



Working together for a safer London

August 2007 Wandsworth Borough Newsletter

We need your help to tackle terrorism

THE threat from terrorism is real and serious. The level of terrorist activity has intensified and increased as groups and individuals aspire to mount attacks in the UK.

There is no specific intelligence at this stage to suggest Wandsworth is under threat, but as we have seen terrorists can strike at any time and any place without warning.

Over the next few months the public may see a marked increase in visible security measures across the borough with officers being encouraged to use their powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 to make it harder for terrorists to operate.

Stop and search is a vital tactic in our counter terrorism strategy, designed to disrupt, deter and prevent terrorist activity. We understand being stopped by police may cause an inconvenience, but it is our duty to protect the public and your patience and co-operation will help us keep London safe.

Commander Rod Jarman, of the Metropolitan Police Service, said: *"You may see an increase in counter terrorism activities by the police on our streets over the coming months.*

"Terrorists live, work and blend in to our communities. They need information; accommodation; transport; communications; material; and storage. Terrorists can come from any background and live anywhere. They are as likely to be seen in quiet suburban roads as they are in inner-city areas."

We ask all Londoners to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to our confidential Anti-Terrorist hotline - 0800 789 321.

LONDON WEEK OF PEACE
9 – 16 September 2007

London Week of Peace is an annual event of high profile events, initiatives and action designed to promote community cohesion, safety and peace across the capital.

Sir Ian Blair, the MPS Commissioner, said: "The Week of Peace represents a unique opportunity for London's communities to reach out and celebrate the work that so many individuals, groups and agencies perform for the benefit of others. Raising the profile of Community Safety and cohesion in response to issues of violence is crucial."

Crook jailed for five years for firearm offences

A security guard from Battersea was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for firearms offences and possession of cannabis. The road to justice began with a routine stop by Safer Neighbourhoods officers after they stopped his car in Trinity Road, Tooting in April this year.

The officers from Wandsworth Common and Nightingale SNT noticed a strong smell of cannabis emanating from Reggie Sackey, 27, and they found a small bag of cannabis in his pocket. He was taken into custody and a strip search discovered that he had wrapped a loaded 8mm self-loading in a sock and hid it in his underwear.



Sackey appeared at Kingston Crown Court on 17.07.07 and was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for possessing a prohibited firearm, possessing ammunition, possessing a firearm within a prohibited period, and possession of cannabis.

He was sentenced to five years for possessing a prohibited firearm and two years each for the other firearms offence and possession of ammunition, and 28 days' for the possession of cannabis. The sentences will run concurrently.

Superintendent Clive Sutton said: "A good stop by our Safer Neighbourhoods officers resulted in a gun being taken off the streets. By having police and community support officers patrolling the borough, we are able to identify suspicious activities and deal with them as appropriate."

Tackling crime at a young age



DC Steve Tyler, sixth-formers, PC Keeley Webb and PCSO Kamran Yaqub

Two police officers from Operation Trident – the unit that deals with black on black gun crime – attended Graveney School in Tooting last month to speak to pupils about the consequences of becoming involved in crime.

Furzedown safer neighbourhoods team who work closely with the school to tackle youth-on-youth crime invited Inspector Steve Tyler and DC Karen Snoddy along to help the pupils see that gun crime is real, brutal and that one bullet can kill.

And that's not all...

Last month, St Mary's Park Safer Neighbourhoods team conducted a search arch operation at Salesian College in Battersea to detect anyone walking into the school with knives or bladed instruments.

It is our priority to reduce knife crime on the borough and we will work with schools and local partners to achieve this.

Our schools team relaunches

The Wandsworth police schools team has gone under a redevelopment and will now operate in the same style as a Safer Neighbourhoods team with the long-term aim of reducing crime in and around secondary schools.



The team is a key figure in the borough's Safer Schools Partnership, which plans to make our secondary schools safer and more accessible for staff, pupils and parents, by having designated police constables to deal with crime and antisocial behaviour

They will play a vital role in tackling school-age robbery, by gaining intelligence from various sources to find those responsible.

Sergeant Ian Boshier and PC Helen Toumazos from the schools team

Sergeant Ian Boshier said: "We want to build trust and relationships with young people on the borough. We work very closely with the schools and youth engagement groups to deal with bullying and street crime, but can also give advice to anyone who is getting dragged into crime and needs help to get out."

- Please call the schools team on 020 8247 8910 for help and advice or information on how to join the Police cadets.

Crime Prevention

Summer is here but remember that open windows are an invite for burglars. Please do not go out and leave your windows and doors open. If you require crime prevention advice then call our specialist office on 020 8247 8937.

Two robberies near Tooting Bec Athletics Track

We are appealing for witnesses and information following two robberies near Tooting Bec Athletics Track on Monday 23 July from 10.30 to 10.40pm.

At around 10.30pm, a 21-year-old man left Tooting Bec tube station and cut through the path between Rectory Lane and Furzedown Road. Two people came up behind him and asked him for money before punching him to the ground and stealing his rucksack, mobile phone, wallet and items of clothing.

Ten minutes later, three teenage boys robbed and seriously assaulted a 28-year-old man to gain the unwanted attention of a 20-yr-old woman. They finally resorted to violence; surrounding the man, one of the robbers shouted: "If you're ignoring us, watch what we do to him." The man was punched in the face and they stole his rucksack.

The suspects are described as black boys, aged between 16 to 20-yr-old. There may be two suspects on bikes, with one described as slim and wearing a black puffa jacket, while the other suspect rode a dark-coloured mountain bike and was wearing a dark hooded-top.

Anyone with information should call the Wandsworth police robbery squad on 020 8247 8874 or make an anonymous report with Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Burglary at Wandsworth museum

We are appealing for witnesses and information following a burglary at the De Morgan Centre in Wandsworth on Sunday 29.07.07 at 1.30am.

The De Morgan Centre is a museum situated inside the West Hill Library on West Hill and holds an extensive collection of nineteenth-century arts and crafts ceramics.

The museum's main exhibition room contains original work by William De Morgan the Victorian ceramicist. The burglar(s) had smashed a glass cabinet and stole some of the expensive plates and jugs it contained. They also damaged some of the ceramics, which were left at the scene.



Two of the stolen ceramics



Detective Sergeant Neil Philpott, said:

“A man was seen loitering outside the building and we are appealing for any information that can help us trace him or the people responsible for this.

“The ceramics belong in a museum for the public to see, so we need your help to return them to their rightful place.”

Anyone with information should call Wandsworth police's burglary squad on 020 8247 8748 or make an anonymous report to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Problems in Old Hospital Close, Balham

The Wandsworth Borough News reported on July 25 that residents of Old Hospital Close in Balham were set for “a summer of discontent, as police and housing associations struggle to combat antisocial combat there”.

Nightingale Safer Neighbourhoods Team recently attended a public meeting in St James Community Centre on Florence Way to meet all five housing associations responsible for housing on the estate.

As reported in the newspaper article the housing associations and police confirmed they would hold regular 'walk around' assessments of the estate in a bid to improve its environmental state and tackle any forms of antisocial behaviour.

Sergeant Steven Billington, of Nightingale Safer Neighbourhoods team, said:

“Our regular patrols on the estate have forged strong links with various residents and seen a significant reduction in antisocial behaviour. Youth workers are also arranging engagement tactics with 10 - 19 year olds to see what they can do to give them some direction in life.

“We are dedicated to making your streets safer, so if you need help or advice then just contact us.”