



Metin Enver, Managing Editor

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Celebrating change?

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Forty years ago when *Police* magazine was launched I was a mere six months old - enjoying the odd tippie on the bottle, occasionally struggling to make myself understood and needing a woman in my life to take care of me. So, no change there then?

In all seriousness, this 40 year birthday for *Police* magazine is an opportunity to reflect upon the changes in policing over the last four decades.

I mean, it's hard to believe that only 40 years ago there were just a token number of female and black minority ethnic officers in the job. Policing, together with the military, was still seen as the last bastion for the white anglo-saxon male.

As for policing the streets, well accountability was just a 13 letter word on the Scrabble board. Now I know some may look back at what is often termed the 'good old days' when you could get out there and do the job. But I do wonder if that's a case of rose-tinted spectacles. I don't think any of us would dispute that the practices that were often used decades ago were tenuous to say the least and most probably illegal, if not immoral, in today's society.

Regrettably though, the pendulum has swung too far the other way. The criminal fraternity now expect a four-star service from their local old bill and believe they are quite within their rights to complain if they don't have their noses wiped or there's a stain on their breakfast cutlery.

So overall has policing evolved for the better? Well personally I think it has and listening to many of the old sweats around the country that mood is mirrored.

Despite all the bureaucracy and targets that inhibit the day to day policing, the quality of police officer recruits and the standards they promote continue to improve.

We have a police service that is second to none; one that the public can have confidence in and one that you can quite rightly be proud to be part of.

As I sign off for 2008 it just leaves me to wish you, your families, friends and colleagues best wishes for the Christmas period and a safe, happy and prosperous New Year.