



GREATER MANCHESTER  
**POLICE**  
MUSEUM & ARCHIVES



# **IMAGE LOAN BOX.**

**Part 1- Information pack**

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# INTRODUCTION

This pack comes in three parts (information, images and activities, this is part 1- information). It is designed to aid you in engaging with the history of the police and crime and punishment.

It includes images of objects from our collection, as well as original photographs, some dating all the way back to the 1840's.

There are also suggested activities and links to videos in order to enable you to discover more.

This pack will cover aspects of-

- Victorian police.
- Crime and punishment.
- British values.

Activities include -

- Arts and crafts.
- The use of original sources.
- Scientific enquiry.
- English.

# How To Use This Pack

You can use the following collection of images in order to discover more about policing in the past, in whichever format best suits you.

All the images are numbered in the top left hand corner. These numbers are then used to link the image with an activity.

Start off by investigating and developing a discussion about the images. We have included a fact sheet, full of useful information about each object. Where possible a link to a video from our collection is included to tell you more. Then go on to complete the linked activity.

Above all we hope that you have fun and discover something new!

# Fact Sheet



## Truncheon (Image 4)

This was introduced with the first police officers in 1829 and continued to be used relatively unchanged until the 1990's. This was used for self-defence. It is made from wood and would have been produced locally.

## Oil Lamp (image 1)

this was issued to the first officers and was in use until the 1920's. It was useful to the officer because of a lack of street lighting.

This one in the image is known as a dark lantern as the top can be swivelled to turn out/block the light when it is not needed.

It would have used oil as the fuel and there are stories of police officers running, falling and setting their trousers on fire.

Link to video -

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/gmpolice1/19782857180/in/photolist-w99jdu-7JjbKy-sZx6fr-7FWFgh-7F1G3J-swbAUM-tJ9a3v-og7pY8-KY4CVq-271B3tQ-gHfkW3-tJ4roC-oiMxLg-271B1iIN-KY4vrY-2gkGsf-pksoQ5-oAfkQA-d1SESY-282DRfq-F3cfNY-KY4xkY-eyN9bm-Fxa8SK-eFmxAw-282DENO-czja75-cP8WTU-jQIHtQ-25m3iy7-282DFqW-omEn4f-cSawAf-u7g4ea-eCvwdQ-271B38E-KY4ved-25D2hGh-2871ev2-seA6Vw-2hBLU7G-mgZpat-25ruhtG-24qyGEA-26JuK7V-271B2Hm-247C9hQ-vJtCuE-tQQHbv-bNiLWD>



## Top Hat (Image 5)



This was part of the uniform for police officers at the start in 1829 and was designed in order to help the officers look more like a civilian and not like the military. This is a replica but the original would have been re-enforced with wooden cane to make it strong to help protect the wearer.

It is also up for debate whether or not the officer would use this hat as a step stool to help them see over high walls or even as a sneaky place to keep their sandwiches for lunch!

## **Handcuffs** (Images 6 and 7).



The first set of handcuffs are known as snaps and were given to the first police officers in 1829. You would only place one wrist in one side (the open side) and the officer would hold onto the other side (the side that closes).

The other pair of handcuffs (screw cuffs) are also of the Victorian period but shows a change in design as now both wrists are restrained. They are opened and closed with the screw like key. It can take up to 13 turns of the screw to open and close the handcuffs.



**Link to video-**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/gmpolice1/29124642868/in/photolist-LnDpCY-mHWVPJ-7dhFTP-pAv7MD-J4EXuP-J2m4vh-fjT8KJ-pQLK5U-9JVbjJ-DrMkXB-7Rq3uY-22KkNto-pBnAHX-tbnEtm-bX4gtv-23FmSVs-aNPb1i-mHVdg4-E7MKCq-23r58d3-pSSpkD-J2m4pf-KzoNZb-a4QsRk-oxaRzW-9JVbjw-omzZqF-dzXRLg-bJwzXi-8Nuij4H-25vcYDv-oxo5ev-oW8Wpv-dtRsMC-pAubFd-JPHguf-PhQTJm-J4EXAk-J4EXP6-yDLHHq-7hL3r1-25ruesw-mfmfsi-7hWnUH-q2beGq-7hG5XX-pAubjw-KhwRjr-ovmbVd-opDMY9>

## **Rattle or Rick.** (Image 3)



These would have been use as a form of communication and would have been given to the first police officers in 1829. They were in use until the 1880's when the whistle took over due to its more compact size and the fact that it could be heard from more than double the distance away.

When spun around it makes a loud noise that would have been heard up to 400 yards away. It would have been carried in the belt.

These are made from wood and would have been produced locally.

They were later used at football matches as well.

**Link to video-**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/gmpolice1/41113156705/in/photolist-25D2F8p-afm8A1-8FjLBf-8QshqK-oC2Ux4-tapRHp-7dBNUs-oy3WVG-eCw5aN-2eFVPHS-835qMg-7eSMbS-mq7Bv6-KmgMS-7dmyjC-a9Ct26-taeTou-oiMiEG-7dhFLV-7FhITU-emn1Ve-u6Tfo5-eW8b3h-7gBuwy-9pi4ob-xu7gLU-8yVyUj-7eSMym-86R4fS-2bnRPrR-ajCjx2-7eSSc2-pGDNXb-93M2ri-cC6wtC-7gBvdq-7eWLBn-czfiGs-tPEq4W-7eSMmE-7gBuUC-7gBvp9-tapMRB-u6Thvm-7hG6hr-ogAMuv-oxLhez-apowHS-8sRpX5-u7g68F>

## **Whistle** (Image 2)



The whistle replaced the rattle in the 1880's as a form of communication for the police. It was much more compact and easier to carry, as well as being much lighter.

The Whistle can be heard from twice as far away as the rattle. (About 800 yards). The whistle was first trialed in Manchester before it was used across the country.

## **Peeler** (Image 8)

This gives you an idea of what the early police officers would have looked like in their uniform.

## **Peelers Parade** (Image 9)

Manchester City Police peelers parade in the yard of the city's Albert Street Police Station in the 1850's. Early police officers wore top hats and frock coats to allay public fears that the new forces were part of the military.

## **Big cat on the Prowl.** (Image 10)

Two Manchester City Police officers on traffic patrol in south Manchester in the 1960's. They are in one of the most iconic police cars of the day, the Mark 2 Jaguar.

## **On the Rochdale Roads in 1983.** (Image 11)

A Ford Capri of the Greater Manchester Police fleet on patrol in Rochdale in 1983.

## **Manchester Peelers- 1840's** (Image 12)

This image of Manchester peelers taking a break is thought to be the earliest image of policing in the city.

## **Manchester Peeler** (Image 13)

An early portrait image of an unnamed Manchester Peeler from around 1860.

## **Thieves Album** (image 14)

This image of Mary Elizabeth Smith comes from one of our thieves albums and dates back to 1893. Her list of offences include larceny, and obtaining money under false pretences. But do you like her hat?

Follow the link below to discover more about our thieves albums.

<https://youtu.be/x9sArOFRyrs>

## **A bit of background information to get you started.....**

Sir Robert Peel formed the police on the 29th September 1829. When he was working for the Government as Home Secretary- (This job is all about keeping the country safe). The early police officers got a lot of nicknames but the main ones are Peeler or Bobby after Robert Peel.

Sir Robert Peel was born in Bury, which is now part of the Greater Manchester Police.

When the police started it was based in London and Manchester didn't get a police force until 1839.

Early police uniforms were designed to look civilian (just like what everyone else would wear but smart - think smart Gentleman!) rather than like the military. This was so that people did not fear the police and think that they had the same control as the military.

This early uniform was worn until 1865 when the top hat was replaced by the famous helmet.

A peeler had to wear his uniform at all times, even when he was not at work! He was allowed to take it off at bedtime and of course to have a bath.

A peeler would have also worked 7 days a week and would have been paid about the same as a general labourer (so not brilliantly).

A peeler also had to be a man, that was at least 5'7 tall and fit and healthy too.

