

Spring 2007

## In an emergency always dial 999

If your call is not an emergency please contact us at Tooting Police Station, Mitcham Road, SW17 9JQ

**0208 721 2701**      **tooting.snt@met.police.uk**

You can also report certain non-emergency crimes or hate crime at [online.met.police.uk](http://online.met.police.uk)

### First steps for Community Partnership

16<sup>th</sup> March saw the launch of a new Community Partnership with Tooting SNT and McDonald's. PS Lisa Hurley and the franchise holder for McDonald's in Mitcham Road, Ann Dornier, set up the scheme. Ms Dornier was born and bred in Tooting and approached the SNT with the idea as she was very keen to support her local community; especially as her family still have links to Tooting Grove. Staff from the restaurant have volunteered to give four hours of their time each month to existing community projects in both Tooting and Graveney Wards. The first of these will be a deep clean of the youth club building in Tooting Grove; a project that we hope will also benefit the newly formed residents' association. The youth club premises will be continually supported by the volunteers throughout the year. Officers from the Tooting and Graveney Safer Neighbourhood Teams attended the launch at McDonald's. They are pictured below with Sadiq Khan MP who joined the staff who will make up the Community Project Team, the Tooting town centre manager, Audrey Helps and local Councillors. The scheme is expected to be a great success and has already generated interest from other businesses in and around Tooting keen to start their own schemes. Mr Khan will be holding a coffee morning in the youth club in Tooting Grove on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April from 11am. This will be an opportunity to discuss local issues and concerns with members of the SNT.



### New PCSOs join Tooting SNT

Since the start of 2007 three new members of staff have completed their initial training and joined the Tooting Safer Neighbourhood Team. Paul Connolly, Stacey Hussey and Deborah Lyus are Police Community Support Officers, or PCSOs for short. They join other PCSOs Sian Coles, Tony Ejueyitchie and Bukky Oyinsan who have been doing the job a while longer. Being a PCSO involves building bridges with the public, the officers are a reassuring presence, deterring crime and making a visible difference to people's lives in making a Tooting a safer place to live and work in. They are trained to communicate with a wide range of people to tackle and solve community problems. Experience suggests these are most likely to be quality-of-life issues, such as anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, abandoned cars and graffiti.

### Unpaid fines recovered with SNT help

Officers from Tooting SNT carried out an ANPR operation in Mitcham Road on 14<sup>th</sup> February. The team were ably assisted by probationary constables from Tooting Police station and the officers were working with bailiffs appointed by the County Court. The ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) machine reads car number plates and compares them to records held on a database. They are most often used by the side of roads in the City of London or the edges of the Congestion Charging zone. During our operation we were using a mobile machine to catch motorists who had not paid various different fines that were held by the bailiffs. The police officers were also looking out for drivers using their mobile telephones and for other offences. As a result of this one person was arrested for threatening behaviour and nine other motorists were fined or reported to the court for driving offences. The bailiffs were busy too, with 50 warrants being actioned. This included five vehicles that were towed away and £15,153.41 repaid on the day. ANPR machines are also used by traffic police to deny criminals the use of roads in London and to seize vehicles from uninsured and unlicensed drivers.



## SNT team up with Trading Standards

On 9<sup>th</sup> March PCs Emma Robinson and Josh Taylor accompanied Trading Standards officers from Wandsworth Borough Council when they visited the Broadway market in Tooting. The officers went to a particular shop in the market where it had earlier been found that counterfeit designer clothes, shoes and handbags were on sale. 130 items of clothing, 153 pairs of trainers and 79 other accessories including handbags and sunglasses, nearly the shop's entire stock were seized by the Trading Standards officers. It is estimated that if the items had been the 'genuine article' they would have been worth around £30,000 in total. The shop's owners could face prosecution for offering the counterfeit goods for sale. Counterfeit goods, like the items seized on this occasion are not of the quality that you could expect from the well-known brand names involved and may not have been tested to the safety standards designed to protect customers. They will be destroyed or sent for testing to help protect other customers in the future.

## If something seems too good to be true

... then it certainly is! This is the advice of PCSO Deborah Lyus who joined the Tooting SNT earlier this year. Deborah received a letter delivered in the post to her home telling her that she was the lucky winner of a big lottery prize. Over £417,000.00 to be precise. But there must be a catch? Yes there is, the organization that sent Deborah the letter telling her she'd won this mysterious lottery is from Madrid in Spain. If she wanted to claim the big prize (that she hadn't entered into winning in the first place) she would have to

- Telephone the organisation's office in Spain
- And send them all her bank details
- And pay them 10% of the prize money upfront

A quick search on the Internet confirms this is the fraud that it appears to be. Many thousands of people have been sent letters similar to the one Deborah received. Please be aware that fraudsters will use the names of reputable organizations such as the National Lottery, well-known businesses or even football clubs and target just about everybody.

If you or someone you know receives a letter that seems too good to be true please treat it like the junk mail that it is and throw it in the bin!

## Woman with ASBO caught out



You may remember Jessica Smith (pictured above) from our last newsletter. We told you that in December 2006 Ms Smith had been given an Anti-social Behaviour Order (ASBO) at South Western Magistrates' Court. Jessica Smith had been approaching staff and visitors to St George's Hospital and begging for money. As a result her ASBO prohibits her from Begging, seeking alms or charitable donations by way of misrepresentation anywhere within England and Wales. Or from entering an exclusion zone including St George's Hospital and the surrounding roads between Fountain Road and Tooting High Street save for treatment for a medical emergency or by prior written appointment. Ms Smith has already been charged and convicted of breaching her ASBO four times. She was presented with her copy of the order on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2006 and the first breach occurred on 4<sup>th</sup> January, just two weeks later. Ms Smith was sentenced at court to a community order lasting 12 months. Remember that if you see Jessica Smith breaking either of the conditions of her ASBO then please contact Tooting SNT using our direct phone number or e-mail address.

## New Neighbourhood Watch launched

On 21<sup>st</sup> February Tooting SNT assisted Wandsworth Borough Council in launching a new Neighbourhood Watch at Bruce Hall Mews on Brudenell Road. PS Lisa Hurley spoke to residents at the launch meeting about the benefits of belonging to a NW scheme and gave crime prevention advice. If you are interested in joining your local Watch please call Wandsworth Council community safety unit on 0208 871 7696