

21 July
Campaign to combat street crime in Westminster

A seven-week campaign to combat street crime in the West End during the summer holidays was launched by Westminster Police over the weekend.

The school summer break is traditionally the busiest time of the year in Westminster with millions of people expected to flock to central London to enjoy its vibrant nightlife, shops and other attractions.

Westminster Police will be focusing on street crime and anti-social behaviour as well as targeting violent offenders to ensure that people visiting the area are able to enjoy themselves safely.

Up to 200 extra police officers and PCSOs will be providing reassurance and advice to people visiting nightspots concentrating on the busiest periods on Friday and Saturday nights. Officers from the Territorial Support Group, mounted branch, Transport for London, British Transport Police and officers from the Metropolitan Police Special Constabulary will be providing additional support.

21 July
Six convicted of 2001 murder

Six men have been convicted at the Old Bailey following the murder of a 36 year old Man in Mitcham in 2001.

On 6 November Sellathurai Balasingham, 36, of Glamorgan Close, Mitcham was beaten about the head in a savage and prolonged attack near a grassy area in between Kent Close and Huntington Close on the Pollards Hill Estate in Mitcham.

He was taken by ambulance to the Mayday Hospital in Croydon where he was declared dead.

Mr Balasingham worked as a production manager at Sunlight Laundry, Merton and drove from his place of work and arrived at Huntington Close at approximately 11pm. He was then subjected to the attack which resulted in his death.

18 July
Gang jailed for attempted sword beheading

Seven people who were involved in a terrifying attack involving Samurai swords were today sentenced to a total of 63 and a half years' imprisonment.

Police revealed that since the arrests of the seven, criminal damage in one area of London has fallen by 80 per-cent and reports of anti-social behaviour by 50 per-cent.

They were found guilty on 19 June at the Criminal Central Court following the attempted murder of a 20-year-old man in Braemar Ave, Alperton on 28 June 2006. During the attack attempts were made to behead the victim.

Newham police believe the arrest and conviction of these youths is the main reason for the dramatic decline in crime and disorder in East Ham.

18 July
Drug dealers face 27 years behind bars

Two drug dealers will spend a total of 27 years behind bars after they stashed £4.35 million worth of heroin into their cars.

Mylton Demetriou and Sean Foster were arrested after police watched Demetriou transfer a grey holdall from the boot of his VW Golf, into the boot of Foster's BMW, in Frant Road, Croydon.

16 July
Seven sentenced to 47 years for "vicious" assault on man

Seven people have been sentenced at the Old Bailey to a total of 47 years for a vicious attack on a man who confronted them after they had robbed his younger brother.

Abdul Yassin-Noor, 20, of Rochester Way, Eltham, stabbed the 20-year-old victim in the back four times and six boys aged between 14 and 17 years assisted Yassin-Noor in the attack that left the victim severely injured.

16 July

Youth convicted of possessing £150k worth of heroin

On 4 July a 16 year old youth from Hunt Road, Southall was sentenced to 18 months' detention and training order at Isleworth Crown Court for possession with intent to supply 1.27Kg of Heroin and riding a stolen scooter with no insurance.

The drugs seized had a street value of between £100,000 - £150,000.

On the 14 April 2008, during Vaisakhi Celebrations in Southall, the suspect failed to stop for police in Quaker lane, Southall whilst riding a red Gilera scooter. A short time later he was stopped by police.

The youth was arrested on suspicion of theft of the scooter and possession of class A drugs with intent to supply.

14 July

Man charged with murder following prison van collision

A 48-year-old man has been charged with murder following a fatal road collision involving a prisoner transport vehicle in Brixton in April.

Andrew Curtis an employee of Serco Court Escort Services, appeared in custody at Camberwell Green Magistrates' Court on Friday charged with the murder of Nyarai (Naomi) Benjamin, aged 34.

Police were called to reports of a van in collision with a woman outside Brixton Town Hall on Brixton Hill.

Naomi Benjamin from Brixton was pronounced dead a short time later and a post-mortem examination gave cause of death as a broken neck.

14 July
E15 fatal stabbing: man charged

A 23-year-old man appeared at Waltham Forest Magistrates' Court charged with the murder of Adnan Patel in Stratford on Thursday 10 July 2008.

Police were called following reports of a man suffering from a stab wound in Downsell Road, E15.

Patel was treated by paramedics but pronounced dead at the scene shortly afterwards from stab wounds to the chest during an altercation with a number of men.

Four men, aged 37, 23 and two 22-year-olds were arrested in the area shortly after the stabbing in connection with the murder. They were taken to east London police stations where Akeel Shah, 23, was charged. The three other men have been bailed to return on 7 August 2008 pending further enquiries.

14 July
Teenager guilty of murdering boy after "dirty looks"

Two teenagers have been found guilty in connection with the murder of 14-year-old Martin Dinnegan after "dirty looks" exchanged between two groups led to his fatal stabbing.

Detectives said the case illustrated how carrying knives can turn a seemingly minor argument into the murder of a young teenager, with the life changing consequences for the victims' families and his attackers who face years behind bars.

Martin Dinnegan was chased, punched to the ground, kicked, stabbed four times in the back and left to die in the street.

Sentencing has been set for 8 August 2008.

14 July

Sixth person charged with Shakilus Townsend murder

Detectives investigating the murder of 16-year-old Shakilus Townsend have charged a sixth person with his murder.

A 17-year old male will appear in Sutton Magistrates Court charged with the murder of Shakilus Townsend in Thornton Heath.

This follows five charges from arrests made following appeals for witnesses to the murder, which took place in broad daylight on 3 July.

Tyrell Ellis, 18, a 17-year-old boy, a 16-year-old boy and a 15-year-old girl appeared at Sutton Magistrates' Court on Thursday 10 July 2008 charged with murder.

A man aged 22 arrested was bailed to return to a south London police station in August pending further enquiries.

14 July

Death by dangerous driving conviction after IPCC inquiry

On 11 July 2008 Jake Collis, aged 23, appeared at Kingston Crown Court after pleading guilty to causing death by dangerous driving.

He was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment for causing death by dangerous driving and six months' imprisonment for failing to stop at the scene of the accident.

He has also been disqualified from driving for five years. All sentences will run concurrently.

9 July
Convictions for family vice ring

A family has been convicted for their role in running a £1 million vice ring in north London.

Spencer Rolfe, his sister - Adele Lubin and her son - David Howard have all been found guilty at Southwark Crown Court after a four month undercover operation by the Clubs and Vice Unit.

The operation -codenamed Acebo- started in December 2006 after intelligence was passed to the Unit from the local Safer Neighbourhoods Team. It culminated with the arrest of the trio on 24 April 2007.

9 July
Two arrested for making obscene DVDs

Two men have been arrested following a nine-month operation investigating the copying and selling of obscene DVDs.

A 46-year-old man and a 48-year-old man were arrested at an address on an industrial estate in NW10 on suspicion of money laundering and publication of obscene articles for gain and offences under the Video Recordings Act as part of operation "Jonesboro".

The investigation has targeted a business selling mail-order unclassified and obscene films as well as an unlicensed sex shop in the Soho area which is being searched.

8 July

Jailed for "merciless" gang-attack in fast-food restaurant

Four men have been jailed for a total of 65 years for the "violent and merciless" murder of a man who was stabbed and slashed 31 times in a Tooting fast-food restaurant after being mistaken for a Tamil gang-member.

The men were sentenced at the Old Bailey on Monday 7 June following the trial into the murder of Pirabaskaran Kannan in Upper Tooting Road on 15 June last year and assaults on two other men; Naresh Mylvaganam and Arunan Thanabalasingham.

Aziz Miah, 20 of Croydon, Asif Kumbay, 20 of SE25 and Vabeesan Sivarajah, 22 of no fixed address were sentenced to 17 years for murder, seven years for GBH and three years for ABH. All sentences to run concurrently.

Kirush Nanthakumar, 18 of Croydon was sentenced to 14 years for murder, six years for GBH and two years for ABH to run concurrently.

Two men had pleaded guilty to the two assaults at an earlier hearing - Mayuran Srinvinayagam, 25 of Streatham was sentenced to seven years for GBH and three years for ABH to run concurrently and Mahitharn Ratnasingham, 23 of no fixed address was sentenced to six years for GBH and two and a half years for ABH to run concurrently.

7 July

30 years for man who drove 26 miles to get gun for murder

A man who drove 26 miles to get a gun and return to a party, where he shot a man who had offended him has been found guilty of murder at the Old Bailey.

Joseph Peter Greenland, aged 33 from West Molesey was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment on Friday.

Greenland had been at a party in Carshalton in December 2006 following a boxing match, when Sean Jenkins, aged 36, from Southfields made a comment that offended him. Greenland drove to his home in West Molesey where he picked up a gun.

Upon returning to the party Greenland sat down in an armchair then without speaking he stood up fired six shots at Sean Jenkins. The final two shots were fired when Mr Jenkins was on the floor.

Ambulance arrived at the house on Newstead Walk and took Sean to St. Helier Hospital where he was pronounced dead shortly afterwards.

3 July

Life for cold case killer

A man has been handed down a life sentence on his fortieth birthday - for the murder of an elderly woman that he committed when he was 26 years old. It is the latest success in police investigating so-called 'cold cases'.

Edward George Ross, aged 39 of West India Dock Road, was found guilty at the Old Bailey of the murder of 83-year-old Elizabeth Mercer on the 10 June, 1994. He will serve a minimum of 15 years.

The victim, who was known as Helen, was found after police were called by a member of the public late at night to an address in Lea Bridge Road, E10, where they found her lying in her hallway with the front door open.

2 July

Brothers get life for killing east London teenager

Two brothers have been sentenced to life for the murder of a teenage student in Canning Town in November last year – with a recommendation they should serve at least 12 years in prison.

Larry Morrison, aged 23, and his brother Michael Morrison, aged 21, both of Clements Avenue, E16, were each found guilty on June 30 of the murder of 17-year-old Bienda Litambola.

The pair had previously pleaded guilty to manslaughter, but were found guilty following the trial at the Old Bailey.

The court heard that the Morrison brothers attacked Bienda (known as Bob) with a dog chain, punched and kicked him. The group had argued about the victim's girlfriend after she received texts from Larry.

1 July

Brothers found guilty of beating teenager to death

Two brothers have been found guilty of beating a teenager to death with a dog chain in Canning Town last year.

Larry Morrison, 23, and his brother Michael Morrison, 21, both of Clements Avenue, E16 were both found guilty at the Old Bailey on Monday 30 June of the murder of 17-year-old Bienda Litambola having previously pleaded guilty to manslaughter. They will be sentenced on Wednesday 2 July.

27 June
Life for Kensington murderer

A man has been sentenced to a minimum of 30 years for the murder of a 23-year old mother in Kensington.

Chris Braithwaite, 22, pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey to the murder and sexual assault of Stacey Westbury at her home address in West Kensington on 17 August 2007.

Police were called to an address at Ivatt Place, West Kensington Estate, W14 shortly after 6pm on 17 August 2007 to reports of the body of a woman being found inside a flat.

Officers attended and found a woman, formally identified as Stacey Westbury, 23, suffering stab injuries. Stacey was pronounced dead at the scene and a ten-month old baby boy was discovered in a cot inside the flat.

27 June
Paedophile hid abuse images in secret compartments

A registered paedophile who passed extreme images and videos of baby abuse to officers and used secret coat pockets and compartments in his car, has been given an indeterminate sentence at court today.

Arthur Albert Morley, 65, admitted the possession, making and distributing of indecent images of children, including a baby only a few weeks old, at Southwark Crown Court on Friday 27 June.

He was given an indeterminate sentence with a recommendation he serve two years and two months.

Morley, who had previous conviction for rape and sexual assaults of children dating back to 1986 was arrested at an Internet Café in Brent in March following an investigation by the Met's Paedophile Unit. He was in the process of downloading a video depicting the abuse of a baby.

26 June

Youth guilty of "unprovoked" murder of street drinker

A youth has been found guilty of murdering a "street drinker" in an unprovoked attack in Hayes.

Daryl O'Connor, aged 18, of West London was found guilty on 25 June of murdering Tarsen Nahar and assaulting the same victim causing actual bodily harm two weeks prior to his murder in April 2007.

The conviction follows an investigation by the Homicide and Serious Crime Command into the violent assault on 19 May 2007.

London Ambulance Service called police to reports of a body at an address in College Way, Hayes. Officers found the body of Tarsen Nahar, 44 from Uxbridge.

25 June

Life sentences for Patel-Nasri murder

Three men have been sentenced to life imprisonment at the Old Bailey for the murder of Special Constable Nisha Patel-Nasri.

Roger Leslie, aged 38, unemployed, from Bells Hill, Barnet, was sentenced to life imprisonment with a recommendation to serve a minimum of 18 years.

Jason Jones, 36, a doorman from Hathaway Crescent, E12, was sentenced to life imprisonment with a recommendation to serve a minimum of 20 years.

Fadi Nasri, 34, self employed, from Constable Close, N11, was sentenced to life imprisonment with a recommendation to serve a minimum of 20 years.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED
OPERATIONAL GOOD NEWS

25 June

Man guilty of planning to supply £3.5m worth of heroin

A 45-year-old man has been sentenced to 20 years after being found guilty of planning to supply £3.5m worth of heroin.

Davut Duzgun appeared at Snaresbrook charged with possession with intent to supply class A controlled drugs.

He was arrested on 3 August 2007, following an intelligence led operation by SCD7's Central Task Force.

A search of a property in Caine Avenue, Ilford, revealed ten bales of material that were cleverly concealing a large quantity of heroin.

The drugs are believed to have been shipped in from Turkey then through mainland Europe and would have been distributed onto the streets of London.

24 June

Man guilty of New Year's Day murder

A 21-year old man has been found guilty of the murder of 17-year-old Stephen Boachie in the early hours of New Year's Day 2007.

Chester Daudu, of Corporation Street, E15 appeared at the Old Bailey today to hear the jury's verdict.

24 June

Man charged with Murder

An 18-year-old man has been charged with the murder of 16-year-old Ben Hitchcock in Beckenham last summer.

Royston Thomas, 18, of Hazel Grove, SE26, is due to appear at Greenwich Magistrates' Court charged with the murder of Ben Hitchcock exactly one year since Ben died from his injuries.

Officers were called to reports of a fight in Southend Road, Beckenham and found Ben, from Penge suffering a stab wound to the abdomen. He was taken by ambulance to University Hospital Lewisham, but was pronounced dead shortly after midnight.

23 June

Teenager gets life for New Cross murder

An 18-year-old youth has been sentenced to life imprisonment to serve a minimum of 20 years for the murder of Magda Pniewska in New Cross on 2 October 2007

Armel Gnango, 18, who was 17 years old at the time of the incident was sentenced at St Albans Crown Court after being found guilty at the Old Bailey on 22 May.

He was further sentenced to serve a minimum of 12 years for the attempted murder of an unnamed male on 2 October 2007 and a minimum of 5 years for possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life.

He had previously pleaded guilty to possession of a prohibited firearm when he appeared for trial on 6 May 2008. This is to remain on file.