



Operational and Non Operational MPS Successes and Good News



MPA Full Authority Meeting

Thursday 26 July 2007

Operational and Non Operational MPS Successes and Good News

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Operational Successes and Good News

18 July

Public Order Branch

Four men convicted following demonstration in 2006

Four men have been sentenced at the Central Criminal Court to a total of 22 years in prison following an investigation by the Met Police Public Order Crime Unit - codenamed Laverda.

The four men have all been convicted of offences committed during a demonstration in central London on 3 February 2007.

On Friday 3 February 2006, the MPS policed a spontaneous march from the Central London Mosque, via Baker Street to the Danish Embassy, Sloane Square. The march was to demonstrate against the publication, abroad, of cartoons of The Prophet Mohammed.

18 July

Lee Green SN Team

Stolen vehicles recovered in Lewisham

Officers from Lee Green SN team, supported by Lewisham Central SN team and the Stolen Vehicle Unit executed a search warrant at a garage in Old Road, SE13.

The intelligence-led operation began after a stolen JCB digger, worth over £30,000, was found near to the garage. During the search officers recovered a stolen compressor and other plant machinery valued at over £20,000.

The owner of the garage, a 37-year-old man from Sidcup, was arrested at the scene and has been bailed to return to a south London police station in September.

Operational Successes and Good News

17 July

Counter Terrorism Command

Men sentenced re possession of terrorist material

Yassin Nassari, from Ealing was found guilty at the Old Bailey on 13 July 2007 for possessing information likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism contrary to Section 58 Terrorism Act 2000. He was sentenced to three and a half years in prison.

Metropolitan Police Service counter terrorism officers launched an investigation - codenamed Operation Bivalve - after items were found in Nassari's possession when he returned to the UK in 2006.

Due to the nature of the material uncovered officers executed a search warrant at Nassari's home in Ealing, west London on 26 May 2006 and he was arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000.

Forensic analysis revealed that Nassari had communicated with other extremists via internet chat-rooms. With the user name "Mock Turtle" he exchanged views with other users, including one known as "Abu Dujanah". Dujanah was in fact Tariq al-Daour - who was jailed along with two other men in June 2007 for incitement to murder using the internet.

Al Bashir Mohammed Al Faqih was also jailed for four years' after admitting possessing documents describing how to make explosives, and how to set up a terrorist cell. Al Bashir Mohammed Al Faqih had in his possession a CD called 'A Special Training Course on the Manufacture of Explosives'.

16 July

Traffic Serious Casework Unit

Tachograph investigations

Staff at the Traffic Serious Casework Unit have issued over £130,000 of fines to Tachograph offenders.

Tachographs are devices fitted to vehicles and measure the time a driver has been at the wheel and are often used in investigations involving collisions.

To help officers track the work of the unit, a Tachograph Tracker was introduced to highlight the progression of Tachograph cases from receipt to conclusion at court and records the result including fines/costs awarded.

A copy of the tracker is now emailed to officers once a month so that a 'joined up approach' can be adopted in relation to the prosecution of Tachograph offences.

Operational Successes and Good News

16 July

Harrow

Man jailed six years for attempted murder

On 12 July a man was found guilty of attempted murder and sentenced to a minimum of six years' imprisonment at Harrow Crown Court.

On the 18 November 2006, Dean Hennessy, a 33-years-old from Harrow, attended the home address of his ex-partner in Stiven Crescent, accompanied by two men.

Whilst inside the house, Hennessy repeatedly stabbed his ex-partner's new partner as they lay sleeping inside the bedroom. After the attack all three men left the scene, and the victim was taken to hospital where he received emergency treatment for his stab wounds.

Hennessy was later arrested and pleaded not guilty to attempted murder, however during his trial at Harrow Crown Court Hennessy was found guilty by a unanimous jury.

14 July

POCA and firearms offences

Hackney Sapphire Unit

On 10 July, Hackney Sapphire officers charged a 17-year-old with rape and robbery which he committed at knifepoint.

Earlier this month, the rapist had attacked his victim, a woman on her way to collect her child from her child minders. The attack happened in broad daylight, close to her child minder's address.

The suspect was identified by two investigators whilst out trying to locate a witness. They saw a man acting suspiciously around women and approached him. He made off and was detained after a foot chase. He had no previous record and would have been difficult to identify, had it not been for the observant DCs taking decisive action.

13 July

Kilburn Safer Neighbourhoods team

Counterfeit DVDs

A counterfeit DVD seller has been banned from entering Brent for two years. Feng Mei Huang from Seven Sisters was arrested on the Kilburn High Road for selling counterfeit DVDs whilst already on bail for the same offence.

Huang was sentenced to 16 weeks and an ASBO.

Operational Successes and Good News

11 July

Kensington and Chelsea Sapphire Unit Rapist jailed for eight years

On 9 July, Ramzi Borkan was jailed for the rape and false imprisonment of a 21-year-old Japanese student.

In addition, he will have to register as a sex offender for life and the third rape and false imprisonment will lie on file. A recommendation was also made for his deportation.

Borkan brutally raped a young student three times after shaving her pubic hair and washing her at his Ladbroke Grove flat in December 2006.

He had already been jailed for first sexual assault on a 14-year-old schoolgirl in 1997, and then for imprisoning a former lover and her new boyfriend in a fit of jealousy in 2005.

Borkan went into the Japanese Centre in London's Piccadilly, saw the 21-year-old Japanese student studying the accommodation board and told her he had a room to let.

He convinced her to return to his flat where he attacked her. During the ordeal, which lasted 12 hours, he subjected her to various sexual indignities before raping her and even filmed part of the attack on his mobile phone.

9 July

Serious Crime Flying Squad results

John Maxwell of Dagenham received 12 years' imprisonment when convicted at Snaresbrook Crown Court of a cash-in-transit robbery in Barking and a separate robbery of bookmaker's premises in Rainham. On both occasions a handgun and a knife was used to threaten the victim.

Ivor Manton from Canning Town was convicted of armed robbery on a cash-in-transit delivery in Woodford. He received six years and eight months for this and a firearm offence to run consecutively with a sentence already being served for other armed robberies.

Milford Malcolm of Clapton, was also convicted for three robberies on commercial premises and a firearms offence and received 10 years.

A cash-in-transit robbery team, arrested by Flying Squad officers, was also sentenced for conspiracy to rob cash-in-transit vehicles in Woodford Green and a full offence of robbery in Loughton Essex.

Asley Spence, Carl Nweze, Serge Ingulou and Aaron Abeyie received a total of 15 years and three months' imprisonment between them.

Operational Successes and Good News

9 July

CO19

Man arrested for armed robbery

A 19-year-old man from the Selsdon area was charged with robbery and possession of a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence.

Jephath Sango, a student, was stopped and searched after he ran out in front of Inspector Sue Thomas and Sergeants Mark Coleman and Richard Lovelock who were on routine patrol.

The officers then searched the immediate area and came across an 18-year-old German au pair who appeared to be distressed. She told the officers that two men just robbed her at gunpoint.

Officers immediately cordoned off the surrounding area and armed officers from CO19 and the Dogs Unit were called to search for the firearm. Officers came across a VW Blue Polo and gained entry to the vehicle, but the vehicle contained no firearms, just an empty BB gun case. They continued searching and near to where the suspect was arrested officers came across a BB handgun in nearby undergrowth, which was then recovered by police.

Officers also recovered an amount of Euros, a set of headphones, and a reservation letter for a flight from Heathrow to Munich. It is believed the victim was making her way to the airport at the time of the robbery.

9 July

Anti-terrorism charge

Bilal Abdullah has been charged with conspiracy to cause explosions, specifically:

That on diverse days between 1 January 2007 and 1 July 2007 within the jurisdiction of the Central Criminal Court, he unlawfully and maliciously conspired with others to cause explosions of a nature likely to endanger life or cause serious injury to property in the United Kingdom. Contrary to Section 3(1)(a) of the Explosive Substances Act 1883.

Operational Successes and Good News

9 July

Operation Telon leads to 16 arrests for drugs and money laundering Clubs and Vice

An operation by officers from the Clubs and Vice has netted a total of 16 arrests for people drug dealing, money laundering and being in possession of class A drugs.

The arrests on Friday 6 July were the culmination of a 20 month long intelligence led operation - codenamed Telon. This is the biggest operation of its kind carried out by the Unit.

In the dawn phase of the operation two men were arrested that police believe have been supplying drugs to a City pub. The men and a woman have also been arrested for money laundering

Later that afternoon officers from the TSG raided 'Bar Bed' at 40 Leman Street, E1. Officers were led to Bar Bed by intelligence that drugs were dealt there. During the course of the investigation police have identified that low levels of drug dealing were taking place in the downstairs bar. They also believe that in an upstairs bar, run as a members only bar, in the region of 1,000 wraps - worth £30,000 was being dealt a week.

Three men, who police believe work at the bar, were arrested in the upstairs bar on suspicion of conspiracy to supply controlled drugs.

Seven people who were inside Bar Bed have also been arrested on suspicion of being in possession of class A drugs. They have all now been cautioned.

Throughout the afternoon three further women were arrested, two for allowing their premises to be used for the supply of controlled drugs and the third for conspiracy to supply controlled drugs and conspiracy to launder money.

Operational Successes and Good News

6 July

Sutton & Kingston

Operation Sony nets cross-border car thieves

Two men have been charged with three burglaries after officers from the Kingston Proactive Team teamed up with colleagues from Sutton Task Force and Surrey Police.

The proactive, Operation Sony, targeted burglars involved in committing cross border residential burglaries, whereby high-value motor vehicles were stolen.

Patrick Meechan and Andrew Constantinou will appear in court in the near future.

Upon being charged Meechan had another five offences taken into consideration and Constantinou had another 15 offences taken into consideration.

5 July

Economic and Specialist Crime Command

Money laundering arrests

Six members of an organised criminal network suspected of laundering over £1 million through a complex series of property deals have been arrested in East London.

The arrests were as a result of a proactive money laundering operation conducted by the Financial Investigation Units, part of Economic and Specialist Crime Command (SCD6).

Those arrested include a solicitor, estate agent and a property developer.

A total of eight searches were conducted with the assistance of SCD1(3) and The London Regional Asset Recovery Team (RART).

A cash seizure of £6,000 under the Proceeds of Crime Act was also made.

Operational Successes and Good News

5 July

Bexley

Council officer jailed after FIU investigation

Former local authority finance officer in Bexley appeared at Blackfriars Crown Court on 5 July 2007 for a confiscation hearing and was sentenced to two and a half years' imprisonment after pleading guilty to ten counts of fraud.

It follows an investigation by the CID and Financial Investigation Unit based in Bexley.

Michael Barry of Seasalter, Whitstable, Kent was ordered to pay £93,569 in confiscation, which will all be paid in compensation to Bexley Council.

It was initiated in July 2005, following an allegation by Bexley Council that a member of staff had been committing fraud. The ten counts relate to offences committed between April 1997 and July 2005.

Barry used his position as an accountant within the council to claim numerous VAT refunds from HM Revenue and Customs over a nine-year period. He was responsible for the department handling VAT returns for all schools in the area and listed an extra school that did not exist.

He gave his own bank account number for the VAT refunds based on figures he had invented and amended council records to ensure his fraud was hidden from auditors.

Over a nine-year period, Barry made transfers to his bank account totalling £224,631.93.

Operational Successes and Good News

4 July

Stolen Vehicle Unit

Car criminal jailed for two years

A man who co-ordinated a criminal network stealing cars so they could be stripped down and the parts sent to Nigeria has been sentenced to two years in prison following a Stolen Vehicle Unit investigation (SCD6).

Sina Abiodun Adebayo's network systematically targeted older style Mercedes to strip down and export the parts to Nigeria, where they were sold on for considerable profit. It is believed the enterprise was capable of making more than £70,000 a month.

Officers from the Met's Stolen Vehicle Unit investigated the group after receiving intelligence that Adebayo was involved in the handling of stolen Mercedes and shipping of parts to Nigeria.

Adebayo's network moved borough to borough across London stealing the cars, hoping to avoid police attention. Thieves employed by Adebayo would steal the cars by a variety of methods.

He and the rest of the criminal network took the cars to two scrap yards in Stratford to strip down and export the parts, where they were then sold on for considerable profit.

On the 31 August 2006 officers from the Stolen Vehicle Unit, supported by police dogs, a police helicopter and local officers raided scrap yards in Stratford. The remains of over 80 stolen Mercedes were found in the yards and searches of lorries nearby found further vehicles.

Following the raids the theft of Mercedes the network were targeting dropped by 98%, with the gang thought to be responsible for over 120 thefts a month. It has remained at that level since.

The stolen vehicles and parts would be loaded into a legitimate truck and placed on the middle of the lorry, surrounded by panels and parts that were not identifiable. This meant the stolen parts were not visible until the lorry was emptied.

Operational Successes and Good News

4 July

Economic and Specialist Crime Command

Operation Maxim arrests

Detectives from the Economic and Specialist Crime Command's Operation Maxim have arrested five men after uncovering the single largest haul of fake passports from a counterfeit passport factory.

In an intelligence-led operation, detectives raided the two-bedroom flat in Poplar Grove, Colney Hatch, London N11 yesterday afternoon. When police officers entered the property a counterfeit driving licence was being printed at the time from a printer in the back bedroom. Three Eastern European men, one Kosovan and two Bulgarian, were arrested at the address for conspiracy to manufacture identity documents and remain in custody at a North London police station.

4 July

Hackney

POCA seizures in Hackney

Officers from Hackney's proactive firearms unit--Operation Bantam, last week executed a search warrant on Bethune Road, N16 in Hackney and seized approximately £20,000 under the Proceeds of Crime Act, as well as a significant amount of cannabis. The operation, saw three individuals arrested for a variety of serious offences.

One individual has been arrested for possession with intent to supply and money laundering and has been bailed pending further enquiries, whilst two others have been returned to Leicester to be dealt with for various offences, including a shooting and arson with intent.

4 July

Operation Acton Chance

A man was charged with two attempted abduction offences and possession of an offensive weapon after officers from Southwark CID launched operation Acton Chance.

Concerned members of the public made several reports of a suspicious man in the area. Research established that a man had been approaching and touching young schoolgirls. On two occasions the offender progressed to physically trying to abduct his victims.

As part of a pro-active operation the offender was identified in close proximity to a group of schoolgirls on Monday 3 July 2007. As the arrest team deployed, the man attempted to run away. A chase ensued with the offender being caught nearby.

Operational Successes and Good News

4 July

Money Laundering Investigation Team

£1million fraud arrests

Six people, three men and three women, have been arrested for money laundering offences and offences under the Fraud Act, following their believed involvement in fraudulent benefit claims for housing benefit and council tax benefit, amounting to over £1 million.

The arrests follow an investigation by the Met's Money Laundering Investigation Team, part of the Economic and Specialist Crime Command.

All six have been bailed to return on a date in October to a central London police station.

Officers also seized £12,000 from an address in South West London.

3 July

Dogs Support Unit

Dangerous dogs raid in Brent

On 29 June police executed a search warrant on a property in Lancelot Road, Wembley.

Following a number of complaints and concerns from local residents regarding pit bulls at the address, the Preston SN team obtained a search warrant under the Section 5(2) of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

The Preston SN team led colleagues from the Police Dog Section, the Wembley Central, Northwick Park and Sudbury SN teams to the address with the support of Chief Inspector Jan Eachus of the RSPCA.

One dog was taken into police possession under Sections Four and Eight of the Animal Welfare Act 2006, causing unnecessary suffering to a protected animal and dog fighting. The dog was taken to a police kennelling facility where he will be examined following concerns for his welfare.

Operational Successes and Good News

3 July

Hammersmith and Fulham

£6,000 seized under POCA

In a joint intelligence led proactive operation, police in Hammersmith and Fulham, in partnership with the Borough Council Corporate Anti-Fraud Team, executed warrants at four addresses on the borough arresting six people for benefit fraud and related offences.

Over £6,000 in cash was seized using Proceeds of Crime Act powers, and restraint orders for assets totaling in excess of £120,000 have been applied for.

However, Hammersmith and Fulham Council does not have a Financial Investigation Unit and so are unable to seize cash or restrain assets. They also cannot apply for warrants, and do not have a power of arrest other than "citizens arrest". When working alone, local authority fraud investigators often have to invite suspects to voluntarily attend interviews to explain their financial circumstances.

3 July

Lewisham

Man jailed seven years for rape

A 39-year-old man from Downham was convicted of two counts of ABH, common assault, harassment and rape against his 39-year-old partner.

He was sentenced to a total of seven years' imprisonment and the judge ordered him to be placed on the sex offender's register for life.

Tyron Johnson of Whitefoot Lane, was convicted on 8 June 2007, after being arrested on 20 March 2006, following a domestic incident between himself and the victim, whereby he tried to strangle her and she in retaliation stabbed him in the shoulder.

The successful prosecution follows an investigation by the Community Safety Unit in Lewisham into the incidents, which occurred over a three and a half year period between 2002 and 2006

Operational Successes and Good News

3 July

Financial Investigation Unit

£1.5m confiscation order

A couple convicted of international fraud have been ordered to pay a confiscation order of £1,463,825.

Mary Bello-Varela and Tennyson Lawani were jailed in December 2006 for money laundering offences.

They operated on an international level and netted in excess of £2 million. Lawani was sentenced to a total of three years' imprisonment and Bello-Varela received a 200 hour Community Service Order.

A confiscation investigation by the Met's South Financial Investigation Unit revealed that the couple had used their criminal proceeds to purchase six properties and two expensive cars. They also withdrew over £1 million in cash from banks and ATMs in the indictment period.

At a confiscation hearing on the 14 June 2007 at Southwark Crown Court Bello-Varela was ordered to pay £93,373.47 within 12 months or face 22 months' imprisonment in default.

Lawani was ordered to pay £1,370,452.17 on the 29 June 2007 within 12 months or face 84 months' imprisonment in default.

2 July

Conviction of a prolific robber

Operation Lomond

The combined efforts of TP Crime (South) and officers from Croydon borough have resulted in the arrest and conviction of a prolific robber, who targeted elderly females.

Richard Anthony White, who was recently sentenced to six years' imprisonment, was arrested during June 2006, following which two addresses linked to him were searched. The efforts of the linked teams resulted in the recovery of clothing worn by White at the time of the offences, along with various items of stolen property, which linked him directly to the robberies.

White was charged with a number of robberies and remanded in custody.

He subsequently appeared before Croydon Crown Court in June 2007, but pleaded guilty three weeks into the trial, due to the overwhelming evidence, which had been secured against him.

Operational Successes and Good News

29 June

Redbridge SN Team

PCSOs stop robbery

On 26 June, at 11:30am, PCSOs Zarf Rafiq and Alex Eldridge were patrolling Ilford town centre when a member of the public alerted them to a crime in progress. A 23-year-old woman was in a charity shop with her 18-month-old son. Two women approached and tried to remove the victim's purse from her handbag. When she called for help, they tipped over her pram and ran away with £30, after which she chased one of them into a chemist.

At this point the PCSOs intervened and apprehended the suspect. She was held until the arrival of regular police, who arrested her on charge of robbery. She was held in police custody overnight, and appeared before Redbridge Magistrates Court the next day.

28 June

Lewisham

Drug dealer's assets seized

On 28 June, Mr Rylan Harrisingh forfeited £61,792.50 at the order of Greenwich Magistrates Court. The money, along with 2.37 kilograms of cocaine, were found and seized on 17 January 2007 when the Lewisham's Borough Support Unit executed a search warrant at an address in Sycamore Grove, SE20. Mr Harrisingh was arrested in connection with the raid.

On the 30 May Mr Harrisingh pleaded guilty to possessing with intent to distribute a class A drug, and being in possession of criminal property (the £61,792.50). He is due to be sentenced on 3 August.

Operational Successes and Good News

28 June

Tooting

Man jailed indeterminately for wounding with intent

A man was sentenced to an indeterminate sentence for public protection for wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

Gary Celtic Taylor, a 40-year-old carpet fitter from Streatham must serve a minimum term of 30 months before he can be considered for release.

He appeared at Kingston Crown and pleaded guilty to committing the offence.

On 24 January, two PCSOs were on anti-social patrols in Graveney ward, Tooting, when they heard over the radio, a report of a violent altercation in Mitcham Road.

The PCSOs ran to the venue where a 36-year-old man was found at the scene covered in blood. Gary Taylor was standing close-by with a Stanley knife in his hand. The PCSOs called for assistance and response officers quickly arrived to arrest Taylor.

The victim received a deep cut along the left side of his face and other cuts around his eyes and forehead.

27 June

Croydon

Operation Pyrenaus

On 21 June 2007 officers from the Croydon Gang and Gun Focus Desk made eight arrests as part of Operation Pyrenaus, the investigation into an incident of gang related disorder, which occurred 18 May.

The dedicated Gang and Gun Focus Desk was set up in April of this year to tackle the emerging gang culture in the borough.

Operational Successes and Good News

27 June

Transport OCU

Operation Maunsell

The Transport OCU North West Area teams have made 19 arrests for various offences at the conclusion of Operation Maunsell.

Operation Maunsell was a two-day operation, which ran on the 12 and 14 of June, aimed to reduce crime on the transport system in Brent borough.

It particularly targeted the Route 18 bus route and the Willesden Junction Railway and Bus station, which was experiencing theft, pickpocketing, robberies, criminal damage, assaults, anti-social behaviour, and fare evasion.

Offenders are known to use the bus and rail network as a means to commit the offences or to travel to locations to commit offences.

27 June

Lewisham Sapphire Unit

Man jailed for rape and false imprisonment

A 58-year-old man from Lewisham has been convicted for the rape and false imprisonment of a 33-year-old woman, during which he also made threats against her life.

He was sentenced to a total of 18 years' imprisonment and the judge ordered him serve a minimum of nine years.

The trial of Kevin O'Dowd of Sibthorpe Road, SE12, began on 12 December 2006.

This successful prosecution follows an investigation by Lewisham Sapphire Unit into the incident that occurred on 16 September 2004.

Operational Successes and Good News

26 June

Greenwich

Drugs op by Royal Parks officers

Following a stop and search in St James's Park by Royal Parks (RO) Crime Squad officers on 9 May 2007, Greenwich Magistrates' granted a search warrant on a house in Greenwich.

On 15 June 2007, officers from RO Crime Squad and uniformed officers from Greenwich Park (RN) led by Inspector Jeff Short executed the warrant. Property recovered included individual wraps of cannabis resin with a large quantity of cash placed in a golf bag by the front door of the premises.

A man has been charged with possession of cannabis and bailed to attend Woolwich Magistrates' Court later this month.

26 June

Territorial Policing Crime Squad

Prolific robber charged

Officers from Territorial Policing Crime Squad (Linked Team South) have charged a man in connection with a series of burglaries across London.

The offences involved forced entry into security safes and the thefts of cash.

The arrest is the result of a long, protracted inquiry with the support of borough staff.

The combined losses are considered to be in the region of £250,000.

Operational Successes and Good News

25 June

**Dog support Unit and Air Support Unit
Wanted man arrested**

The Dog Support Unit and Air Support Unit helped track a man after he fled a serious collision at the Polish War Memorial, A40 West London.

The vehicle concerned had recently been stolen from the Greenford area.

Sergeant David Campbell and police dog Luke started to search the area systematically, clearing bushes, undergrowth and subways along the A40 towards Hillingdon.

After some time the Air Support Unit was able to identify a heat source in the bushes half a mile away from the original scene.

Luke was brought to the area and found the suspect who was arrested.

22 June

**Preston Safer Neighbourhoods Team
Man arrested**

The Preston Safer Neighbourhoods Team led an early morning raid at two addresses in Hirst Crescent on 12 June 2007.

Following increasing complaints from local residents, officers executed two search warrants under Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

A 37-year-old female was arrested for possession of Class A Drugs.

The Preston Safer Neighbourhoods Team was supported by officers from the Wembley Central, Northwick Park, Barnhill and Sudbury SNTs, schools liaison officers, seven Special Constables and the Dogs Support Unit including Wolfie, the drugs dog.

Operational Successes and Good News

22 June

Art and Antiques Unit

Stolen art recovered

The Met's London Stolen Art Database has recovered a Rene Magritte painting worth £350,000 which had been reported stolen from London in 2006.

A private individual contacted the Art and Antiques Unit on 21 June to say that he believed that he had found the missing 1927 Les Reflets du Temps picture, an oil on canvas depicting a surrealist scene of a beach, sea and hat.

The man had checked the painting against the Met's London Stolen Art Database and had found it featured there. The painting's owner reported it missing in August 2006 from where it was being stored in South London.

The painting is currently with the Art and Antiques Unit whilst they investigate the circumstances surrounding its return, but will be returned to its owner in due course.

The database is run by the Met's Art and Antiques Unit and stores details and images of over 58,000 items of art, antiques and cultural property that has been reported stolen.

22 June

Serious Crime Command

Murder conviction

49-year old Wojciech Cieslar, a Polish national of no fixed address was yesterday found guilty of murdering a woman in Woolwich in 2005.

Cieslar was charged with the murder of 32-year-old Juline Chambers, actual bodily harm against her 15-month old son and two counts of burglary. The jury found him not guilty of actual bodily harm on the child.

Non – Operational successes and Good News

18 July

Waltham Forest receives commendation

Waltham Forest received a commendation from Assistant Commissioner Tim Godwin for achieving the best borough performance in reducing personal robbery offences and recording the highest levels of confidence in local policing in 2006/7.

The commendation was presented to Waltham Forest Borough Commander, Detective Chief Superintendent Mark Benbow.

14 July

Post-graduate diplomas in HR Management

Students who embarked on a post-graduate diploma in Human Resource Management in 2005 graduated after two years of study on Tuesday 10 July. The course, initiated by Simon Marshall of the Recruitment Directorate, was delivered to equip and provide skills and formal accreditation to those working in HR and recruitment.

The eight graduates, who studied for the qualification on a day release and home study basis attended a ceremony at Middlesex University Hendon Campus on Tuesday, where they formally received their Post Graduate diplomas in HR Management as well as recognition as members of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

13 July

PCSO Steve visit Lambeth

Children at the Rosendale Primary School received a special visit from their local Safer Neighbourhoods team.

PCSO Steve gave a presentation at the school assembly to teach the children about personal safety, stranger danger and road safety. The Thurlow Park Safer Neighbourhoods team organised the event, which took place in front of 360 school children.

PC Chris Wulleart, Thurlow Park Safer Neighbourhoods team, said:

"Visiting Rosendale Primary School and seeing how enthusiastically the children responded to PCSO Steve was really rewarding. It was a good opportunity for us to not only meet the pupils, thereby introducing the idea of police officers and police community support officers to them, but also to chat with them about issues such as personal safety. I hope that these new relationships will continue and grow stronger."

Non – Operational successes and Good News

13 July

Police Bravery Awards winners

The bravest officers in England and Wales were announced last night (12 July) at the Police Bravery Awards at The Dorchester attended by HRH The Prince of Wales, the Home Secretary and a host of celebrities.

The gala evening honours officers who put themselves at risk of death or serious harm performing their duties and is organised by the Police Federation of England and Wales and supported by The Sun.

Seventy-two of the most courageous police officers, from forces throughout England and Wales attended this year's Police Bravery Awards, established 12 years ago to pay tribute to the unsung heroes of the service.

The London winners were Met officers PCs Paul Bennett, Mark Guppy and Richard Hall who chased armed offenders. PC Bennett was shot in the leg during the pursuit, but still managed to arrest one of the men. His colleagues disarmed and arrested the other two offenders who only failed to shoot them because their gun had jammed.

9 July

Director of Information voted top CIO

Ailsa Beaton, MPS Director of Information, has been voted one of the country's top public sector Chief Information Officers (CIOs) by subscribers to *silicon.com* – a leading international Information Technology magazine.

Ms Beaton, who finds herself among the ranks of 'leaders, influencers, innovators and strategists – people at the top of the IT tree' said:

"Awards like this are a tribute to the team supporting the CIO – they are not achieved by one person alone. I would like to thank staff in my Directorate for their hard work and commitment in providing effective information, communications and technology to officers and police staff, enabling them to serve London better".

Non – Operational successes and Good News

5 July

Commissioner's Commendations

PC Charlotte Voyce was presented with the highest award - a Commissioner's Higher Commendation. 17 others were presented with Commissioner's Commendations and a further seven with Royal Humane Society Awards.

PC Charlotte Voyce was awarded for her outstanding bravery and professionalism after disarming a man armed with a knife, who had already stabbed someone.

3 July

Police dog awarded for work during

A Met police dog received the animal equivalent of the George Cross for his work in the aftermath of the 7/7 terrorist attacks.

HRH Princess Alexandra, PDSA Patron, awarded the PDSA Gold Medal to specialist search dog "Jake" (full name Hubble Keck) at a special ceremony at St James's Palace on 3 July.

Handler PC Bob Crawford and two-year-old cocker spaniel Jake formed part of the emergency services response that day. PC Crawford and Jake were sent to Tavistock Square and later Kings Cross.

At Tavistock Square, the injured people on the bus were in need of urgent medical attention but the bus was believed to contain a suspect device. Jake and PC Crawford searched a safe route to the device ensuring that it was safe for paramedics to reach the passengers.

Jake and PC Crawford then searched an area close to the bus so a make-shift field hospital could be set up. They cleared the area very quickly so lives could be saved. Afterwards they set about searching the mile long route underground from Russell Square tube station to Kings Cross, entering the train at Kings Cross. An explosives officer followed behind them checking the route and train before the injured were rescued.

Non – Operational successes and Good News

28 June

Brave PCs honoured

PCs Marc Naughton and Chris Walters from Hackney Borough were on patrol in a marked police car in N16 when they noticed a man apparently rolling a joint as he left a chemist.

The officers decided to search him and PC Walters approached him to explain why he was being stopped.

The man said he was smoking a cigarette and attempted to walk away. In order to stop him walking off PC Walters took hold of the suspect's arms and with the help of PC Naughton moved the suspect against a wall.

At this point, the man began to struggle and produced a knife and a firearm. PC Walters grabbed the arm holding the gun and managed to disarm him and PC Naughton attempted to control the arm holding the knife.

However, in the violent struggle the suspect stabbed PC Naughton in the left thigh. He then tried to stab PC Walters in his abdomen under his protective MetVest. The officer was also knocked to the floor and the suspect picked up the firearm and ran off.

Other officers responded to the calls for assistance and found both officers having first aid treatment in the chemist. They included A/Sergeant Laura Chapman who assisted with the treatment while the scene was secured and the suspect arrested.

27 June

Forms Unit win Bureaucracy Award Scheme

The Forms Unit were recently presented with a certificate after they won first prize in the National Reducing Bureaucracy Award Scheme.

Stephen Rimmer, Director of the Strategy, Modernisation and Performance Directorate (SMPD) presented the unit, consisting of Marie Clarke, David Matthews and Brenda Minto with their award.

Their prize-winning entry was for the ingenious self populating process whereby users personal details are automatically filled onto some of the Mets most widely used electronic forms. The time reduction in re-keying and time saving for each form soon mounts up when you consider the MPS downloads some 8,000 annual leave forms each month.

Non – Operational successes and Good News

27 June

Brooklands SN Team work in partnership with Security at Queens Hospital

On 12 June 2007, Brooklands SNT in Havering Borough worked in partnership with Security at Queens Hospital, Romford to prevent crime.

The hit squad which included PCSO Showell and a Security Officer dressed in traditional burglar costumes were sent into departments to find insecure mobile phones, laptops, wallets and other valuables. Any found were left a leaflet highlighting the fact that their property could have been stolen in their owners absence, meanwhile any staff that saw the two burglars had a good laugh but understood the underlying message that property should be secured. Kids on the childrens wards also had a smile on their when two burglars walked onto the ward, and after they had left had the opportunity of directing police in hot pursuit! By the end of the exercise staff word had spread and staff were actively looking out for the 'burglars' and putting items away.

Overall the day was a great success and made more of a crime prevention message than handing out leaflets. The team hope to repeat the exercise in a couple of months to see if staff have improved.

27 June

Merton Park SN Team attend school fair

Officers from Merton Park Safer Neighbourhoods Team joined the fun of the school fair on Saturday 23 June when they attended Poplar Primary School's Fair.

The team attended with an historic police vehicle courtesy of the historic motor vehicle collection. Alongside this were fingerprint kits and plenty of literature on road safety for children which ensured that the police stand was one of the best attended on a day which helped to raise £6,500 for the school to put towards a new building in the school grounds.

Non – Operational successes and Good News

28 June

Diversity Award for the Met's recruitment advertising

'Talking to the police isn't easy for some people' is the theme of the Met's recent recruitment campaign. But the message definitely got across to the judges of the Guardian's Chartered Institute of Personnel Development Awards, where the campaign picked up the accolade for the best advertising campaign in the 'Diversity' category.

The award recognises campaigns, initiatives or projects created by employers in partnership with agencies to attract and retain talent from diverse or under-represented backgrounds.

The winning campaign focused on the Met's aim of recruiting police officers with second language skills and cultural understanding. The creative was developed with agency Vivid Communications and focused on the theme that, *'Talking to the Police isn't easy for some people'*.

The campaign was highly successful in driving candidates to attend several Police Officer recruitment events specifically targeting people with languages and cultural understanding. It is also part of a wider commitment to recruiting from under-represented groups.

25 June

Cycling safety initiative in Trafalgar Square

The Met's Traffic Unit, supported by Transport for London, launched a road safety initiative aimed at keeping cyclists safe.

On 26 and 27 June officers attended Trafalgar Square to help educate cyclists about the dangers of lorries turning.

Officers demonstrated the road dangers to cyclists by using two lorries stationed at Trafalgar Square to show how lorry drivers often cannot see cyclists if they are in their 'blind spot'.

Cyclists and pedestrians were also invited to position themselves and a cycle to the nearside of the lorry. They were then invited inside the cab so they can see through their own eyes how limited the lorry driver's vision is.

Non – Operational successes and Good News

22 June

Urban Cricket in Ealing

A cricket competition organised by officers from Elthorne Safer Neighbourhoods team has been won by Beaconsfield primary school in Southall.

The competition took place last Thursday 7 June 2007 and fifteen teams from nine primary schools participated in the tournament to find the best Urban Cricket team in Ealing. Beaconsfield primary school beat Clifton Lodge boys' preparatory school by just three runs.

The competition was the culmination of a series of urban cricket coaching sessions run by officers, in partnership with the London Community Cricket Association, over the past school year. The aim of running these sessions and the competition was to enable officers to get to know and engage with young people on the borough. The coaching sessions were combined with talks on knife crime, bullying, drugs and personal safety.