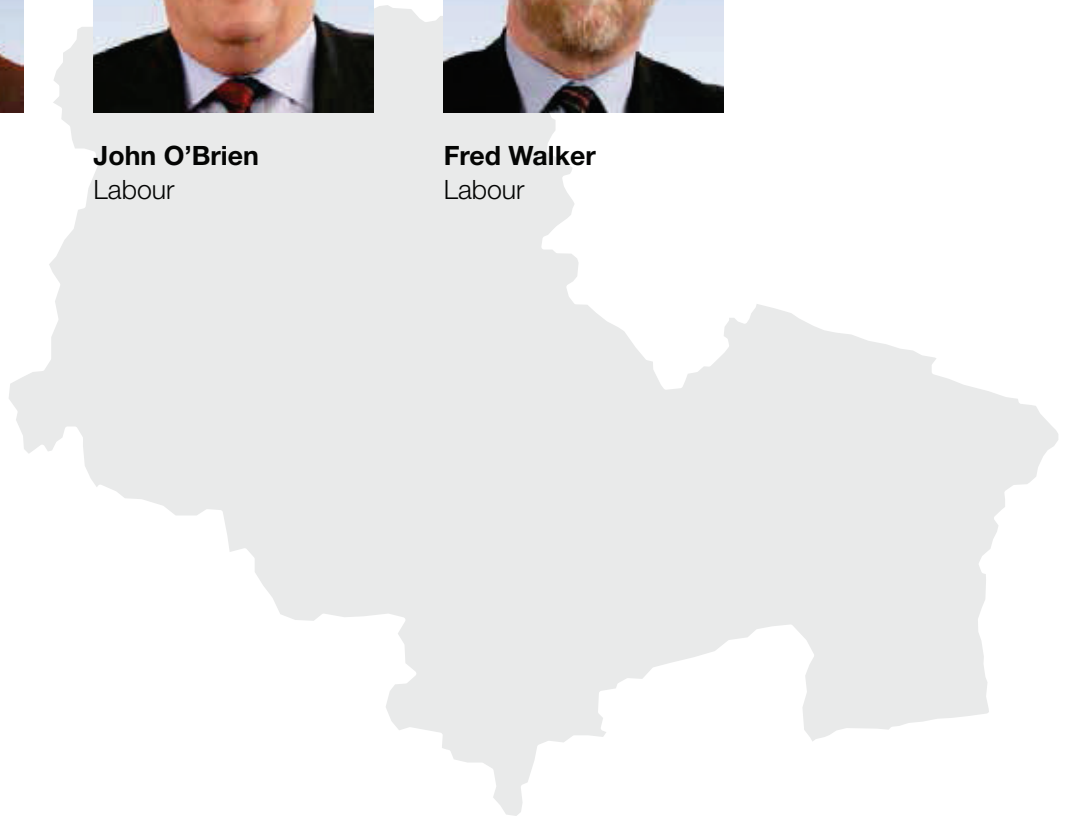
Jim Ellis
Independent



John O'Brien
Labour



Fred Walker
Labour



Borough News

Brave Finley given day to remember by firefighters

FIREFIGHTERS in Atherton helped make a dream come true for a brave little boy with a life-limiting heart condition.

Thanks to compassionate Green Watch, four-year-old Finley Shaw arrived in style when he was mascot at Leigh Centurions Rugby League Club in June – pulling up to the ground in a fire engine for the game against Barrow Raiders.

Finley has hypo plastic left heart syndrome, which means he

has half a heart and despite his tender years has already had several open heart surgeries.

Mum Nicola Shaw said: “Finley has always wanted to sit in a fire engine, so to ride to Leigh Sports Village ahead of being a mascot for the day for the Centurions really was a dream come true for him.

“I can’t thank GMFRS enough, the staff were so good with him. He got to squirt water from the hose and his best friend even got to ride to the game with him inside the fire engine.”

It really was a special day for Finley as with his help as mascot, the Centurions ran out 60-0 winners against Barrow.

Watch Manager Ian Gardner said: “Atherton is a community fire station so when we heard about Finley we were only too happy to help make one of his wishes come true.

“He spent an hour with us the day before the game at the station where he got familiar with the fire engine and we made him an honorary Green Watch firefighter for the day.”

(BELOW) FINLEY WITH GREEN WATCH AT ATHERTON FIRE STATION





(ABOVE) FIREFIGHTER SUZ MEMBER WITH SOME OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE

Atherton teens learn firefighter skills

TEENAGERS outside mainstream education in Wigan were given the chance to learn about both discipline and respect from Atherton firefighters.

Blue Watch welcomed young people from a pupil referral unit in Tyldesley to their community fire station on Thursday, May 22.

Crew Manager Ian Murray said: "With summer fast approaching, we invited the young people to take part in a firefighter experience

course with us and also used the opportunity to chat to them about water safety and the risks of deliberate grass fires.

"They were joined by a second group of youths who regularly attend a youth engagement night we run and were keen to join in.

"Firefighters Darren Flynn and Suz Member took the course and taught the 11 to 15 year olds basic hose drills as well as discipline and leadership skills, giving them a chance to learn from firefighters as role models.

"The whole group enjoyed the session and some were keen to come back to join the regular group engagement night, which allows them to take part in various sports like football and boxing as part of our partnership work with Wigan and Leigh Trust where Atherton Fire Station becomes a Sport Zone."

Bus collision training for Leigh's technical response crew

FIREFIGHTERS from Leigh's Technical Response Unit (TRU) were faced with a challenging road traffic collision during a training session.

The crew teamed up with firefighters from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and paramedics from the Northwest Ambulance HART (Hazardous Area Response Team) at Leigh training centre in May.

The drill saw two GMFRS volunteers acting as 'live' casualties in a mock collision involving one double-decker bus, a moped and a car.

The driver of the bus was trapped in his seat and an upper floor passenger was injured – requiring extricating from the first floor window.



(RIGHT) FIREFIGHTERS RESCUE A 'CASUALTY' FROM THE CRASHED BUS

Airport responder goes on the run with Wigan

WIGAN crew were joined on the run by a firefighter from Manchester Airport Fire and Rescue Service as part of a mutual learning exercise.

Green Watch were joined for two days and two nights by Natalie Hough, who has had a long association with GMFRS.

Natalie first came into contact with GMFRS in 1998 when she was a teenager and completed work experience at Leigh Fire Station.

Crew Manager Simon Connor said: "I was delighted to invite Natalie back. She joined us between Sunday, April 27 and Wednesday, April 30 and we were able to do some different training exercises with her including breathing apparatus, RTC drills and using the 13.5 metre ladder.

"She even came out on a couple of jobs with us including a road traffic collision and a small fire in the open."

After Natalie's work experience she joined Manchester Airport Fire Cadets and later became a trained wholetime firefighter with them.

She said: "The incidents we may have to deal with in and around the airport primarily include aircraft fires, building fires and road traffic collisions, so it was good to pick up a few shouts with GMFRS to see how it's done and foster some good working relationships."

BBC Crimewatch Roadshow

MILLIONS of television viewers saw Technical Rescue Unit (TRU) firefighters from Leigh work at the scene of a road traffic collision at the start of UK Road Safety Week.

Thankfully, it was part of a BBC Crimewatch Roadshow live broadcast which recreated the aftermath of an accident.

The TRU performed a demonstration with police and ambulance partners that was screened live from the St Helens Road fire station on Monday, June 9.

Borough Manager Steve Sheridan said: "We used UK Road Safety Week as an opportunity to showcase our partnership working in highlighting the importance of driving safely.

"The BBC chose the training roadway at Leigh for their first show and the TRU was able to show how they rescue people from the wreckage and work with other agencies at the scene of an accident.

"Highlighting the importance of not taking risks like speeding on the roads – it launched a week-long campaign in Wigan Borough."



(ABOVE) POLICE AND AMBULANCE COLLEAGUES JOINED FIREFIGHTERS FOR THE FILMING

Prevention and Protection

Young girl and mum help GMFRS keep people who wear loose clothing safe

A WOMAN and her young daughter helped GMFRS spread life-saving safety messages after the girl's dress caught fire when she was stood close to a gas fire.

Eight-year-old Hadeeka Khan and her mother Asma Khan shared their experience to help firefighters and community safety staff reinforce just how dangerous loose clothing can be around open fires and cookers.

GMFRS received a call on Wednesday, April 9 to report the fire at the family's home on Butterwick Close in Longsight, Manchester.

Mrs Khan said: "One day during the Easter holidays Hadeeka ran into the kitchen to tell me that she felt really hot.

"I noticed straight away that the back of her maxi dress was on fire so grabbed a jacket and smothered the fire to put it out, before calling 999.

"Hadeeka now has burns on her legs and says she is scared of fire and doesn't like anything that makes her feel hot."

To try and prevent further incidents of this kind, firefighters and community staff from GMFRS spoke to people during Home Safety Checks and events such as the Manchester Mega Mela at



(ABOVE) HADEEKA AND ASMA KHAN HELPED GMFRS SPREAD SAFETY MESSAGE

Platt Fields Park on the weekend of June 21 and 22 about the dangers that often come with wearing loose clothing.

Chair of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority, Councillor David Acton, said: "Following a number of fires involving loose clothing, posters, leaflets and stickers were created to support the campaign and help spread safety messages, along with GMFRS staff speaking to people at higher risk."

Boat owners given life-saving advice during National Boat Safety Week

THE dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning were highlighted to canal boat users across Greater Manchester by community staff and firefighters.

As part of National Boat Safety Week, which ran from Monday, May 26 to Friday May 30, Community Safety Advisors (CSAs) were out and about visiting boaters along the Bridgewater, Leeds Liverpool, Rochdale and Cheshire canals.

In Leigh, firefighters from the Technical Response Unit spoke to local boat owners and people passing through the Bridgewater and Leeds Liverpool canals.

Crew Manager Simon Cording said: "Working closely with Peel Holdings who are responsible for the Bridgewater Canal they emailed 500 boat owners advertising our Home Safety Check service and that we'd be available to offer boat safety advice about carbon monoxide."

In Rochdale, CSAs Rod Holmes and David Britton cycled down the tow path to speak to people about the dangers they could be faced with and in Marple, firefighters spoke to boaters on the Macclesfield and Peak Forest canals.

The message – timed for the start of the boating season – was that owners should understand the risks, make regular, basic checks, and follow their engine and appliance operating guidelines, as the essential steps to deal with the fire and carbon monoxide threat.

GMFRS leads the way to reduce fire risk at waste transfer sites

GMFRS teamed up with other key agencies in Stockport and signed an agreement to work together to reduce fire risk at waste transfer sites.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) – the first of its kind in the country – aims to better protect residents, businesses and the environment.

Representatives from GMFRS, Stockport Council, and the Environment Agency (EA) signed the MoU in June.

The agreement shows commitment from the agencies involved when it comes to planning, licencing and the inspection of waste transfer sites and comes as a direct response to the fire at Junction 25 Bredbury in August 2013.

The burden on operators of waste transfer sites will reduce by this more joined up approach and help businesses to meet their legislative responsibilities.

Area Manager Billy Myers said: “This is a pioneering approach to managing this type of risk.

“Incidents like the Junction 25 fire place a huge strain on the resources of not just the fire and rescue service, but all agencies involved.

“The agreement is a huge step towards a safer future for the waste industry within Greater Manchester.”

Councillor Patrick McAuley, Stockport Council’s Executive Member for Economic Development and Regeneration, said: “Following the events in Junction 25 a robust and purposeful response by all associate bodies was needed.

“This move will help improve the quality of lives for communities and positively assist local businesses.”

Summer fire safety in Wigan gets a wacky twist

FAMILIES and young children in Wigan were given a lesson in summer fire safety by firefighters.

Green Watch took their Safe4summer campaign to the Wacky Warehouse in the town on Monday, June 23, to discuss issues like the importance of working smoke alarms and barbequing safely.

Watch Manager Shaun Aspey said: “With summer upon us we wanted to reach as many people as possible to help keep our community safe from the risk of fire and other incidents.

“We were able to chat to mums and dads about things like the importance of keeping young children away from open water in the hot weather.



(ABOVE) GREEN WATCH GET WACKY WITH THEIR SUMMER SAFETY MESSAGE

“We also covered the importance of testing smoke alarms and having a night time routine and escape plan that everyone is aware of.

“We were joined by the Wacky Warehouse mascot and hoped that by engaging with young families the children will grow up to see us as role models and could even become our fire safety advocates.

“We also tweeted from the event using @WiganFireTeam to spread the Safe4summer message further.”

Business Fire Safety Advisors join GMFRS

APRIL saw GMFRS' protection services boosted when 10 Business Fire Safety Advisors (BFSA) joined the organisation.

With one based in each borough of Greater Manchester they report to fire safety managers and are available for duty as part of local protection teams, information gathering and giving business owners fire safety and continuity advice.

Group Manager Lee Coleman, Service Support Protection Manager, said: "The BFSAs are there to supplement and add to GMFRS' protection services.

"Often they'll be the first point of contact that many business owners have with GMFRS and because they'll be out and about visiting commercial premises they will also be able to flag up any fire safety issues.

"BFSAs are not there to audit or inspect but to offer the business community advice and are available to attend business events and open days on behalf of GMFRS."

Among the BFSAs is Sofina Duloth-Joy, who is based in Rochdale.

After her first week in post, Sofina said: "On my first day, I was thrown in the deep end and we went to the aftermath of a fire at a mill filled with a number of businesses.



(ABOVE) BACK ROW: WATCH MANAGER TONY DOYLE WITH BRENDAN DOYLE (STOCKPORT), ALISON ROBINSON (WIGAN), SHELLEY GREATOREX (SALFORD), SOFINA DULOTH JOY (ROCHDALE) AND STATION MANAGER MERL FORRER. FRONT ROW: KATIE SWIERCZYSKI (BURY), ROBERT ADDENBROOKE (TAMESIDE), BAHGA HAMOUR (MANCHESTER), ATEEQ BUTT (OLDHAM) AND GILLIAN HOYLE (BOLTON).

"Not only was it useful for us to see the devastation a fire can have on a multi-occupancy premises, we also witnessed a prohibition on a separate business premises.

"We're also busy brushing up on the Fire Safety Order 2005 and other regulations and I can't wait to get more involved in helping raise awareness in the business community."

Two Tameside businesses fined for flouting fire safety regulations

TWO Tameside businesses who flouted fire safety regulations at their premises in Ashton-under-Lyne were fined £13,000 and ordered to pay £6,000 in costs.

Kamran Ahmed, aged 40, the Director of Amilico Ltd and his brother 40-year-old manager Noman Ahmed, both of Kenyon Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, were convicted during a hearing at Tameside Magistrates Court on Thursday, June 5.

The prosecution followed an inspection of their premises at Unit 1, Universal House, Yorkshire Street on June 21, 2013, by specialist GMFRS fire protection officers.

Amilico Ltd pleaded guilty to failing to make a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment and fined £1,500 plus a £120 victim surcharge.

Kamran Ahmed pleaded guilty to five offences and was fined £1,500 plus a £120 victim surcharge.

Noman Ahmed pleaded guilty to four offences and was fined £1,000 and a £100 victim surcharge.

In a separate hearing B&A Quilting (UK) Ltd pleaded guilty to failing to make a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment and was fined £3,500 and a victim surcharge of £120.

Director Naveed Bashir of St Christopher Road, Ashton-under-Lyne pleaded guilty to three offences and was fined £1,500 for each plus a £120 victim surcharge.

Billy Myers, GMFRS' head of protection services, said: "Sadly these businesses and businessmen are tarnished with a criminal record and must pay a fine because they failed to take basic steps to ensure their employees were safe."

Youth Engagement

Youngsters inject new life into Bolton community centre

A TEAM of unemployed youngsters brought new life to a community centre in Bolton and developed new skills as part of a youth scheme.

The young people took part in the Prince's Trust team programme – a 12-week initiative aimed at 16 to 25-year-olds, which offers exciting

challenges to help build confidence and motivation and help improve employability prospects.

As part of the programme, teams have to undertake a community project so Bolton's Prince's Trust Team 35 decided to improve the Sutton Community Centre on the Platt Hill estate.

They raised more than £200 by bag packing for customers at

Morrisons supermarket in Bolton town centre and this was boosted by a grant awarded by the Affinity Sutton Community Foundation.

The money was spent on providing play equipment and re-painting the main hall and stage area at the centre – an injection of colour on the main wall and a 50s themed mural painted on the stage brought a new lease of life to the centre.



(ABOVE) THE YOUNGSTERS SHOW OFF THEIR ARTISTIC WORK

Hyde has the va va voom factor

YOUNG carers were given the opportunity to build a sports car thanks to GMFRS and Tameside Metropolitan Council.

Around eight young people all from the Tameside began building a Caterham kit car along with crews from Hyde Fire Station.

Once it is finished, the young carers who took part in the scheme will have the opportunity to test drive the Caterham car around a track.

Tameside Borough Manager Jon Heydon said: "Our partners in Tameside Council have been building Caterham cars with young people for some time.

"They kindly offered to provide us with a kit car and the crews at Hyde jumped at the chance to help these young carers build it.

"It was a really nice way to engage with these young people and offer them some respite from the demands of being a young carer."

GMFRS involved in new public sector reform Wigan Youth Forum

A SCHEME for young people in Wigan to ensure the voices of children are heard was given a boost with the launch of a new Youth Forum at Leigh Fire Station in June.

Chaired by Borough Manager Steve Sheridan, partners from across the public and voluntary sector came together for the launch as part of public sector reform in the borough.

Borough Manager Steve Sheridan said: "In the interest of partnership working this was an important step in terms of public sector reform in Wigan.

"The Youth Forum will mean close working bonds with partners will be formed to give children and young people a say in decisions that will affect them and together we can bid for funding to provide activities to enhance their lives."

The forum brings together partners – including GMFRS, Greater Manchester Police, Wigan Council and Wigan Youth Zone – with a shared vision to ensure every young person has access to a range of activities to promote their social and personal wellbeing and raise aspirations.

This includes commitments to ensure sufficient educational leisure-time activities are available and improving the publicity of information to ensure children and families can easily access information about what's on and supporting with funding bids to bridge the gap in youth service provision.



(ABOVE) THE YOUNG CARERS ON THE FIRST EVENING BUILDING THE CATERHAM CAR

Youth Engagement

Prince's Trust gets creative for the Manchester Day Parade

THE Manchester Prince's Trust Team put their creative flair into action for this year's Manchester Day Parade.

The 11 young people were involved in a creative workshop run by Thingyumajig Theatre in the week running up to parade day.

The team designed and made a giant firefighter puppet as

well as brand new lightweight silk flags which were created using a dye and wax method known as Batique.

Our new fire themed flags were carried throughout the parade alongside the puppet which went down a storm and wowed the crowds.

George Hayden, Prince's Trust Team Manager for Manchester, said: "Initially the team were a little apprehensive getting involved in

such a big event as they didn't know what to expect on the day.

"But as the young people got ready to begin the parade, the nerves soon passed and they really enjoyed being a part of the day. I was really impressed with the turn out of the team and the feedback we have received has been fantastic."



(ABOVE) THE TEAM HAVING FUN WITH THEIR FLAGS AND THE FIREFIGHTING PUPPET DURING THE MANCHESTER DAY PARADE



Manchester Bomb images get over one million hits

PHOTOS of the 1996 Manchester Bomb received over one million hits on Flickr after original copies of the incident were made available electronically.

Multi-media and Photography Officer Alex Flahive found the negatives in the former Rochdale Fire Station.

Media volunteer Toby Longmate spent hours painstakingly scanning each negative into the GMFRS digital photo library.

Once the photos were scanned they were uploaded to Flickr so that the public of Manchester could see what damage the bomb had left to the city.

They were also shared in the local and national media.



(ABOVE) CREW MANAGER RICK BURKE ACCEPTS HIS AWARD FROM TAMESIDE BOROUGH MANAGER JON HEYDON

Ashton crew manager has the WOW factor

ASHTON Fire Station had the wow factor after a crew manager was given a WOW! Award for his work with young people.

Crew Manager Rick Burke received the award from Tameside Borough Manager Jon Heydon at an event held at the fire station.

He was nominated for his work on the FireTeam programme.

Borough Manager Jon Heydon said: "We were delighted that a member of the public had decided to recognise Rick in this way.

"It's just one example of the fantastic work staff in Tameside does to protect the public and improve their quality of life."

Over the last year we have piloted the WOW! Awards and invited members of the public to nominate GMFRS staff for a WOW! Award if they feel that an individual or team has particularly impressed them.

Whether it was for community engagement activity, a station visit, Home Safety Check or in response to an incident, we want people to tell us what we are getting right.



(ABOVE) DEPUTY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF LONDON FIRE BRIGADE PETER COWUP TALKS TO THE AUDIENCE ABOUT THE VAUXHALL HELICOPTER CRASH

TDC host international IFE conference

INTERNATIONAL experts in search and rescue descended on the Training and Development Centre on Thursday, May 8.

The event was part of the Institute of Fire Engineering series of conferences and was attended by firefighters and staff from across the UK.

Delegates heard presentations from speakers including Graham Braithwaite Professor of Safety and Air Accident Investigation at the University of Cranfield, Deputy Assistant Commissioner of London Fire Brigade Peter Cowup and search and rescue pilot Wing Commander Sparky Dunlop.

Group Manager Dean Nankivell led the organisation of the conference. He said: "It was great to call upon the network of contacts I have built up over the years working in international and urban search and rescue.

"To be able to use this network to create a programme of internationally renowned speakers for the benefit of Greater Manchester and UK Fire Service was fantastic.

"The event was very well organised and attended by emergency services from across the UK and the globe. I'd like to thank everyone who did such a fantastic job to make it happen."

Colleague Recognition Awards

STAFF from across the organisation were recognised for their hard work at an event in the FSHQ canteen on Friday, April 25.

Certificates were presented by Deputy County Fire Officer Jim Owen after which recipients and guests enjoyed afternoon tea and cakes.

Extended Leadership Team members nominated the following to receive an award:

Victoria Ackroyd, Prevention and Protection Administrator

Imran Arif, Community Safety Advisor, Bolton and Wigan Area

Sara Bowcott, Prevention and Protection Administrator

Matt Brady, Blue Watch Manager, Moss Side

Stephen Collings, Senior Development Analyst and Nichola Hutchinson, Business Systems Special Projects

Officer, ICT Directorate

Carol Donohue, Prevention and Protection Administrator

George Hayden, Team Manager, Manchester Prince's Trust Team

Wendy James, Prevention and Protection Administrator, Stockport and Tameside

Simon Mallitt, Volunteer, Rochdale Borough

Rob Rigby, Police Liaison Officer

Jess Smith, Research and Evaluation Officer, Corporate Planning and Intelligence Directorate

Gary Taylor, Technical Officer, FSHQ

Laman Warburton, Community Safety Advisor, Bolton and Wigan Area

Alan Wrigley, Cleaner, Manchester Borough



(ABOVE) THE RECIPIENTS COLLECT THEIR CERTIFICATES AT THE EVENT



GREATER MANCHESTER
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE