

Operational and Non Operational Good News Summary

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Operational Good News

13 December 2006

Safer Neighbourhoods Initiative

Safer Neighbourhoods is beginning a major initiative to ensure that all Safer Neighbourhoods Teams are focussing on the priorities of young people as a key part of their work.

On Thursday 14 December 2006 between 3pm and 6pm, Safer Neighbourhoods Teams and Safer Schools Officers will attend every secondary school in London. They will also provide a presence on routes from school to home - including key transport locations. Their aim will be to provide crime prevention advice that is relevant to young people and also to begin the work of identifying the crime and disorder issues in their neighbourhoods that affect and concern young people.

The Schools Initiative forms a key part of the ongoing Anti-social Behaviour Strategy currently been addressed by Safer Neighbourhoods Teams.

12 December

TV advert launched to highlight dangers of illegal cabs

Commander Steve Allen has given his support to a new hard-hitting TV advert which highlights the dangers of using illegal cabs.

The Safer Travel At Night advert shows a young woman sitting in the back of a car chatting to her friend about their night out on a mobile phone. She starts to look confused at the route being taken by the driver, who arrives in an isolated car park. The driver is then seen getting into the back off the car.

This is the latest stage of an ongoing campaign between Mayor Ken Livingstone, Transport for London and the MPS to provide safer travel options at night, and to crack down on bogus cabs who tout illegally for business.

The campaign encourages people to be 'Cabwise' and text HOME to 60835 to receive the numbers of licensed minicab and black cab firms in the area they are texting from.

Operational Good News

12 December

Retired plumber jailed for indecent assault

On 1 December 2006, Phillip Leonard Bignell, a 66-year-old, was found guilty of 20 counts of buggery and indecent assault on boys mainly under the age of 16 during the period of 1972 to 1990.

The jury delivered a unanimously guilty verdict on all 20 counts, which resulted in his imprisonment for 20 years.

Bignell, who is a retired plumber and had worked at Harrow School for over forty years, was arrested on 11 October 2004 following the allegations being made by four men in relation to the period between 1972 to 1990.

Over the period of a four week trial, the court heard how Bignell portrayed to the outside world a charade of being a caring, dedicated family man however, the arsenal of weaponry that Bignell was licensed to hold was used as a threat as well as a lure to the young boys.

He preyed predominantly on two young boys, the youngest being as young as seven when the assaults started. He systematically molested the two main victims throughout their youth.

12 December

Three men convicted of the murder of Lee Christopher Subaran

Lloywen Carty, aged 25, Conroy Orlando SMITH, aged 28 and Jermaine Labastide, aged 28, were part of the gang responsible for Mr Subaran's death after the Notting Hill Carnival in August 2004.

Lee Subaran was shot at point blank range for allegedly showing disrespect to Leon Roberts, a member of the notorious "Mus Luv Crew" a gang based in the Harlesden area.

Three other "Mus Luv Crew" members Leon Roberts, Tafari Dacas and Shane Taylor were all sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder on 28 July 2005. The judge recommended they each serve a minimum of 30 years.

At approx 22:20 on 30 August 2004 police, who had been working at the Notting Hill carnival, were driving along Harrow Road, when they heard several shots from firearms and saw flashes from weapons being discharged. They also received reports of an injured man in Hazel Road, next to the Community Centre.

Police and London Ambulance Service attended the scene and found a man suffering from gunshot wounds. He was taken to Central Middlesex Hospital where he was pronounced dead at approx 23:15.

Operational Good News

11 December

Kidnap Unit

Five found guilty for kidnap of 10 year old

Following a successful operation by the Met Police's Kidnap Unit on the 17 February 2006, five people have been found guilty for their part in the kidnap of a ten year old boy.

Damien Richard Francis, aged 24 a Trinidad and Tobago national living in New York, USA pleaded guilty to kidnap, two counts of false imprisonment and possession of a imitation firearm with intent to cause fear or distress.

Edwin Brensely Phillip, aged 21, an American national living in New York, pleaded guilty to kidnap, two counts of false imprisonment and possession of a imitation firearm with intent to cause fear or distress.

Gadwell Gibbs, aged 23, an American national living in New York pleaded guilty to kidnap, two counts of false imprisonment and possession of a imitation firearm with intent to cause fear or distress.

Dawn Latida Fields, aged 25, and Jeriah Simpson, aged 20, both British nationals of Navy Street, Clapham were found guilty of kidnap, false imprisonment and Blackmail.

11 December

Conwoman handed an ASBO

27-year-old Pamela Fay was sentenced at Greenwich Magistrates Court on 6 December after she was found guilty of deceiving an 89-year-old woman of money.

The victim recognised Fay as the same person who had knocked on her door on two occasions, whilst pretending to be distressed and in need of money for things like cab or train fares.

Fay admitted two counts of obtaining property by deception and one count of attempting to obtain property by deception. She was sentenced to an eight week suspended sentence and ordered to attend drug treatment sessions.

Eight other counts of deception will be taken into consideration.

Additionally Fay was issued an ASBO with conditions not to approach any member of the public, anywhere and ask for money.

Operational Good News

11 December

Dog operation leads to two arrests

A joint operation in Hanwell on 5 December involving officers from Ealing, TSG and 1 Unit Dog Support resulted in the arrest of two people for the breeding of dangerous dogs.

Officers seized one bitch and 11 Pit Bull puppies and also recovered a handgun and a stolen vehicle.

Inspector Trevor Hughes, 1 One-Unit Dog Section, said:

“This was a successful and well executed operation to tackle a local problem and target known offenders who continue to breed dangerous dogs.”

9 December

Man charged with Murder of Special Constable Nisha Patel-Nasri

40-year-old Tony Emmanuel of East Ham, appeared in custody at Ealing Magistrates Court charged with the murder of Special Constable Nisha Patel-Nasri.

Two men have been bailed to return on a date in February pending further inquiries.

A third man remains in police custody.

Nisha was murdered in Wembley on 11 May 2006.

Operational Good News

8 December

Four sentenced for violent assault - Southall

Four men were sentenced to a total of 17 and a half years after being found Guilty of a violent assault on an 18-year-old man in Southall on 7 August 2005. A fifth man will be sentenced at a later date.

Babyraj Mohan, aged 19, and Kugan Gnanajeyarajah, aged 18, were both found Guilty of Wounding with Intent, Kidnapping and Violent Disorder. They were sentenced to a minimum of four years imprisonment each and subject to a life licence.

Sritharan Ketheswaran, aged 21, found Guilty of Kidnapping and Violent Disorder was sentenced to a minimum of four and a half years imprisonment and subject to a life licence.

Jeyathash Chandran aged 22, found Guilty of Wounding with Intent and Violent Disorder was sentenced to a minimum of five years and subject to a life licence.

The fifth defendant James Jones, aged 22, found Guilty of Wounding with Intent, Kidnapping and Violent Disorder will be sentenced on 19 January 2007.

8 December

Central Task Force find £2 million of cocaine

The intelligence lead operation saw officers arrest the three men in West London and Essex.

One of the men was arrested after officers stopped the lorry he was driving near to the Dartford crossing.

The others, a man in his fifties and a 30-year-old, were arrested at addresses in Kilburn and Ongar, Essex. Between 60-70kg of cocaine, with an estimated street value of £2 million, was recovered from a house in Ongar.

Operational Good News

7 December

Pair jailed for robbing vulnerable man

A 40-year-old woman has been sentenced to nine years imprisonment along with her accomplice, Alan Ernest Hough, who received seven years six months at Southwark Crown Court.

Jane Louisa Tucker deliberately befriended the 60-year-old man to gain access to his home before letting three masked men, one of whom was Hough, enter the house only to rob the vulnerable man of £300 on Friday the 17 March.

The three men bound and threatened the recent stoke victim with violence until he told them where his life savings were kept. After the suspects left the victim was able to free himself and activate his emergency alarm. Tucker was seen leaving the scene arm in arm with Hough.

6 December

Kidnap and Specialist Investigation Unit Two men guilty of Kidnap

Two men have been found guilty of false imprisonment following an investigation by the Kidnap and Specialist Investigation Unit. Stephen Doyle and Mohammed Sayid were arrested following a covert operation. The men had falsely imprisoned James Surita, a man from Uxbridge, who was kidnapped at gunpoint following a drug deal.

During his ordeal, which lasted throughout that night, he was taken to various locations and forced to make a number of calls to his family asking for money to secure his release.

During the course of the investigation Mr Surita managed to escape from his captors. By this time the police had already identified two of the suspects as being Stephen and Nicola Doyle, a married couple also from the Uxbridge area. They were arrested shortly after the safe recovery of Mr Surita and following a search of their home address a firearm was recovered. A third suspect Mohammed Sayid was later arrested.

Operational Good News

6 December

Firearms Unit

Guns and drugs uncovered in Ealing raids

Officers seized BB guns, live ammunition, a samurai sword, several mobile phones and a quantity of class A and C drugs, a laptop, a camera and a computer scanner. Also seized were several thousand pounds, a Saab car, designer clothing and a large screen TV under the proceeds of crime act.

Officers from Ealing supported by the Firearms Unit (SO19) and the TSG executed a drugs and firearms search warrant at an address in Acton. Here, a man, aged 18 and a woman aged 41, were arrested in connection with a recovery of a large amount of class A drugs and a number of BB guns.

The police in Ealing Borough, together with the TSG, London crime squad, specialist dog unit and local Safer Neighbourhoods teams conducted four drugs raids in West Ealing.

As a result, five people were arrested for firearms offences, drugs offences, money laundering and suspicion of theft.

6 December

Lewisham Operation Cracker

Clamp-down on crackhouses

Lewisham Borough police have been running Operation Christmas Cracker since 17 November.

So far this has resulted in the closure of three crack houses across the Borough and more raids are being planned.

On the run up to Christmas, Lewisham Borough police are anxious to assure the residents of Lewisham that they are serious about tackling those addresses which cause problems, to reduce the fear of crime and improve the quality of life for the local community.

Operational Good News

6 December

Distraction burglar jailed

Michael Nolan has been sentenced to four years' imprisonment for a series of violent burglaries. He was sentenced following an investigation by the Territorial Policing Crime Squad.

Nolan was believed to be a senior member of an organised criminal network responsible for in excess of 1,000 distraction burglaries across the UK. He used violence and intimidation against his elderly victims, whilst other members of his gang would ransack the house, often leaving with only a small sum of cash. His actions left his victims traumatised and fearful for their safety.

6 December

Enfield Robbery Squad secures conviction for attempted deception

A 37-year-old man who made a false allegation of robbery has been convicted for perverting the course of justice and attempted deception following an investigation by Enfield Borough's Robbery Squad.

Ross Wheatley, a property developer from March in Cambridgeshire, was convicted at Wood Green Crown Court on 28 November. He is due to be sentenced on 20 December.

Wheatley contacted police on 15 May stating he had been robbed of over £12,500 worth of personal property on 29 April. Officers' suspicions were instantly raised, as it has taken over two weeks for him to come forward to report the loss of such a large amount of property.

Operational Good News

5 December TP Crime Squad Violent burglar gets 15 years

Damien George McLaughlin's sentencing on 5 December follows a two year investigation by the TP Crime Squad, targeting the men who terrorised elderly victims by assaulting and tying them up.

Other members of McLaughlin's gang were jailed for a total of 32 years in March but Damien McLaughlin fled London in January 2005.

An investigation by the Crime Squad located McLaughlin living in Manor Cunningham, Eire and extradition papers were filed. Despite evading police for several months, he was subsequently arrested and extradited in August.

The gang, who were all crack addicts, targeted the homes of predominately elderly people in North London and surrounding areas. They forced their way in, usually in the middle of the night when their victims were in bed. Once inside they ransacked the place and armed with knives and other weapons threatened the residents, demanding the whereabouts of any cash or credit cards.

5 December Greenwich Sapphire Unit investigation leads to rapist's conviction

A 29-year-old was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for raping a woman in April 2005.

Adeboul Dada, a security guard from Thamesmead, was convicted for one count of rape, following a lengthy and complex investigation by the Sapphire Unit in Greenwich.

The victim, a 27-year-old nursing student, was out celebrating passing her exams with a group of friends. At the end of the evening she was offered a lift home by one of the men from the group.

On the way home they stopped at a flat where he raped her, then left her locked inside the flat. She shouted and tried to smash the window with her shoe to escape, a neighbour heard the noise and called police.

Operational Good News

5 December

Enfield

Motor Vehicle Crime Squad charge Sat Nav thief

Enfield Borough's Motor Vehicle Squad has charged a 19-year-old man with attempted theft from a motor vehicle, handling stolen goods and driving offences following an investigation into theft of satellite navigation systems amounting to over £10,000.

Darius Kavalacious, a Lithuanian man of Palmers Green was arrested on 21 November in a vehicle with stolen number plates.

He pleaded guilty to the offences he was charged with, along with 13 other offences and was remanded in custody awaiting sentencing at Wood Green Crown Court in January 2007.

4 December

Drugs and Firearms Team

Police seize 65 firearms following search of property in Lambeth

On Thursday 29 November, the Lambeth Drugs and Firearms Team was granted permission by South Western Magistrates to search a property in Crystal Palace, where 65 guns were found.

DS Miles and his team forced entry to an unoccupied property. On searching the property they came across a mixture of high-powered weapons – all destined for criminal activity.

The guns found would have been used in criminal activity in Lambeth, and now they are off our streets and will be destroyed.

Detective Chief Inspector Steve Ratcliffe said:

"There is no doubt these weapons were destined to be used by criminals in South London. There is no other reason to possess these weapons."

Operational Good News

1 December

Police Officer charged with Firearms offences

A policeman has been charged with two offences under the Firearms Act and dangerous driving following an incident in Essex.

Paul Page, aged 35, a member of the Metropolitan Police Royalty Protection Squad, was arrested on November 21 after an incident in West Thurrock which involved a photographer.

Page has also been charged with false imprisonment, and will appear before Grays Magistrates' Court in Essex.

30 November

Wandsworth's Sapphire Unit

Man sentenced for sexual assault on eight year old boy

Liban Abdi, aged 31, appeared at Kingston Crown Court on 27 November 2006, and was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for digital penetration of a male under 13 years.

He will remain on the Sex Offenders Register indefinitely and was also recommended for deportation after his sentence expires.

He pleaded guilty at Kingston Crown Court on 18 August 2006 and was remanded in custody to appear for sentencing.

He had been in custody since his arrest in April 2006.

30 November

Dawn Arrests in Domestic and Hate Crime Crackdown

Hundreds of police officers have raided homes across London in a crackdown on domestic abuse and race and homophobia related crimes.

An undisclosed number of arrested were made in the dawn raids which were part of a two-week clampdown.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said the raids aimed to "put the fear back onto the offenders, and encourage victims to report crimes to us, that we will take action and arrest those responsible".

The number of domestic violence incidents reported to the Metropolitan Police in 2005/06 was over 108,000, with 24% of incidents accounting for all reported violence and 20% of all murders.

Operational Good News

29 November

Crack house closure Order

Following an intelligence led operation that resulted in the execution of a drugs warrant on 17 November 2006, officers from the Mayfair & St James Safer Neighbourhood Team issued a 'Crack House Closure Order' on the occupants of Flat 44 Balderton Flats, Brown Hart Gardens, W1.

Working with colleagues from the Peabody Trust, police officers attended the premises and required the occupants to vacate the premises under this order. The premises were then secured to prevent re-occupation and further anti-social behaviour.

A full hearing on this matter was scheduled to take place at City of Westminster Magistrates Court on 1 December 2006.

29 November

Operation BusTag reaches 1,200 arrests on its 2nd Birthday

The Metropolitan Police Service's Operation BusTag, which tackles criminal damage and anti-social behaviour on London buses, has reached its 2nd anniversary today with more than 1,200 arrests since it was formed.

In the past two years, the BusTag unit, funded by Transport for London, has tripled the arrest rate for offences such as graffiti, window etching, seat and window damage and arson, and now has a conviction rate of more than 90%.

Operation BusTag is a Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) investigation unit, which was set up in November 2004 by the Met's Transport Operational Command Unit and funded by Transport for London (TfL) to:

- Tackle criminal damage being committed on London's buses
- Identify and bring to justice those who have committed criminal damage on London's buses
- Liaise with bus companies and other authorities to tackle criminal damage and anti-social behaviour

CCTV images from cameras now on board every one of London's 8,000 buses are used by the team to apprehend those causing damage which costs bus companies millions of pounds a year to repair.

Operational Good News

28 November

Two men sentenced to life imprisonment for murder of Tom ap Rhys Pryce

Two men have been sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Tom ap Rhys Pryce in Willesden on 12 January 2006.

Donnel Marcus Carty, aged 19, of NW10 was sentenced as follows:

Murder - life imprisonment
Robbery of Tom ap Rhys Pryce – 8 years
Robbery of Kurshid Ali – 6 years

Delano Anthony Brown, aged 18, of Sudbury Hill was sentenced as follows:

Murder - life imprisonment
Robbery of Tom ap Rhys Pryce – 6 years
Robbery of Kurshid Ali – 6 years

24 November

Human trafficker who raped his victims is jailed for 21 years

A Romanian women trafficker who duped and raped his victims before forcing them into prostitution was sentenced to a total of 21 years imprisonment at Snaresbrook Crown Court on Thursday 23 November 2006.

Mr Robert Amariutei, aged 27, a Romanian builder of E16 was convicted of Twelve counts of rape and sentenced to 16 years.

Two counts of controlling prostitution for gain and two counts of trafficking into the UK for the purpose of Sexual Exploitation for which he was sentenced to five years to run consecutively.

His girlfriend Miss Raluca MAZILU, a Romanian from E14 was sentenced to four years imprisonment having been found guilty of two counts of controlling prostitution and two counts of Trafficking women into the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

Operational Good News

24 November

Woman sentenced in connection with murder of John Monckton

A young women was sentenced to four years imprisonment at Blackfriars Crown Court for perjury and attempting to pervert the course of justice in the John Monckton murder investigation and trial.

Laura Campbell, aged 20, from Fulham Road, pleaded guilty to two counts of attempting to pervert the course of Justice and one count of perjury at Blackfriars Crown Court on 31 October 2006.

Non – Operational Good News

13 December

Short listed entries for Problem Solving Awards

Eight problem-solving projects have now been short listed for next year's Problem Solving Awards. The finalists will soon be submitted to the judging panel and the awards will be presented as part of a one day MPS 'Safer London Problem Solving Conference' on 21 February 2007.

In its second year, the award recognises the achievements of partnership projects between the police and local communities to reduce crime and disorder and is run in collaboration between the MPA, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and the Safer London Foundation (SLF), the independent charity that aims to reduce crime, promote community cohesion and develop safer neighbourhoods through innovative community led crime reduction projects.

The award celebrates initiatives that develop partnership problem-solving initiatives – in essence projects that are responsive to local needs, are people-focused and importantly address the causes of crime and disorder, not just the consequences. The projects are conceived and put into practice in partnership between local police, partners and communities.

12 December

Community Police Office opens in West Wickham (PY)

The opening, which was performed by Graham Cole the hugely popular TV star of The Bill (PC Stamp), co-incided with the West Wickham Christmas Festival and was very well attended by the residents of West Wickham.

Chief Inspector Marshall Kent said: "Improving Community Safety is one of our highest priorities and opening this office in the heart of the community will make it easier for people to contact us and will reassure the people who work in and visit the area, and also to tackle the fear of crime. Members of the public can pop into our new office where we can offer information and advice on police related matters and deal with certain crimes which need to be reported. Our office is manned by a dedicated team of volunteers who have already developed excellent working relationships with the community".

Non – Operational Good News

12 December

Deaf awareness courses

The Diversity and Citizen Focus Directorate, Central Team, in partnership with the Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID) will be running a number of 'Deaf Aware' courses at the Empress State Building next year.

The one day courses are run by an experienced RNID trainer and aim to identify the barriers deaf and hard of hearing people face, list the ways in which deaf and hard of hearing people communicate, understand and demonstrate how to implement positive methods of communication, and offer an equal service to deaf and hard of hearing people.

12 December

Operation BusTag takes the class

Met officers from Operation BusTag recently explained to over 600 pupils at Kingswood School in Havering, the adverse effects of committing acts of graffiti, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour on London bus routes.

Operation BusTag is a Closed Circuit Television Investigation unit set up to deal with vandalism and graffiti committed on London buses. It is part of the Met's Transport for London (TfL) funded Transport Operational Command Unit, which also deals with tackling illegal taxi touts, and assisting with the control of traffic congestion.

11 December

Haringey

Young persons involvement day

Officers from the Haringey Woodside Safer Neighbourhood team recently worked in partnership with Haringey Council to arrange an event called 'Young Persons Involvement Day.' The event was arranged as a direct result of the ward panel identifying recent youth disorder in the area.

The Woodside SN team contacted local youth groups and arranged for them to take part in the event, which was held at a local sports center in Tottenham. Organisations including the Army, Sea and Air Cadets, Tottenham Football Club, Divulge Dance Group and the National Youth Theatre took part.

Young people living or studying in the area were also invited to speak at the event in particular to young people to encourage them to find positive activities to get involved with.

Those attending the event were able to use different types of sporting equipment and take part in sports including basketball, netball. There was also a rowing machine competition and the event was well attended with over 150 local young people.

Non – Operational Good News

11 December

Whitton SNT PCSOs arrest youths

On Friday 8 December 2006 PCSO Jamie Lerner and PCSO Bill Smith (Whitton SNT) saw a large group of about 20 youths, who were drunk/drugs and disorderly. Three appeared to be attacking a H22 bus on Percy Road in Whitton causing some criminal damage to the bodywork and windscreen wipers. One of the youths spat at the windscreen of the bus and also at the driver.

Two youths have been bailed to return to Richmond Police Station the first on the 15 December 2006 and the second on 24 December 2006.

4 December

Equalities Scheme launched

The MPS have announced the publication of the MPS Equalities Scheme 2006-2010.

This Scheme, created through effective partnership and dialogue with Londoners and our colleagues, sets the standard for how people can expect to be treated in and by the MPS, as we seek to put London's diverse citizens at the heart of everything we do.

The Scheme provides a framework through which policies and procedures are assessed, reviewed and consulted on to ensure that we promote the positive aspects of the duties set out in law and ensure we do not discriminate on the basis of age, disability, gender, race, religious belief or faith or sexual orientation.

1 December

SCD5 Child Abuse Investigation Command Partnership Team

The Partnership Team came third in this years National Diversity Awards for its work around Faith & Belief Abuse within Black African Churches in North London.

This is a strand of Project Violet that engages with all communities within London to educate citizens around Child Abuse Prevention.

Non – Operational Good News

1 December Pub Youth zone

A brand new exciting initiative has been set up aimed at encouraging young people to meet and socialize in a fun and safe environment.

Pub Youth Zone is the name of the new club located at Albany Public House in Steynton Road, within the ward of St Mary's, Sidcup.

Supervised by Police and Community Support Officers from the SN team and youth services, the club offers a range of activities for local youths living in the area between the ages of 11 and 19.

Funding has been provided from the Governments Youth Opportunity Fund to turn the function room at the pub in Steynton Road, into a new youth club for the area. The club is the first one of its kind in London.

£4,000 was given by the fund, which helped to purchase tennis tables, tabletop football, a pool table, music mixing units and a TV and a karaoke machine.

Visitors to the 'zone' will also have access to friendly advice on careers, drugs, the law and other issues that may affect young people.

1 December SCD3(2) Crime Reduction Gang Intervention Conference

SCD3(2) are planning a two-day gang intervention conference for June 2007 in partnership with the Brathay Hall Trust and Leap confronting conflict. The conference "The Spectrum of Gang Intervention" will bring together practitioners and share good practice as well as giving those that have a gang problem the opportunity to look at ways of responding to the problem in an effective way.

Non – Operational Good News

30 November

Met Hits Environmental Targets

From Hybrid Cars to horse bedding - the Met's commitment to meeting its key environmental targets is highlighted in a new report published today. The Metropolitan Police Authority Environment Report reveals that the Service met over 81 per cent of its targets in 2005/2006.

The report details progress against key targets set for the financial year and outlines how the Met is performing against its Environmental Strategy and overarching MPS vision of a sustainable police service. Its performance is monitored and supported by the Metropolitan Police Authority.

The Met has a dedicated Environment Team whose role it is to co-ordinate and deliver the Environmental Strategy which encompasses:

- Environmental and Wildlife Crime
- Transport
- Procurement
- Resource Management and Consumption
- Training and Awareness
- Sustainable Design
- Financial Aspects of Environmental Management

30 November

National award for 27 years on the beat

PC Jim Duncan, who was based at Bromley until he retired in September, was praised for his efforts at the Jane's Police Review ceremony. He had already been chosen as the Met's winner for the lifetime achievement category, and came third out of 22 candidates at the national ceremony.

Mr Duncan said:

"Coming third out of officers like that, I don't think you can knock it! If you get nominated for these awards everybody wants to win, I was just happy to be there."

The 55-year-old worked for 14 years in Brixton before coming to Bromley.

The popular PC finally retired in September, and can put his award alongside an engraved pewter tankard and poems, written by residents in Brixton as thanks for the way he changed their community.

Non – Operational Good News

29 November

Police Cadets delivered 3,000 property marking kits in the Abbey Road

50 Police Cadets delivered 3,000 property marking kits in the Abbey Road, Regents Park and Church Street Wards. They targeted specific areas depending on the number of burglaries that area had suffered over the previous 12 months.

The pack included: 'A guide to home security', and 'Coded for Keeps'; a window sticker and a property marking pen. It also featured the leaflet 'Immobilise'. The purpose of the Immobilise web site is that you can register all your personal belongings that have an identifying number or mark and you will have a better chance of getting the item back if it is lost or stolen.

Houses having more than one occupier are encouraged to share the use of the pen and put the sticker on the communal front door.

29 November

Brave PCs awarded at South London Press event

PC Holliday and PC Haddouche won the Patrick Dunne 999 award, which was set up to recognise emergency service staff that have gone beyond the call of duty in their dedication and selfless commitment to the job.

The officers were nominated by South London Press readers for the courage they demonstrated when they confronted 21-year-old Amir Abdul-Latif during routine patrol in Wandsworth.

In an attempt to evade being apprehended, Amir Abdul-Latif sprayed sulphuric acid into their faces, before fleeing from the scene. Both officers suffered facial burns, consistent with being in contact with the noxious substance, and are still recovering from their injuries.

Amir Abdul-Latif later appeared at Kingston Crown Court charged with two counts of GBH with intent, and was sentenced to seven years imprisonment for each count, which are to be served concurrently.

Non – Operational Good News

27 November

MPS wins one of the most prestigious awards in the Human Resources industry

The 'Personnel Today Award for Innovation in Recruitment and Retention' was given to the Met for their Recruitment Bus - an innovative new tool that is proving to be a driving force in the recruitment of under represented groups.

Prior to its introduction, the Met's recruitment activities were restricted to fewer locations. The Recruitment Bus gives the flexibility to visit locations across the capital where there is a high proportion of under represented groups, and provides a more informal setting for visitors.

So far, the bus has visited more than 70 different events and locations across London ranging from the opening of Europe's largest Hindu Temple to Europride. The Recruitment Bus continues to build on the success of its very first visit in December 2005 when at Haringey Town Centre over 100 people registered their interest in careers in the Met - nearly half were from black or minority ethnic groups. On a recent visit to Barking Town Centre, over 50 people recorded their interest, two thirds being from a black or minority ethnic background.

27 November

Furzedown SNT receive ACPO award

Furzedown Safer Neighbourhoods Team was awarded a commendation at the Association of Chief Police Officers' Drugs Conference in Manchester on Tuesday 21 November 2006.

PC Keeley Web represented the team as the award highlights the immediate and significant impact she has made on tackling drug problems in Furzedown.

Keeley is an officer with less than three years' service and volunteered whilst still in her probation to become a Safer Neighbourhoods officer for the challenges the role brings and the opportunity to make a difference to the community.

Her close contact with the community meant she was able to collate intelligence on drug dealers on the borough. The Furzedown team worked with the Territorial Support Group and other police units to seize a thousand cannabis plants, firearms, and the arrest of a prominent drug dealer.

Non – Operational Good News

25 November

Met - Track Awards

Ten young people who took part in the Met-Track event this year in Greenwich and Bexley, received awards for their hard work from Olympic Gold medallist Mark Lewis-Francis in front of an audience of 27,000 at Charlton Athletics' home ground, The Valley.

It took place at half time during the Premiership clash between Charlton and Everton.

Met-Track, which is run by the Metropolitan Police and Charlton Athletic FC, offers sport as a healthier alternative to young people who would not normally get the opportunity. The project was the brainchild of Superintendent John Powell, a sprints coach for more than 30 years.

As well as encouraging healthier lifestyles all year round through weekly training sessions, Met-Track stages a showcase week of sport for every secondary school in a borough.