



July 2007

## Wandsworth Borough Newsletter

### Meet our new borough commander



Chief Superintendent Stewart Low became borough commander of Wandsworth police on the 2 July and looks forward to working closely with our local partners and the community to make Wandsworth safer.

His priorities for the coming year are to robustly tackle the crimes of robbery, burglary, vehicle crime and crime problems associated with gangs.

Mr Low said: "I intend to ensure that my officers will be courteous and tolerant in all encounters with the public and that we will provide a high level of victim care. I will do this within the financial constraints but will look for opportunities to seize criminals' assets and use them to tackle crime.

"Safer neighbourhoods teams are a vital part of my strategy in ensuring that we work with our partners to solve problems and we remain responsive to the needs of the public. The support of the public in our actions is essential if we are to effectively reduce and detect crime and bring more criminals to justice. This is particularly relevant given the current fantastic public response in countering terrorism. "

Mr Low has 32 years' policing experience with a vast majority spent in busy inner city boroughs. He looks forward to developing further the long-standing and effective partnerships. He added: "This position represents the achievement of my personal ambition to be a police borough commander and I intend to fulfil this role at Wandsworth for a number of years."

### Man jailed for knife offence

A carpet fitter from Streatham was sentenced to an indeterminate prison sentence public protection for wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. Gary Celtic Taylor, aged 40, of Anvil Close pleaded guilty at Kingston Crown Court in May and must serve a minimum of 30-months behind bars.



**Gary Taylor**

On Wednesday, 24 January 2007, two police community support officers (PCSOs) were on anti-social patrols in Graveney ward, Tooting, when they heard over the radio, a report of a violent altercation in Mitcham Road.

PCSOs Steve Reeves and James Skipper ran to the venue where a 36 year-old man was found at the scene covered in blood. Gary Taylor was standing close-by with a Stanley knife in his hand. The community support officers called for assistance and response officers quickly arrived to arrest Taylor.

## Know your Safer Neighbourhoods Team

Safer neighbourhoods teams are here to help the community by understanding what it is that concerns and worries the residents they serve. There are twenty wards on Wandsworth borough, and you can find out a lot more by clicking on this link <http://www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods/boroughs/wandsworth/saferneighbourhoods.htm>

### Wandsworth SNT map



### Two Wandsworth officers commended for their bravery

PCs Katy Shepherd and Charlotte Bradbeer-Dubery, based at Wandsworth, were presented with Commissioner's Commendations after helping save the sight of two colleagues who had been sprayed in the face with acid.

27-year old PC Shepherd 24-year old Bradbeer-Dubery, were first on the scene of the attack in Earsfield in April 2006. By this time deep burns caused by acid were spreading across the faces and arms of two colleagues. Despite the dangers of cross-contamination, the PCs organised a supply of water from nearby restaurants to douse the wounds. This first aid later proved to be sight-saving for both officers.

### Terrorism threat to London

On Wednesday 4 July the Joint Terrorism and Analysis Centre (JTAC) changed the national Threat Level from Critical to Severe. There is no intelligence to suggest that an attack is expected imminently.

Assistant Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur said: "I'd like to reassure Londoners we're doing everything possible to make them safe, we're putting out extra patrols, and we've reviewed plans for the weekend, safety and security is our number one priority. I'd ask Londoners to be alert and report anything suspicious to the police."

### Ant-Terrorist hotline

If you think that you may have seen something suspicious or you are unsure about somebody's activities or behaviour, however insignificant it may seem at the time, call the **Anti-Terrorist hotline** on **0800 789 321**. Calls are taken in confidence by specialist officers who will analyse your information.

## Making your homes secure

Wandsworth police's crime prevention by design officer has given a new residential apartment block in Merton Road the official seal of approval.

Pc Bill Margetts met with the architect Christopher Moore and Colin Russell, the design and building contractor from Sandwood Ltd, on 25 June to give them the Secured by Design certificate.



All police crime prevention design advisers adhere to the Secured By Design (SBD) principles. SBD is a police initiative to encourage the building industry to adopt crime prevention measures to reduce the opportunity for crime and the fear of crime by creating a safer and more secure environment.

Left to right: Colin Russell, Christopher Moore and Pc Bill Margetts

Pc Bill Margetts said: "By working together we have designed a residential building with a high standard of physical security in relation to its windows and doors, lighting, and its video-intercom system."

## Cannabis raid



Footage from the scene

Wandsworth police executed a search warrant in Tooting on Monday 2 July and seized over 200 cannabis plants.

Police entered the cannabis factory on Lingwell Road at 4.30pm and found several cultivating rooms around the house.

The lamps, fans, soil and fertiliser required to cultivate cannabis were still in place. Police cordoned off the address for forensics to be carried out.

The back door to the premises had been wired up to the mains electrical supply with a grid of wires across the door wrapped around the door handle to hurt anyone who tried to enter.

Detective Inspector Phil Tomlinson, of Wandsworth police, said: "We continually develop intelligence to tackle drug dealers and uncover their hub of operations. The public can play their part by telling police of any suspicious activities.

"You should look for premises with blacked-out windows, vented piping running out of the skylight, and people continually coming in and out at various times. But these criminals tend to booby trap the doors so do not try and investigate for yourself."