

## Police Appeal for Witnesses

The police have issued the following appeal for witnesses. Anyone with information should call the Battersea CID office on 0208 247 5417 or make an anonymous report to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

*Police are appealing for witnesses and information after a 39-year-old man was seriously assaulted outside Londis newsagents in Mitcham Lane, Tooting.*

*On Sunday, 12 November 2006 at approx 8.30pm, the man along with his wife and 12-year-old son boarded a route 355 bus from Lavender Hill towards Tooting.*

*Two men boarded the bus at the next stop and acted in a drunk and aggressive manner towards each other and fellow passengers. Unfortunately the victim made eye contact with the two suspects and they followed the family off the bus as it stopped outside McDonalds.*

*One of the suspects barged his wife and asked if she had any cigarettes. Her husband intervened and told them they were non-smokers. The other suspect pulled his more aggressive accomplice away and they headed towards Tooting Broadway station.*

*The man and his family waited a couple of minutes before setting off towards Tooting Broadway station. As he approached the Londis newsagents, the instigator charged towards him and without warning, punched him in the face.*

*The blow caused him to fall against the shop window and the suspect continued to rain more blows into the victim's face. The victim believes his attacker was armed with knuckle-dusters.*

*His son was screaming for help and thankfully a member of the public, described as a black man of large build in his thirties, broke up the assault. The victim and his family continued on their journey home. He started to suffer headaches so he went to a south London hospital and was detained for three days for treatment.*

*The primary blow was so heavy it caused a fractured cheekbone, eye socket and sinus.*

*Suspects are described as two white men around 30-years-old and approximately 5ft 9" to 5ft 11" tall. They both spoke with an Eastern European accent. The suspect who*

*carried out the assault has cropped blonde hair and was wearing a navy blue T-shirt, dark short jacket and dark jeans.*

*They were seen drinking from a container in a blue carrier bag.*

*Police Constable Phil Lynch, the investigating officer, said:*

*“We urge anyone who was on the bus or saw the attack to come forward and help us find these two men. It was a disgusting assault on a man out shopping with his family.*

*“Just imagine if this happened to you while you were out with you family; please come forward with any information. If you would like to remain anonymous then you can call Crimestoppers.”*

*No one has been arrested and inquiries continue.*