

NON PROTECTIVELY MARKED
NON OPERATIONAL GOOD NEWS

15 February

Croydon launches YOU project for uniformed youth

Officers from Croydon have launched an innovative scheme called Project YOU (Youth Organisations Uniform). The project is the first in London to incorporate the Air Training Corp, Army Cadet Force, Boys Brigade, Girl Guides, Scouts, Sea Cadet Corp, St John Ambulance, and the Volunteer Cadet Force.

The YOU project has been set up in an effort to help prevent, divert and reduce youth crime and provides young people with a unique opportunity to join one of the many organisations and to participate in the various activities organised by the groups.

Prior to the YOU project there was no co-ordinating body encouraging young people to join such an organisation. Project YOU aims to bring all these organisations together under one umbrella.

The project is being run by officers from Croydon and is the innovative idea of Sgt Richard Curran, based at Croydon Police station, who is himself a member of the Air Cadet Corp.

Young people who come to police attention for being victims of crime and bullying will be encouraged to join as it should help instil self-confidence.

15 February

Richmond Borough Commendation Ceremony

Richmond Borough Commander, DCS Rick Turner, has held his second Commendation Ceremony since joining the Borough at Twickenham RFU.

The ceremony is all about the police, police staff and members of the public whose work contributes to this borough maintaining its status as being one of the safest in London.

24 Awards were presented, all for outstanding dedication, hard work and professionalism, including one award for a member of the public, Mr Andrew Ross, for his bravery in the rescue of two infants from the river Thames.

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8 February
British Sign Language officers in Westminster

Commander Steve Allen officially awarded nineteen Westminster officers with their British Sign Language Level One certificates.

The officers had all voluntarily signed up for the course in order to develop their ability to communicate with Deaf people who live, work and visit Westminster. The course has proved very successful and several of the officers are currently on their BSL Level Two course.

Their enhanced skills, understanding and involvement at Deaf events such as City Lit Deaf Day and Disability Rights Festival have improved the service provided to the Deaf community in Westminster.

11 February
MPS search dog wins Hero award

Jake, a four-year-old Cocker Spaniel who works with the explosives search dog unit, has won The Sun's Hero Dog Award.

The national awards, hosted by The Dogs Trust (formerly known as The Canine Defence League) was divided into categories. Jake was short-listed for the Hero category for his work in the aftermath of the 7/7 bombings.

When the incident occurred on 7 July 2005, Jake searched a suspected secondary device on the bus at Tavistock Square so that the bus could be declared safe for paramedics to enter and tend to the injured.

Jake cleared an area that was set up as a field hospital to treat the injured and then searched the underground line from Russell Square tube station up to and including the train at Kings Cross station, so that the area could also be declared safe.

The Hero dog category is sponsored by The Sun newspaper and thousands of Sun readers voted for Jake online.

Jake was presented with his medal by The Sun's royal photographer Arthur Edwards at the charity event.

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29 January
Recognition of Volunteers in Redbridge

Volunteers giving their time to the MPS Volunteer Programme in Redbridge were thanked for their contribution and commitment at a special lunch held at Chigwell Police Sports Club on Friday 25 February.

The event was attended by 20 volunteers who assist police in a range of areas, from helping at the front counter to supporting Safer Neighbourhoods teams and various other administrative support roles.

Volunteers bring a wide range of skills and experience to their volunteering roles and help support and add value to the work of police officers and staff enabling them to focus and concentrate on the key areas of their job.

28 January
Haringey BOCU new accommodation comes on line

The Lymington Avenue facility, in Wood Green will provide accommodation for BOCU Integrated Prosecution Teams, CJU, ABE Suite, Sapphire and Jigsaw Units and will be completed within budget and to contract time.

24 January
Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys visited the Crime Museum

Eminent British Geneticist, Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys from the University of Leicester visited the Crime Museum on 11 January 2008.

Professor Jeffreys was at New Scotland Yard to deliver a keynote lecture on past, present and future DNA research and advancements in the 5th floor briefing room; the latest in a series of seminars arranged by the Crime Academy.

In 1984 Professor Jeffreys pioneered the profiling technique commonly known as 'DNA Fingerprinting', which is now widely used all over the world to assist in criminal, paternity and immigration investigations.