

# CREATING CREDIBLE COPS

PRO WRITING AID CRIME WRITERS'  
WEEK 2022

GRAHAM BARTLETT

# PRINCIPLES OF PROCEDURAL ADVICE

- THE STORY IS ALWAYS KING
- IT MUST BE CREDIBLE
- CHARACTERS MUST BE PLAUSIBLE
- NO-ONE WANTS 'I SPY OF POLICING'
- UNDERSTANDING AIDS POETIC LICENCE
- IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE & THERE'S ALWAYS A WAY AROUND THINGS

# WHAT'S TO COVER?

- POLICE STRUCTURES AND CAREERS
- THE DNA OF A POLICE OFFICER
- POLICE ROLES AND RANKS
- HOW POLICE WORK TOGETHER AND SPEAK
- JARGON AND ACRONYMS – THE DOS AND DON'TS.
- POLICE STATION SETTINGS
- POLICE HUMOUR AND STANDARDS

# POLICE STRUCTURES AND CAREERS

- GEOGRAPHICAL
- NATIONAL/ FEDERAL OVERLAY
- POLITICAL INFLUENCES
- HIERARCHICAL
- PROMOTION ON EXAM AND MERIT (?)
- DEFERENTIAL, TO A DEGREE
- RANK INVERSELY PROPORTIONATE TO DRAMA
- STANDARDS AND DISCIPLINE



**GRAHAM  
BARTLETT** / AUTHOR  
+ POLICE  
ADVISOR





# DNA OF A POLICE OFFICER

## “The Police are the Public; the Public are the Police” Sir Robert Peel quote

August 24, 2015



*“The Police are the Public; the Public are the Police. The Police are paid to give full time attention to duties that are incumbent upon every citizen in the interest of community welfare and existence.”*

*– Sir Robert Peel, father of modern policing*

# CLICHÉ FREE CHARACTERS – PROTAGONIST 1/2

- WHAT ARE THEY LIKE AT HOME
- WHAT ARE THEIR HOBBIES
- WHAT KIND OF BOSS ARE THEY?
- HOW DO THEY INTERACT WITH THOSE AROUND THEM?
- WHAT WOULD THEY HATE THEIR COLLEAGUES TO KNOW



# CLICHÉ FREE CHARACTERS – PROTAGONIST 2/2

- WHAT DO YOU THINK THEIR HABITS MIGHT BE?
- WHAT CAR DO THEY DRIVE?
- WHO DO THEY CONFIDE IN? IF ANYONE.
- WHO WOULD THEY DIE FOR?
- WHAT'S THEIR DARKEST SIDE?

# HOW POLICE WORK TOGETHER AND SPEAK?

- P/DC – FIRST NAME. NICKNAME
- SGT/ DET SGT – SERGEANT. SARGE. SKIPPER. SKIP. FIRST NAME. NICKNAME
- INSP AND ABOVE – MA'AM. SIR. GUV. BOSS. INSPECTOR ETC. FIRST NAME. NICKNAME
- EQUAL RANKS NEVER DEFER

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

- NEVER SURNAMES UNLESS AS NICKNAME
- NEVER WPC, WDC ETC. (POST 1990S)
- NEVER 'DETECTIVE' WITHOUT THE RANK
- THE GREATER THE RANK DIFFERENTIAL, THE MORE FORMAL THE ADDRESS
- PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FORMS OF ADDRESS MAY DIFFER
- AVOID BARKED ORDERS AND PUBLIC DRESSINGS DOWN. LESS IS MORE.
- CIVILIANS

# JARGON AND ACRONYMS DO'S AND DON'TS

- NOT FOR THEIR OWN SAKE
- BE CAREFUL THEY APPLY TO YOUR SETTING
- BETTER IN DIALOGUE THAN NARRATIVE
- EVERYDAY LANGUAGE
- FLY ON THE WALL DOCS
- NEVER SAY THE Q WORD!!

# JARGON AND ACRONYMS

- AIO – ALL IN ORDER
- ASNT – AREA SEARCH NO TRACE.
- CHIS – COVERT HUMAN INTELLIGENCE SOURCE.
- CIM - CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGER.
- CODE ZERO – OFFICER UNDER ATTACK
- CODE 4 – MEAL BREAK
- CODE 11 – OFF DUTY
- CRO – CRIMINAL RECORDS OFFICE OR CRIMINAL RECORD
- FLO – FAMILY LIAISON OFFICER.
- FPN – FIXED PENALTY NOTICE.
- HOLMES – HOME OFFICE LARGE MAJOR ENQUIRY SYSTEM

# JARGON AND ACRONYMS

- LOB – LOAD OF B0330X
- MIT – MAJOR INCIDENT TEAM (VARIES FORCE TO FORCE)
- MIR – MAJOR INCIDENT ROOM
- MISPER – A MISSING PERSON
- NFA – NO FURTHER ACTION.
- NPAS – NATIONAL POLICE AIR SERVICE.
- OIC – OFFICER IN CASE
- PNC – POLICE NATIONAL COMPUTER
- POLAC – POLICE ACCIDENT
- POLSA – POLICE SEARCH ADVISOR

# JARGON AND ACRONYMS

- PSU - POLICE SUPPORT UNIT IS A TEAM OF OFFICERS TRAINED IN PUBLIC ORDER
- RJ - RESTORATIVE JUSTICE.
- RTC – ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION,
- RUI – RELEASED UNDER INVESTIGATION.
- SIO – SENIOR INVESTIGATING OFFICER
- SOCO – SCENE OF CRIME OFFICER
- TBR – TYPICAL BRIGHTON RESIDENT
- TK – TELEPHONE KIOSK.
- TWOC – TAKING WITHOUT OWNER'S CONSENT
- WOA – WORDS OF ADVICE

# POLICE STATIONS

- FIRST AND FOREMOST, THEY ARE A WORKPLACE
- SECURE AND NON SECURE AREAS
- NOT ALL 24/7
- FEW POLICE OFFICERS
- HUBS RATHER THAN LOCAL
- SHARED SITES



# HUMOUR AND STANDARDS

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- GALLOWS HUMOUR
- UNITS OF PUNISHMENT
- RESPECT
- APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE
- NICKNAMES AND PRANKS
- ON AND OFF DUTY BEHAVIOUR
- SOCIAL MEDIA
- CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND ASSOCIATES.

# WANT TO KNOW MORE?

SOLVING A MURDER – 4 WEEK MODULAR (IN OWN TIME AND PACE)

ONE DAY LIVE WORKSHOPS

- FORENSICS AND CRIME SCENES
- COVERT POLICING AND INTELLIGENCE
- CUSTODY AND INTERVIEWING
- POLICE CHARACTER AND DIALOGUE
- DYNAMIC POLICING

[HTTPS://POLICEADVISOR.CO.UK/EVENTS/#COURSES](https://policeadvisor.co.uk/events/#courses)

# QUESTIONS?

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**THE MUST-READ CRIME DEBUT OF THE YEAR**



**'Masterly'**  
**PETER JAMES**

**'The real deal'**  
ELLY GRIFFITHS

**'A cracking debut'**  
MARK BILLINGHAM

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**MARK BILLINGHAM**

**JUNE 2022**

*asb*