

## Introducing Policework

Mike Brogden, Tony Jefferson, Sandra Walklate, London, Unwin Hyman, 1988, 220pp, £9.95 pb, £25 hb

In recommending introductory reading for students of policing I usually find myself at a loss to identify material that falls between specialist works and more general (and often lamentably clichéd) ones produced for a wider audience. The authors of *Introducing Policework*, with their eyes on this gap in the market, have set out not only to summarise the enormous literature on policing but also to provide an overview and synthesis of the disparate viewpoints and controversies offered up by psychology, sociology, history and politics.

The authors conclude that neither psychological nor micro-sociological approaches are adequate by themselves for understanding policing. This leads in to a longer review of police histories, emphasising the importance of social divisions in understanding police work and an examination of how differential police attention is directed towards different groups according to age, sex, race and social class. Finally come arguments about accountability and a summary of the post-Scarman efflorescence of forms of internal and external regulation and pressure on the police, such as PACE, independent monitoring and crime surveys. *Introducing Policework* is a useful, accessible, readable and critical review of a wide field which avoids the partisan tone which characterises much of the work aimed at its market.

Mollie Weatheritt

## Evaluating Police Work

Christine Horton and David Smith, The Policy Studies Institute, 1988, £19.95

Does your local bobby give good value for money? Since the Government's infamous circular 114 of 1983 (which demanded greater accountability of police resources) this is a question which has been taxing the minds of many senior police officers and civil servants. This book, which details a Home Office funded two and a half year research project carried out in Hampshire, is an attempt to provide some answers to this difficult

question.

In the first part of the book the authors outline the problems including the complexities of the police task and the fallability of using simple measures such as detection rates or recorded crime rates.

The research attempts three main objectives, firstly to improve the police's apparent dearth of 'management' information on which to make deployment decisions, secondly, to measure the level of activity of two police sub-divisions and of certain individual police officers, and thirdly, to seek the views of the 'consumers' of the police service, in the form of various representatives of the community in these areas.

Since 1983 most police forces have designated resources, usually in force R & D departments, to the task of achieving 'performance measurement'. Furthermore, the Home Secretary recently warned senior police officers that the Home Office had itself now designed certain 'key indicators' which he would be using to run a measure over police forces.

This book will certainly be of great value to police forces in approaching this task. It demonstrates that much can be done by police forces employing detailed but fair minded measures to what police officers do. Police managers may then be in a position to see if what is being done, is not only being done efficiently, but is what the consumer wants.

Roger Aldridge

## Talking Blues. The police in their own words

Roger Graef, Collins Harvill, £15

This is an extremely long, well-researched and compiled book, and above all it is a fair one. One comes away from it simultaneously informed and appalled. 'Police...' explained one officer to the author '...are insulting about everyone; poofs, pakis, lesbos, women, students, the rich, the media, politicians, all foreigners, the Scots, the Irish - you name it. We hate everybody.'

The statements reveal that there is an inherent paranoia within the police force. They see themselves as be-

trayed by the people they police, parliament, the media and the community and their leaders. During the last decade' with the police being used more like a paramilitary force ('Maggies' boys' as they came to be known), the accounts by the policemen and policewomen concretise the idea, which reflects government thinking, that there is a war on against crime.

Graef uses the analogy of the Vietnam war in describing this change of perception of the police by the public. The inner city disturbances and the miners' strike, changed the nature of policing, perhaps forever. The media coverage showed policemen in adversarial roles. The effect of this public order policing to men and women accustomed to policing familiar neighbourhoods was that many found the transition back difficult to attain. Their response was hostility to situations that before would have been dealt with without confrontation - evidence from 'non-metropolitan' disorders suggest that police officers are now legitimate targets for aggression by so-called 'lager-louts'.

This book will give offence to the police and to the public. One also hopes it will create a debate about the future role of the police - before civil disturbance once again forces the issue.

Francis Charlton

## Police Review

published weekly by Police Review Publishing Company. 70p

*Police Review* is a comprehensive magazine relatively unbiased in its reporting, with articles and news items on all aspects of the criminal justice system. The magazine also has an educative function for the police-dealing with the law, recent legislation, exam questions, and descriptions of recent court cases.

The magazine is currently reflecting a concern within the police about the encroachment of the private security sector - as witnessed recently in Harwich. It is also giving voice to the changing role of the police officer - Dixon of Dock Green, who was he? - with calls for a Royal Commission to examine the future role of the police.

Two comments and one suggestion: firstly, the humorous 'Out of the

Blue' column perpetrates the idea of 'policeman as plod'; it is not funny and is patronising to the readership - replace it with a review section, looking at radio and television programmes that deal with police issues. Secondly, the abundance of advertisements for loans lowers the tone.

If *Police Review*, although a specialist magazine, were to be displayed more prominently amongst the weekly magazines on the shelves of newsagents, it would be of interest and value to many lay people who follow police matters and may, through increased circulation, reduce the need to sell space to loan companies.

## Police

Published monthly by the Joint Central Committee of the Police Federation of England and Wales.

The journal of the police union, *Police* reflects current issues which concern police officers; recent issues include articles on arming police officers, football hooliganism, the lack of public support for the police, contain a call for a Royal Commission on the police, and consider the movement towards privatising police functions.

## Policing

Published quarterly by Police Review Publishing Company in association with Sweet & Maxwell. £20 For details contact 'Policing', 14 Cross Sreet, London, EC1 8FE

*Policing* is an academic Journal with learned articles on all aspects of contemporary policing, comparative policing, research as well as the occasional book review.

Reviews of Trade Journals by Francis Charlton

# Not the Last Word

## Private Policing

*This section offers critical comment on a controversial subject. Here Francis Charlton considers private policing. His is not the last word - we welcome comment by readers.*

**The present government which was elected on its law and order platform appears not only to be losing control of crime, but to be actively encouraging private enterprise in the fight against it. As crime has increased during Mrs Thatcher's ten years in power, so too has the fear of crime, and the public have responded by calling in private police.**

The rhetoric of community policing, with home beat officers patrolling neighbourhoods has proven empty and the reality does not stand close scrutiny. Although the police under the Conservative government are one of the few bodies to have had their powers enhanced, numbers increased and pay improved, they are nevertheless unable to stem the rise in crime. With crumbling confidence in the police and their ability to perform their role, many people are turning to outside agencies for protection.

Neighbourhood Watch is one example of communities attempting to take responsibility for themselves. In the East End of London ethnic minority groups have organised themselves into citizen street patrols to defend themselves against racial attack and

other groups have been organised to combat activities such as 'kerb-crawling' or drug pushing. From the fractured community of the multi-ethnic, inner-cities to 'lager lout' disorders in the rural areas, people are demanding protection.

People ask for protection, but get privatisation. Private bodies now police public space - from shopping malls, sports and entertainment venues to airports, stations, municipal buildings and ports. Sealink dispensed with the services of the police and replaced them with security guards from a private firm. Protective Security Systems. The powers of these guards given under an obscure Harbours Act of 1847 enable them to perform as 'constables' with the same powers of arrest and 'stop and search' as police officers. But unlike the police, the guards are not subject to police vetting procedures or regulations.

John Patten, the Home Office Minister, said that the government does not want 'individual private citizens taking up the policing of this country' - but the individual private citizens are not listening. Miners in the colliery village of Grimethorpe, South Yorkshire are policing themselves. Communities in Washington, Tyne and Wear and in Gosforth, Newcastle Upon Tyne all employ security guards. Residents in the exclusive stockbroker belt at Wentworth and

Sunningdale in Surrey, pay £250 a year to a security firm to protect their property. A recent survey in *Police Review* magazine estimated that there are at least 1,000 non-police patrols operating within the police sector employing between 250,000 to 450,000 people compared to 122,000 public police officers.

Many security firms are operated by, or employ people with criminal records, and many guards employed by these firms have been subsequently convicted for crimes committed whilst working for them.

The Whitgift Centre in Croydon is a good spot for a sociological study of the private security operative. There they can be seen posing for female office workers in their lunch hour, and being followed by gangs of truants, who knew them in school, and who want to be security guards too when they are expelled. One has to worry somewhat at the type of personality that needs to dress like a riot control policeman or a Gestapo officer, just so that he can tell you where to park your car.

The rise of the private police and vigilante groups reflects the public's fear of crime, fuelled by an irresponsible media and a government which, whilst claiming to put public protection foremost on its agenda, appears to be overtly encouraging private sector involvement in policing for profit.