

Operational Successes and Good News

22 March

Operation Maxim

22 people arrested in raids on passport factories

The Metropolitan Police has carried out one of its most significant co-ordinated crackdowns on illegal passport factories. The series of raids across London, codenamed Operation Greenhill, involved over 100 police officers searching 13 addresses and arresting 22 people.

In a multi-agency approach, the Met's Operation Maxim led the investigation with assistance from officers from the UK Immigration Service, the Identity and Passport Service, South Yorkshire Police and the Department of Work and Pensions.

The dawn raids took place across London in Walthamstow, Rotherhithe, Ilford, Upper Holloway, South Lambeth, Hackney, Brixton, Kilburn, Stoke Newington, Tottenham, Bermondsey and Greenford.

Of those arrested, 19 were taken into police custody for a range of crimes including unlawful facilitation, various identity card offences, and possession and conspiracy to produce and distribute false documents. Three people were dealt with for immigration offences.

22 March

MPS Kidnap Unit

Man Released

The MPS has secured the release of a 42-year-old man who had been taken hostage in the longest running kidnap the service has ever dealt with.

As part of the operation, eleven men and one woman have been arrested.

One kilo of cocaine, a large quantity of amphetamine, two firearms and approximately £200,000 in cash have also been recovered.

21 March

Hackney

Indeterminate sentence for domestic violence offender

Domestic violence offender Pedro Enrique Barrios-Tolosa has received an indeterminate sentence for stabbing his partner.

The court recommended that he serve at least three years and three months after pleading guilty to the wounding with intent of Claudia Ramirez in Hackney in December 2005.

Barrios-Tolosa attacked his 23-year-old partner at her address, stabbing her in the head, shoulder, upper arms and torso. She has been left with nerve damage in her left arm.

Operational Successes and Good News

20 March

Homicide and Serious Crime Command 16-year-old found guilty murder

A 16-year-old male youth from East London (15 at the time of the offence) was found guilty of the murder of Hasan Alkaya in Hackney on 31 August 2006. He will be sentenced on 17 April 2007.

Mr Alkaya, a car mechanic at a garage in Link Street, was working when two males separately approached him.

It is understood the victim and the suspects engaged in a verbal dispute. This escalated and the victim suffered blows to the head from a blunt instrument and stab wounds to the upper body.

It is believed the attack was in retaliation for an earlier argument between the victim and the convicted youth.

20 March

Southwark Burglary Squad Logica laptop thief jailed

The man charged with stealing three laptop computers containing some details of the MPS payroll has been jailed for three years.

The burglary took place at the Southwark premises of Logica CMG on the 16 November 2006. It was one of ten burglaries that 30-year-old Nabil Abozid pleaded guilty to committing in central London between 17 March and December 6 last year.

Abozid requested that another 24 offences (16 non-dwelling burglaries and one count of theft from a motor vehicle in the borough of Southwark and seven burglaries in Lambeth) be taken into consideration.

The investigation was carried out by Southwark Borough Burglary Squad and officers from SCD6 Economic and Specialist Crime Unit.

Operational Successes and Good News

20 March

Central Task Force

Two charged with firearms offences

Two men have been charged with a total of 19 firearms offences following an operation by the Specialist Crime Directorate's Central Task Force.

Gavin McGloughlin, aged 50, from Beckton, was charged with ten charges concerning the possession of firearms and ammunition.

Joseph Tattingham aged 22 from Epping was charged with nine charges concerning the possession of firearms and ammunition.

19 March

MPS Projects Team

Two men sentenced for over 30 years

Two men have today been sentenced to 30 years in prison for conspiring to import a total of 50 kilos of cocaine worth £5million into the country.

James Lee and Neil Cribben were arrested in January last year by the Met's Projects Team, following an investigation with colleagues from the Dutch authorities. Officers acted after following Cribben from his home to a supermarket car park near Felixstowe. When they searched the van they found the cocaine.

19 March

Camden Robbery Team

Holborn robber jailed

Michael Fitzpatrick has been jailed for five years after a series of nine violent knifepoint robberies in Holborn.

Fitzpatrick targeted lone women as they walked at night. Each time, he would threaten the victims at knifepoint to hand over their handbags and mobile phones.

The robberies were committed in Holborn over a period of two weeks and Camden officers quickly established a link between the offences.

Officers searched an address and recovered stolen property. Several of his victims also identified him as their attacker. Fitzpatrick pleaded guilty to five offences and was charged with seven counts of robbery and two counts of attempted robbery.

Operational Successes and Good News

16 March

Cold Case Rape Investigation Team Rapist jailed

An armed man who falsely imprisoned a shop assistant, threatened her with a gun and raped her has been given four life sentences.

David Decoteau from Camberwell was found guilty of rape, indecent assault, false imprisonment, robbery and possession of a firearm with intent to commit robbery.

The sentencing follows an investigation by the Met's Cold Case Rape Investigation Team.

13 March

Tokyington SN Team Closure order on crack house

Police together with Brent Council and Brent Housing Partnership (BHP) have shut down a property that was used for drug dealing.

The crack house in Dagmar Avenue, Wembley, was served with a closure notice by the police following reports of anti-social behaviour and the dealing of class A drugs.

Police, council and BHP took action after receiving a number of complaints from local residents regarding noise nuisance, drug taking, heavy foot traffic and rubbish (including drug paraphernalia) being dumped in the communal hallway.

Officers from the Tokyington Safer Neighbourhoods team monitored the property and gathered evidence regarding who was coming and going, and the frequency.

Nine individuals have been arrested for a variety of drug related offences since October 2006. Officers executed a search warrant and found crack pipes burnt foil and other drugs paraphernalia.

Operational Successes and Good News

13 March

Brent

Hearsay evidence convicts teens in school stabbing

On 15 June 2006, a 16-year-old pupil at Claremont High School was stabbed twice in the arm. He named his three attackers at the time and CCTV showed the suspects leaving the premises although the assault was not shown.

Two of the boys, a 16-year-old pleaded guilty to GBH and the 15-year-old pleaded guilty to ABH and each were given an 18-month supervision order. The other 16-year-old was charged with aiding and abetting ABH and fined £80.

The boys were charged on 6 July and the next day threatening letters were delivered to various family addresses stating that he should drop the charges. Without police knowledge, the victim's father later sent his son to India.

During the investigation over 50 written statements were taken, also working with the CPS, police applied for a hearsay application to allow the victim's interview as evidence. The judge allowed the hearsay application, finding that the police had taken all reasonable steps to ensure the victim's attendance and that he was out of the country having fled through fear of violence. At the trial, the suspects pleaded guilty to the charges.

13 March

Barnet Sapphire Unit

Rapists jailed for 14 years

A 42-year-old man was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment for three counts of rape and one count of robbery.

Junior Brown, from Kingsbury attacked and raped a woman last July as she walked home alone. He was identified after officers found a small key fob, which had been dropped by him at the scene.

At the time, Brown had no previous convictions and was only when he was arrested a short time after for an unrelated matter was a fingerprint found on the fob that matched his.

Operational Successes and Good News

13 March

Serious Crime

Man charged with attempted murder of a police officer

David English, aged 20, from Peckham, was charged with the attempted murder of a police officer on Sunday 4 March 2007.

He was also charged with two firearms offences in connection with the same incident and attempted GBH with attempt to resist arrest of another.

He appeared in custody at City of Westminster Magistrates Court on 13 March 2007.

13 March

MPS Territorial Policing Crime Squad

Five men sentenced for a series of burglaries

Five men have been sentenced at Kingston Crown Court for a series of burglaries in the London borough of Bromley in 2005, which struck terror into residents due to the level of violence involved. One man was found guilty and four pleaded guilty to a series of burglaries.

On release, all five men will be on license for life or a minimum of ten years. The judge said they posed a significant risk of death or physical injury to members of the public and commended the officers involved in the inquiry for their hard work in bringing this complex case to court.

Operational Successes and Good News

12 March

Serious Crime

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty activists sentenced

Three animal rights activists from the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) campaign were sentenced to a total of seven years' imprisonment on 6 March 2007 after admitting conspiring to harm the animal research organisation Huntingdon Life Sciences.

Mark Taylor and Suzanne Taylor (née Cunnane), both from Wakefield, and Teresa Portwine from Croydon pleaded guilty to conspiracy offences under Section 145 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005. The case relates to twenty-five animal rights demonstrations that took place at commercial premises between 1 July and 20 September 2005. Mark Taylor was sentenced to four years' imprisonment, Suzanne Taylor two and a half years and Teresa Portwine fifteen months.

12 March

Newham

Man sentenced for conspiracy to supply drugs

Paul Graham Monk, aged 46, from Hornchurch appeared at Snaresbrook Crown Court where he was convicted of conspiracy to supply a total of 900 kilos of Cannabis. He was sentenced to nine years imprisonment.

Following a pre-planned operation officers from Newham borough raided an industrial unit in Thurrock, Essex, close to the A13.

Following a meticulous search on 11 May 2005, they discovered Cannabis hidden throughout the buildings' air conditioning units.

The drug was seized and following analysis, estimated to have a street value of over £1.8 million.

9 March

Serious Crime

Rehan Asghar Sentenced for murder in Ilford

Rehan Asghar, aged 18 from Ilford was sentenced to serve a minimum of 12 years in prison for the murder of Kashif Mahmood, aged 16, who was stabbed in an Ilford underpass on 20 September 2005.

It is known that a pre-arranged fight over a girlfriend took place between Kashif and another male youth in the subway. As the fight escalated at least eight other youths became involved and it is during this fight Kashif was repeatedly and fatally stabbed.

Operational Successes and Good News

9 March

Trident

Two men sentenced for the manslaughter of Noram Fitzgerald Delopp

Two men have been sentenced at the Central Criminal Court for the manslaughter of 35-year-old lab technician Norman Fitzgerald Delopp.

They are Craig George Barley, aged 20, from Brixton who was sentenced to 11 years for manslaughter and nine years for conspiracy to rob; to run concurrent.

Amariah Linton, aged 25 from Orpington, Kent who was sentenced to 13 years for manslaughter and 11 years for conspiracy to rob; to run concurrent.

Natalie King, aged 25 from Pollards Hill, London was sentenced to three years having previously been found guilty of assisting an offender, by driving Craig Barley away from the scene in her silver Peugeot car, disposing of Barley's mobile phone and then disposing of the vehicle, two days later, by trading it in at a Peugeot car dealer.

9 March

MPS Projects Team

Four men sentenced for money laundering

Four men have been sentenced after the Met's Projects Team recovered nearly £750,000 in cash from a gang and took out an amphetamine factory.

The following pleaded guilty to conspiracy to launder criminal proceeds and were sentenced at the Inner London Crown Court:

Wayne Kelly aged 39 was sentenced to three years, Christopher O'Shea, aged 38 was sentenced to two and half years and Mark Stupple, aged 36 was sentenced to two and half years.

In addition to a laundering charge Mark Whittington, aged 41 also pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply amphetamine. He received eight years for the drug charge and a further four to be served concurrently for the laundering charge.

Operational Successes and Good News

7 March

Special Prosecutions Unit

Man jailed for forging electoral registration forms

A 32-year-old man who admitted forging electoral registration forms was jailed for a total of 30 months at Isleworth Crown Court.

Hayder Al Moallem filled in false details on 16 forms and sent them to Ealing Borough Council. The fake details claimed numerous residents of Belgian nationality lived at the addresses.

Detectives from the Special Prosecutions Unit of the Met's SO15 Counter Terrorism Command, who carried out the investigation, discovered that many of the false names he used were variations of Belgian footballers first and surnames.

Al Moallem, of Greenford, had admitted 25 charges relating to forged electoral registration forms and counterfeit passports at earlier hearings in December 2006 and January 2007.

He was arrested in December 2005 following a joint investigation between the Special Prosecutions Unit, MPS officers from Ealing, and Ealing Borough Council's Electoral Services department.

6 March

MPS Extradition Unit

22 arrested for offences committed abroad

The Met police's Extradition Unit targeted numerous addresses in London to arrest a total of 22 criminals, wanted for offences abroad.

Ten teams of officers began the operation at 6:00am all over London, arresting suspects wanted for a whole spectrum of offences, from rape and kidnap to fraud, theft and robbery.

The arrests continued throughout the day continuing through into the night.

Requests for extradition come via the Serious and Organised Crime Agency and the Home Office to the Met police. In general, an extradition treaty needs to be in existence before the European warrant can be issued. However, in certain circumstances the court (City of Westminster MC) will consider requests from countries where a treaty is not in place.

Suspects come from a wide range of countries - any request from another country for extradition comes to the unit and the police officers would seek intelligence to confirm the individuals whereabouts, this could be anywhere in the UK.

Operational Successes and Good News

5 March

Stolen Vehicle Unit

Gang sentenced to nine years

On the 23 February, a gang of fraudsters were sentenced to a total of nine years' imprisonment after an extensive investigation by the Stolen Vehicle Unit.

The gang had been advertising cloned or stolen vehicles in Auto Trader and through utilising weaknesses in the DVLA registration system, they were able to clone stolen cars and register them with the DVLA.

Sixteen vehicles ranging in value from £1,200 to £3,000 were recovered.

All of the suspects, all from the same family, pleaded guilty to handling stolen goods.

5 March

Wandsworth

Officers revive woman

Two officers from Wandsworth Borough used their first aid skills to revive an apparently lifeless woman in Garratt Lane, Wandsworth.

Sergeant Michael Boulton and A/Sergeant Gary Cotton were on patrol around Wandsworth when they received a call to a 59-year-old woman collapsing in the street.

The officers arrived at the scene and checked her vital signs to discover she had stopped breathing and did not have a pulse. They commenced CPR until an LAS crew arrived.

Although the woman remained unconscious, the officers gave CPR until they detected her heartbeat and pulse.

LAS conveyed the woman to St George's Hospital; she has since been moved to the intensive treatment unit where she remains in a stable condition.

Operational Successes and Good News

2 March

Public Sector Fraud investigation unit Two sentenced for student loan scam

Following a year-long investigation, by the Met's Public Sector Fraud Squad into an extensive student loan fraud scam, two people have been sentenced at Southwark Crown Court to a total of five years and six months.

In August 2004, 850 birth certificates were stolen from Erewash Register Office, Derbyshire.

To date in excess of 180 of these stolen birth certificates have been used to create identities to obtain student loans.

32-year-old Adeleke Adebayo, an unemployed man from Dagenham pleaded guilty to ten counts of obtaining money transfers by deception, in relation to student loans obtained under false names. The total amount reached £65,595.28p.

Mr Adebayo was sentenced to four-years' imprisonment and recommended for deportation.

Mr Adebayo's girlfriend, Adeola Aina, a 26-year-old Housing Benefit Supervisor also from Dagenham pleaded guilty to three counts of obtaining money by deception and one count of money laundering. She was sentenced to a total of 18 months' imprisonment.

2 March

Southwark Sapphire Unit Kent man jailed for sex assaults after DNA link

A 32-year-old man has been jailed at the Inner London Crown Court for sexual assaults on a 25-year-old woman in East Dulwich. The offences occurred in April 2000.

Nicholas Roy Pearson, a mechanic, from Faversham, Kent, had originally pleaded not guilty but subsequently changed his pleas to guilty.

He was sentenced to seven years imprisonment on one count of indecent assault; seven years (to run concurrently) on a second count of indecent assault; and three and a half years (to run concurrently) on a third count of assault ABH.

Operational Successes and Good News

2 March

Wandsworth Borough

Man sentenced for firearm offences

Marvin Best has been sentenced to six years' imprisonment for possessing a firearm and ammunition without certificate.

Officers arrested Best in June 2006 after he was spotted by an unmarked police response team on a designated robbery patrol in Battersea.

They ran a check on his car and it flashed up with a 'firearms marker'. They stopped the vehicle and discovered a balaclava, handgun and ammunition under the spare wheel.

1 March

Clubs & Vice Unit

Two men sentenced for cocaine offences

A 25-year-old man who pedalled cocaine whilst working as a DJ at a nightclub in Barking was sentenced to four years imprisonment at Southwark Crown Court.

Ryan Clark, a Disc Jockey from Barking pleaded guilty to five counts of supplying cocaine, one count of possession with intent to supply cocaine and two counts of possession of an offensive weapon.

A second man, Christopher Bryden, aged 25, from Dagenham pleaded guilty to two counts of supplying Class A drugs namely cocaine. He was sentenced to two years imprisonment.

28 February

Child Abuse Investigation Team

Grandfather jailed for sexual abuse

A man who sexually abused his son and grandson has been jailed for five years following an investigation by the Child Abuse Investigation Team.

The 66-year-old, who will not be named to protect the identity of his victims, pleaded guilty to 14 counts of sexual abuse.

Police were alerted to the offences by a supervisor from ChildLine.

Detectives from the Met's Child Abuse Investigation Command then contacted the informants and made arrangements to visit victims.

Operational Successes and Good News

27 February

Trident North

Two gunmen jailed for attempted murder

Two men were jailed for 26 years at the Central Criminal Court on 26 February, after being convicted of attempted murder. They were given a further 10 years' imprisonment, to run concurrently, for possession of firearms with intent to endanger life.

Gary James and Sidney Duberry broke into a home in Dagenham on 23 May last year and had with them at least two automatic handguns. Once inside, they carried out a violent attack on the people living there.

They shot their victim twice at close range during the attack, causing life-threatening injuries.

27 February

Havering

Operation Eyesore nets 36 arrests

The Met's Operation BusTag officers have made a total of 36 arrests for bus criminal damage and robbery at the conclusion of Operation Eyesore, which recently took place in Havering Borough.

The 36 arrests were made over three weeks, which accounted for 44 incidents of criminal damage and 13 incidents of robbery.

A Havering Bus Operator was experiencing criminal damage, antisocial behaviour and robbery on several of their buses and approached Operation BusTag, the Met's CCTV investigation unit, with CCTV evidence about the possibility of a targeted operation in the area.

BusTag officers then carried out pro-active plain-clothes patrols along the bus routes to catch the suspects. They were assisted by Transport for London Revenue Protection Inspectors who helped with identification. Some of the suspects' images had been circulated in local newspapers where members of the public made identification.

During the operation the BusTag officers also assisted Havering Borough robbery squad and Safer Neighbourhoods teams, in identifying, locating and arresting three robbery suspects, one of whom admitted to 12 robbery offences.

Operational Successes and Good News

27 February

Barnes Flying Squad

Four men charged after joint operation

Four men have been charged following a joint operation between Barnes Flying Squad and officers from TPCD Intelligence Unit at Notting Dale.

The men have been charged with robbery, following an incident at a travel agents in Paddington.

Officers watched as two men entered the premises and after threatening staff inside, forced them to open the safe. Two other men kept watch outside the premises before all four left in a vehicle.

The offenders had stolen tens of thousands of pounds worth of sterling, foreign currency and traveller's cheques.

A short distance away armed Flying Squad officers stopped the vehicle and arrested the four men. All are currently remanded in custody. The men are connected to a large number of similar offences committed predominantly in London and also in the Home Counties.

27 February

Lewisham Robbery Squad

Man sentenced to eight years imprisonment for robberies

Reuel Mitchell, aged 27 of Forest Hill was sentenced to a total of eight years imprisonment at Blackfriars Crown Court on 23 February 2007.

He had been charged with three counts of robbery, one count of handling stolen goods and one count of assault to resist arrest.

The robbery offences occurred between 16 July 2006 and 19 July 2006, where Mitchell and another male approached victims in a stolen silver Rav4. Mitchell got out of the vehicle and robbed the victims, whilst the other man waited in the vehicle.

One of the robberies was particularly violent and involved a female victim being dragged along the floor, whilst she tried to hold onto her handbag.

Mitchell was arrested on 19 July 2006 in Catford, after police had seen him driving the stolen silver Rav4. On seeing the police he attempted to make off and in an attempt to avoid arrest he drove over a police officers foot.

Operational Successes and Good News

26 February Hammersmith and Fulham Drugs Operation

Officers from Fulham and Hammersmith executed search warrants at three addresses in West London on 22 February 2007 as part of Operation SEPA aimed at tackling premises believed to be involved in the supply and use of drugs.

At the first address, two men were arrested and a quantity of Class A drugs, cannabis and £50,000 cash was also seized. One man, aged 26, was arrested for possession of drugs with intent to supply and money laundering and the second, aged 37 years, for money laundering. Both were subsequently bailed pending further enquiries.

At a second address, a 17-year-old was arrested and charged with possession of cannabis.

At a third address drugs paraphernalia was seized and a closure order will be applied for under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act.

23 February Lambeth Sapphire Unit Man sentenced to 14 years for rape of former partner

A 47 year-old man from Surrey, was sentenced to 14 years for a sustained series of assaults on his former partner.

Bernard Lennox Downes, a former post office counter worker at Streatham Hill, was convicted of two charges of threats to kill and five counts of rape at the Inner London Crown Court on 18 January 2007.

He pleaded not guilty to six counts of rape and two counts of threats to kill when the trial began on 8 January 2007.

Operational Successes and Good News

23 February

Specialist Crime, SOCA and Dutch Authorities Man arrested in Rotterdam in joint operation

A 29-year-old man appeared at court in Rotterdam following his arrest in a joint operation by the Metropolitan Police Service, the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and Dutch authorities.

On 21 February 2007, a significant cache of firearms was seized from a residential address in Amsterdam. The weapons are believed to have been destined for the UK, and London in particular.

The weapons were discovered within a suitcase and a sports bag and included 12 handguns, one rifle, three Uzi machine pistols, two AK47 assault rifles, a rocket-launcher, 20 grenades, a quantity of silencers and boxes of ammunition.

The man arrested was in possession of an American passport. He was charged with possession of firearms and explosives.

This joint operation has had a significant disruptive impact on an international organised criminal syndicate and has prevented numerous weapons being trafficked into London.

23 February

Specialist Crime Directorate Five sentenced for Cocaine importation

Five men who imported pure cocaine worth over £3 million, concealed within doors from Panama, have been sentenced to a total of fifty eight years in prison at Inner London Crown Court

The men, including four Columbians who lived in London, had been charged with conspiracy to supply cocaine after officers from the Metropolitan Police's Specialist Crime Directorate raided a Dalston address where they were found in the process of extracting the drug.

They had used a technique where a cocaine solution was created and absorbed into a sheet of wood. The impregnated panel was then concealed in doors and imported into the country.

Operational Successes and Good News

16 February

Prolific burglar sentenced

A prolific West End office burglar has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment following an investigation by Marylebone officers.

Darren Harriot pleaded guilty to 12 offences between September and November 2006 where he stole office computer equipment. He has also been handed a five-year ASBO. This prevents him from entering the City of Westminster for any reason.

Non – Operational successes and Good News

20 March

Bexley

Safer Transport teams launch

The Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone and the Metropolitan Police Service Commissioner, Sir Ian Blair visited Bexley today to launch one of London's first Safer Transport teams.

Last October, the Mayor announced funding for an additional 378 PCSOs for London's transport network would be deployed across London.

Known as Safer Transport teams, up to 18 new PCSOs will work with at least two sergeants and one police constable to provide visibility and reassurance and cut crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour on and around public transport.

The Bexleyheath Safer Transport team were accompanied by the Mayor, MPS Commissioner, British Transport Police Chief Constable, Ian Johnston and David Brown, Transport for London's Managing Director of Surface Transport as they patrolled in Bexleyheath's Market Square.

14 March

Met Police host celebration event for volunteers

The Metropolitan Police Service has held a major event at the prestigious Tate Modern art gallery on the Southbank, to thank its volunteers for their contribution to making London safer.

The event was held in the huge Turbine Hall of the Tate Modern. Several hundred guests from both the Met Special Constabulary and the Met Volunteer Programme were invited and a number of recognition awards were presented for outstanding contributions by volunteers in the police.

14 March

Hillingdon

PCSO's practice giving evidence in Magistrates Court

PCSO'S from Hillingdon borough attended a training day put together by the borough's training unit working in close partnership with the local Crown Prosecution Service. The purpose of this day, thought to be a first in the MPS was to give officers a chance to understand the rules of giving evidence and to deliver it from the witness box at court.

Most of the day was spent in the classroom where the officers were shown videos and taken through how to present their evidence in court. A role play was run by staff, which involved PCSO's issuing a Penalty Notice. These were then written up with a view to giving evidence later in the day at court.

Non – Operational successes and Good News

10 March

Mitcham Common clean-up

On Saturday 3 March 2007, Pollards Hill Safer Neighbourhoods team teamed up with the Friends of Mitcham Common for a litter-picking event. The area chosen for the three-hour overhaul was the footpath from the BP garage on Mitcham Road to Galpins Road.

Litter pickers and black sacks were supplied and were eagerly filled with unsightly rubbish. The BP garage staff offered the hard workers free refreshments to keep up their motivation. Also on hand to help were West Thornton Safer Neighbourhoods team from Croydon, Mitcham wardens and local residents.

9 March

Lewisham Safer Neighbourhoods team partnership with Bellway Homes

Lewisham Central Safer Neighbourhoods team now have a satellite office right in the heart of Hither Green community thanks to the generosity of Bellway Homes.

The historic Clock Tower at Meridian South, Hither Green will be open every Wednesday between 5pm – 7pm and will be manned by a minimum of two police officers and two PCSOs.

This will enable commuters as well as residents to attend to discuss any issues or problems they are experiencing in the ward with their local team. During the remainder of the week, the office will be used as a base for officers whilst they are on patrol in Hither Green.

Bellway Homes, have furnished the office with desks, chairs and filing cabinets and also provided police with access to their extensive CCTV system. The 13 camera system will enable the team to closely monitor any criminal or anti social behaviour problems on the estate and adjoining streets.

Non – Operational successes and Good News

6 March

Officer in Greenwich awarded

Hours of voluntary work has paid off for PC Duncan Law with a commendation from Crime Concern, a national crime prevention charity, which supports youth inclusion projects across the country. Duncan, who has given many hours of his free time to help young people involved with the Greenwich project, is a safer school beat officer, based at Westcombe Park Police station.

The project on the Page Estate in Eltham is part of an ongoing programme, which encourages young people to take part in positive activities around the borough.

Kevin Ashton aged 16 and Reece Osbourn aged 15 who have been involved with the project were highly commended for their work, which involved such activities as clearing overgrown gardens. They even helped make a garden at the local Age Concern Centre more user friendly for the senior citizens.

5 March

Greenwich

Officers participate in charity bike race

Greenwich borough officers will be taking part in their own version of the Tour De France on Thursday 7 June 2007 in aid of the local Age Concern Centre in Sherard Road, Eltham.

The officers will complete the first three stages of the Tour De France race. They will start their journey outside Buckingham Palace, cycling into Kent, across to Belgium and France. The race will be over four consecutive days and the total distance cycled will be 600 kilometres.

Funds raised will be used to renew furniture, a hearing loop and a mini bus.

Non – Operational successes and Good News

5 March Hillingdon 'Streets Ahead'

Enforcement, engagement and education is set to make Hillingdon 'Streets Ahead' after a pilot which took place on 1 March in Townfield, will now be rolled out across other areas in the borough.

The new initiative, is being introduced following the highly successful environmental visual audits (EVA's) and will take place in a different ward each month. Some of the local partners include the, London Fire Brigade, Hillingdon Homes, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), Vehicle and Operator Services Agency VOSA, Probation Service and the Department of Work & Pensions.

Over 30 teams took part and activities included truancy sweeps, graffiti removal, community litter picks, car park and street cleansing, fly tips and bulky waste removal, advice on claiming benefits, how to fireproof your home and safer neighbourhood teams advice surgeries. There were also vehicle stop searches, food outlet and health & safety inspections, highways and utilities enforcement, park patrols and much more.

2 March Wanstead Safer Neighbourhoods team clean up churchyard

PCSO's from Wanstead Safer Neighbourhoods team and Redbridge Volunteer Police Cadets cleaned up the overgrown churchyard of Aldersbrook Baptist Church.

Cleaning and tidying the churchyard have removed areas where youths could congregate or hide. In addition to the clear up of the grounds, the doors were repainted and the windows had new freshly painted boards put in place giving the building a brighter and cleaner look.

Prior to this, the churchyard had been the subject of several complaints regarding youths using the churchyard for criminal activity such as graffiti and other forms of criminal damage.

The churchyard is now a more friendly place to view and walk past thereby reducing the fear of crime to anyone passing.

Non – Operational successes and Good News

2 March

Projects Team

Forensic Services wins efficiency award

The Directorate of Forensic Services has won the Whitehall and Westminster World Civil Service Award for Efficiency in 2006.

Staff attendance has been improved in the directorate thanks to work from Naomi McGoun and the HR team.

In October 2004 the absence level was 6.7 days per employee per year. Between then and 30 June 2006 the team successfully reduced absence to 5.1 days per employee, per year, which equates to a 23.9 per cent improvement.

This has led to a cost saving of £233,064 and a productivity increase of an extra 1.6 working days per person which equates to 6.45 working days reintroduced to the business per year.

22 February

The MPS has won two ‘Green Oscars’

The Met has won two ‘Green Oscars’ for its commitment to sustainable business practice.

The Service’s green credentials were recognised at the City of London Corporation’s Sustainable City Awards held at London’s Mansion House. The Met was announced as overall winner of the category for Traffic Reduction and Transport Management and runner up in the Sustainable Procurement category.

Receiving the awards from Zac Goldsmith, Editor of the Ecologist Magazine, Emma Devenish, who is the Met’s Environmental Manager, said:

“I am delighted to accept these awards on behalf of the Metropolitan Police Service and grateful to the City of London Corporation for its recognition of our commitment to proactive environmental policies and practices. As a public sector organisation we have key objectives that we aim to meet to improve our environmental performance - in areas ranging from the use of cycles for police patrols through to hybrid cars for our Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

Non – Operational successes and Good News

28 February

South Twickenham bike marking event

South Twickenham Safer Neighbourhoods team had a very successful bike marking session on Saturday 24 February at the Cricket Pavilion on The Green. Between 10am and 2pm 42 members of the public turned out to have their bikes marked and registered with bikeregister.com

PC Dave Hicks said " It was so successful, that we are going to hold another session in five weeks time. Sergeant Darby, PCSO's Savill, Ashley Mcgarrett, Yong and myself were there on the day, marking the bikes and getting to know the residents. Mr Butlin a local member of the liberal democrats came along and had his bike marked."

27 February

Upper Edmonton Safer Neighbourhoods team road safety initiative

Concentrating on speeding, seat belt offences and school parking restrictions in the vicinity of the schools, police officers stop offending drivers and invite them to listen to pupils from local schools who are equipped with a clip-board and prepared sheet with information about road safety, for example:

- What yellow zig-zag lines are for and the penalty for parking on them
- New seat belt legislation
- Statistics on deaths and injuries on the road as a result of speeding

In order to achieve the greatest impact, the children ask each driver; "How would you feel if you seriously injured or killed me as a result of your speeding?"

Staff from the Enfield Road Safety Partnership also attend the operations with their valuable advice and knowledge.

At Raynham Primary School on 19 February 2007, five pupils assisted police and staff from the Enfield Road Safety Partnership, resulting in 28 people being stopped, one Fixed Penalty Notice issued for a seatbelt offence and three verbal warnings.

Non – Operational successes and Good News

27 February

Mayor visits Harrow borough to improve community safety

Last week, Ken Livingstone Mayor of London, met with police officers in Harrow and local school children to discuss pioneering work to improve community safety.

The Mayor met members of the Canons and Edgware Safer Neighbourhoods teams at their new community headquarters in Canons Park and members of the Edgware Youth Forum, which has been set up by local officers.

Canons Safer Neighbourhoods team is one of 630 local police teams in London and 21 local police teams in Harrow. Local police teams are now in place in every neighbourhood in London, 18 months ahead of schedule.

Detective Superintendent Richard Freeman, Harrow's Acting Borough Commander, said: "We are delighted that the Mayor has seen the excellent work of our Safer Neighbourhood teams.

"Since the expansion of the Safer Neighbourhoods programme to all our wards, we have seen great benefits, and have made great strides in terms of improving community relations."