

Man arrested for Leisure Centre locker thefts

On Thursday 12th January 2012, officers from Tooting Safer Neighbourhoods team (Wandsworth borough) arrested a 20-year-old man after launching an investigation into a number of locker thefts at Tooting Leisure Centre.

Members of public had reported to police that whilst they were using the facilities at the Leisure Centre somebody had managed to break into the lockers where their possessions were stored and steal personal items, which included mobile telephones, bags and cash.

Officers from Tooting Safer Neighbourhoods team began an investigation into the thefts and researched similar incidents reported at other Leisure Centres throughout Wandsworth over a number of months.

Having identified a suspect, officers attended an address in Woodford Green in Essex and arrested a 20-year-old man.

Upon interviewing the man he subsequently admitted to posing as a member of staff to commit twenty four burglaries at various Wandsworth Leisure centres over a period of several months, including centres at Tooting, Balham, Putney and Latchmere.

Sergeant Eric Ostrowski from Tooting Safer Neighbourhoods team said: "Hopefully the victims of this man will obtain some comfort in knowing that he has been caught. I am expecting the level of thefts from lockers in Wandsworth Leisure Centres to decrease significantly as a result of this arrest."

Hackney Safer Neighbourhoods Team execute drugs search warrant

Recently, Hoxton Safer Neighbourhoods team (Hackney borough) with the assistance of additional Hackney officers carried out a drugs search warrant at an address in Murray Grove, N1.

Entry to the property was gained and inside the officers found a cannabis factory. There were in excess of one hundred plants found in the property. Rooms were found to be converted solely for the use as a cannabis factory with lighting and heating equipment.

Electricity engineers attended the address and confirmed that the electricity had been bypassed and following their make safe procedure showed officers on scene some of the wiring they had removed. They then explained that the wiring was scorched and had begun to melt, showing that it was extremely dangerous and could have easily led to a fire.

Investigations continue to find the resident of the property. Local residents were extremely grateful to officers as historically this area was a magnet for drug users.

If you have any information about anti-social behaviour in your area please contact your local Safer Neighbourhoods team, or call CrimeStoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

To find out more about your local Safer Neighbourhoods team, visit www.met.police.uk/hackney/

Safer Neighbourhoods Team officers make 200th arrest

Two Safer Neighbourhoods Officers from Enfield's Turkey Street ward made their 200th arrest in a year before the end of 2011, further demonstrating their commitment to bringing down crime on their ward.

PC Andy Kent and PC Charlie Leather have been working hard to bring offenders to justice on Turkey Street ward. Arrests have included a vast range of offences from common assault, GBH, burglary, drugs offences and threats to kill.

In June, they were recognised by then Area Commander Simon Pountain for making 100 arrests.

Turkey Street ward in the very north of the borough has a variety of challenges for the ward team to police - their current ward priorities are burglary and anti-social behaviour. Crime on Turkey Street ward has fallen 12.3% compared with the same period last year.



Temporary Borough Commander Simon Laurence said:

"Andy and Charlie's work ethic and arrest rate demonstrates how proactive and rewarding community policing can be. Their hard work has made a difference to the quality of life for residents in Turkey Street ward, either by closing cannabis factories or disrupting criminal activity. I am very grateful for all their commitment"

Turkey Street Safer Neighbourhoods team Sergeant Craig Kimberley said:

"I cannot fault Charlie and Andy's efforts in reducing crime on Turkey Street ward. They work as a team, with help from the ward PCSOs to bring offenders to justice and bring down crime. I am really proud of them."

Street Walk undertaken by Queensbury and Kenton Safer Neighbourhood Teams

On Tuesday 24th January 2012, Queensbury Ward Panel members joined officers from the Queensbury and Kenton Safer Neighbourhoods Teams (Brent borough) on a "Street Walk" in Essoldo Way, where the team had previously executed a raid to tackle drugs. Croxdon Gardens, Beverley Drive, Dryburgh Gardens and Queensbury Station Parade were also visited.

During the two-hour walkabout which started at 6pm, the Officers spoke to local residents on the streets. They visited a pensioner in Essoldo Way whose house was burgled a few months ago, also Beverley Drive, where a stabbing took place recently and Sherbourne Gardens, where a house was burgled a few weeks ago. Shop owners in Queensbury Station Parade were also visited.

Colin Hook, Chair of the Queensbury Ward panel, highlighted the work being done by the police team to identify offenders affecting the local residents. He also explained how the Safer Neighbourhoods policing team is dealing with problems in the area. He said: "The aim of this patrol is talking to local residents, for them to tell us their concerns so we can ensure we are tackling the issues that matter most to our communities."

Sergeant Sashi Vagadia from Queensbury and Kenton Safer Neighbourhoods Team said: "Total Policing is what the Metropolitan Police is all about. It is our commitment to be on the streets and in the communities catching offenders, preventing crime and supporting those who unfortunately become victims of crime. We are here for Queensbury, working with residents to make Queensbury safer. By inviting local community representatives from the Ward Panel to join us out and about in the community, we can show them first-hand what we are doing to keep the residents safe."

Hackney Police target uninsured drivers

On Thursday 12th January 2012, Hackney officers took part in the Commissioner's ongoing Operation Cubo. The day saw officers targeting vehicles without insurance under the Op Reclaim banner.

The main vehicle stopping site was in Mare Street, E8 and its surrounding area. Safer Neighbourhoods officers also took part in the event and covered areas in Stoke Newington Road, N16, Brownswood Road, N4 and Homerton Row, E9.

During this day of action, officers stopped over 500 vehicles, of which 24 were seized for primarily having no insurance. These vehicles included:

- An Audi TT Convertible
- A brand new Mercedes E250 (value £45,000)
- A Range Rover

Uninsured vehicles are seized and may potentially be destroyed, while offenders will be prosecuted. The penalty for driving a vehicle without insurance is six penalty points and a £200 fine, and can even lead to a driving ban. Two arrests were also made, one for an outstanding person wanted on warrant and the other for disqualified driving.

Acting Chief Inspector, Pat Brown, said: "Once again the public were overwhelmingly positive with our actions and I hope that this operation shows that the majority of Hackney residents are law abiding citizens. I would like to say a thank you to Hackney Council for their continued support in this operation. This operation would not have had such a great outcome without the use of their CCTV and Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras and control facilities. "



To find out more, or to report dangerous or illegal road users, visit www.met.police.uk/roadsafelondon

Driving without insurance is an offence under the Road Traffic Act. Officers can use powers under Section 163 of the Road Traffic Act to stop vehicles to check whether they are being driven with the correct insurance and driving licence.

According to the Motors Insurers' Bureau, uninsured drivers increase other drivers' insurance premiums by £30. They are also five times more likely to be involved in road collisions.