

Youngsters Knocked out by New Boxing Club initiative

Officers from Hammersmith and Fulham have opened a second boxing club in Shepherds Bush. Phoenix Canberra Amateur Boxing Club in Phoenix High School, The Curve, Shepherds Bush opened towards the end of February as part of the sports camp at the school. The opening is expected to be a great success following the first boxing club in Fulham Sands End, which was opened in June of the previous year.

Phoenix Canberra Amateur Boxing Club, in partnership with Sands End Amateur Boxing Club, will be holding a two-day amateur boxing course called 'The Contender Am-Box course' for 20 youngsters from Shepherds Bush. The two-day 'Contender Am-Box' course is a formal qualification which is an ASDAN (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) recognized course and is an extension of the GCSE qualification.

The scheme is targeted at young people aged between 9 and 18 years of age, who either live or go to school in the local area.

The club offers daily training sessions and brief modules on junior citizenship and local policing issues including gun, knife and gang crime. Other subjects cover bullying, truancy, drugs, tobacco, alcohol, robbery, graffiti, anti-social behaviour, and road safety. The boxing part of the training session will focus on warming up and stretching, skipping, boxing techniques, shadow boxing, pad work and bag work, and fun circuit training.

The boxing club is run by local police, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and police cadets, with help from partner agencies including school teachers, youth workers, London Fire Brigade members and other suitable community members.



PCSO Richard Powers, founder of the Sands End Amateur Boxing Club, from the Sands End Safer Neighbourhoods team (Hammersmith and Fulham borough), said:

"I never doubted the success of the Sands End Police Community Boxing Club.

However, I have been amazed at how quickly and effectively it has become established as an integral diversionary project for the Hammersmith and Fulham borough.

"The Contender Am-Box course is another extension of the club's successes and I could not be happier to officially open our second boxing club in conjunction with Phoenix High School."

"Ma Kelly's Doorstep" Theatre Production Focuses on Crime Prevention

Just after mid-March, senior citizens from Barking & Dagenham were treated to a stage performance aimed at keeping them safe from bogus callers and distraction burglars. The presentation was held at Barking United Social Club, Blake Avenue in Barking.

The anti-distraction burglary production of "Ma Kelly's Doorstep" was performed by the Attic Theatre Company. Officers from Eastbury Safer Neighbourhoods team (Barking & Dagenham borough) organised and supervised the event and were available to answer any questions from the audience concerning safety and crime prevention. A raffle was also drawn with chocolate prizes.

Borough Commander Matt Bell and Partnership Chief Inspector Richard Goodwin attended and met the audience and supported Eastbury Safer Neighbourhoods team during the Q&A session that followed the performance. In total, 80 local residents attended.



Sergeant Lucy Cenizo, who organised the event, said:

"This type of burglary targets vulnerable members of the community. Through this presentation we hope to empower senior residents to say "no" to strangers who call without appointments. I would like to extend my gratitude to ASDA Vicarage Field for their kind donation toward the buffet, the Management of Barking United Social Club for providing an ideal venue for the event and Barking and Dagenham Volunteer Carers Bureau for providing transport."

Borough Commander Matt Bell said:

"Although distraction burglary is not a common crime in Barking & Dagenham, one victim of this devastating crime is one too many. I urge anyone who is unsure a caller is genuine to dial 999."

Quick-thinking Officer catches Prolific Burglar

Following an anti-burglary operation carried out by officers from Gooshays Safer Neighbourhoods team (Havering borough), a prolific burglar has been arrested and charged with residential burglary.

A crime trend was identified by the team, namely theft of metal and other scrap via means of burglary in the Gooshays ward and that the targeted residential premises were mainly shown up for sale or to let.

This led to officers from the team forming a partnership arrangement with the local estate agents to identify premises which were up for sale and hence a vulnerable target for burglars. Once identified, officers from the team were tasked to direct their foot patrols to those areas to deter any possible offenders in the area and to advise residents that they had vulnerable premises in their street. As part of this initiative, residents were given crime prevention advice and material to help them against burglary.

PCSO Dan Moss, whilst patrolling a beat incorporating identified venues heard banging from inside an empty residential property. Within seconds, a man emerged from the address, stating that he was authorised to do work in the house. PCSO Moss, aware of the local burglary issue, began to challenge the man's account. Upon this, the man immediately began to flee. PCSO Moss followed whilst activating his emergency button so that he could give a clear and uninterrupted commentary. Other Safer Neighbourhoods team officers responded and a man was detained on suspicion of burglary. Following a search of the suspect's home address, other items linking him to other similar burglaries were recovered.

Acting Sergeant Neil Adams stated:

"I am very proud of all those officers involved in this arrest and particularly the excellent work of PCSO Moss. His quick thinking resulted in the arrest of a suspect believed to be responsible for a number of residential burglaries in the local area."

This was an excellent example of partnership working with the team developing excellent relations with local estate agents."

'Exchanging Places' event puts Cyclists' Wheels in Motion

In mid-March, officers from Hackney borough's Safer Neighbourhoods teams in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police's Traffic Command held a cycling education event called 'Exchanging Places', outside the Fire Station on Kingsland Road in E8.

Two weeks prior, officers from Hoxton, Queensbridge, De Beauvoir and Haggerston Safer Neighbourhoods teams (all Hackney borough) issued 48 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) to members of the public for a variety of cycling offences which included contravening red lights and inconsiderate riding. Cyclists issued with FPNs were given the option of paying the £30 fine, or attending an Exchanging Places event. In total, 30 members of the public who had received penalty notices attended the event. A further 25 passers by also attended the event.

The event was supported by Hackney Council and the London Fire Brigade. The aim of the event was to educate cyclists around the dangers they face when cycling close to lorries. It was explained that if a cyclist is on the nearside of a lorry when it changes direction, the cyclist may be in the blind spot of the lorry driver and will not be visible. Pedestrians were also warned of the dangers of crossing a road too close to a lorry, as they may not be visible to the driver.

The event was also supported by two companies; VolkerHighways and Scania supplied two lorries, which were parked outside the fire station and used to create a practical demonstration for cyclists to participate in. Cyclists were invited to climb into the cab of the lorry in order to see just how limited the driver's view of the cyclists may be.

Officers were on hand to answer questions and talk to cyclists between 7am and 2.30pm.

Throughout the event Hackney's Safer Transport team took part in an operation to combat cyclists contravening red traffic signals in Kingsland Road.

Sergeant Thomas Lazarou, of Hoxton Safer Neighbourhoods team, said:

"With the ever increasing popularity of cycling in Hackney, Safer Neighbourhoods teams, Traffic Command and TfL have demonstrated that we are trying to create an environment that is safe for all road users. It is inevitable that the construction of the Olympics site has led to an increase in haulage vehicles and there is no getting away from the fact that lorries must share the road with cyclists. The safest option for cyclists is to hang back, because you cannot guarantee where the lorry driver's blind spot will be."

Chief Inspector Ian Vincent, from the Metropolitan Police's Traffic Command Unit, said:

"I welcomed today the opportunity for the Traffic Command to offer free safety advice to cyclists riding in Hackney. The event in Hackney proved how successful partnership working can be to assist in road safety. A number of cyclists took part in the scheme throughout the day, giving them their first opportunity to see the road and cycle visibility from a driver's point of view in a heavy goods vehicle. As a result they have hopefully gained safety advice in relation to their positioning on the road and not to place themselves in a vulnerable place on the nearside of a large goods vehicle."

Partnership Work aims to reduce Gang Culture

Brent Council and Wembley Safer Neighbourhoods team (Brent borough) worked in partnership with Copland Community School to educate young people about the dangers of becoming involved in gangs in the Wembley area.

Towards mid-March, Gang*Star, an urban musical act, performed at The Complete Works theatre to over 150 year eight students at Copland School. The performance featured rap, DJ and break-dance focusing on the consequences of being involved in gangs.

Gang*Star not only entertained young people but also communicated a strong social message. It was followed by a workshop and Q&A session involving the audience which explored the characters' motives, the choices they had made and the consequences of their actions.

The performance was funded by Wembley Central councillors with £500 from their Ward Working funds. Ward Working is a Brent Council initiative which sees every ward in the borough given an annual budget of £20,000 to spend on tackling local issues.



Christine Collins, Manager of Brent Council's Ward Working team, said:

"We were pleased to support this exciting performance. It helps young residents of Wembley make informed choices about gang culture and stay out of trouble."

PCSO Hema Patel, of Wembley Central Safer Neighbourhoods team, said:

"Myself and PCSO Mikey Nwanazia have worked closely with the Complete Works Theatre Group and Copland School to produce positivity with local children of all ages. On this occasion the production was aimed at Year 8 children and the pupils' interaction was both useful and constructive. I was pleased that the Neighbourhood Working Group and councillors also saw this has a positive step towards giving our youngsters a viewpoint on the negativity of gang culture. We work hard to build a good relationship with the young children and feel events like this can only help build stronger links with the pupils of Copland School. We hope to see the play performed again very soon in the Wembley Central area."

Sergeant Neil Tulloch, also of Wembley Central Safer Neighbourhoods, said:

"I was very pleased and proud of the work done by PCSO Patel and PCSO Nwanazia for bringing this play to Copland School. Copland can be a very challenging environment and this shows how important our Police Community Support Officers really are and how important the Safer Neighbourhoods team role has within our communities."

Police Forces put the Breaks on Vehicle Crime

Northwood Hills Safer Neighbourhoods team (Hillingdon borough) and police from neighbouring wards conducted an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) operation in Northwood Hills.

The operation was carried out in mid-March and police set up their units with an ANPR in Watford Road, at the junction with Frithwood Avenue, Northwood Hills. Also, working with Hillingdon police were Hertfordshire police, specialist traffic police, Customs and Excise and the council's waste disposal team.

The main aims of the operation were to; make travelling safer for legal road users and pedestrians; remove un-roadworthy vehicles; target uninsured vehicles and disrupt those using vehicles to commit crimes. The officers identified vehicles being driven without insurance and/or other than in accordance with a driving licence. ANPR and other police databases are used to stop such drivers and to prevent drivers from injuring/killing members of the public.

Results from the operation included:

- 74 vehicles were stopped
- 5 vehicles were seized for no insurance: (resulting in 6 points on license and £200 fixed penalty ticket for each driver)

- A trailer with bald tyres was taken off road and the load transferred to another vehicle.
- One person was given a warning for being in possession of cannabis which was seized.
- Customs and Excise dipped the fuel tanks of 45 vehicles to establish the fuel being used.
- Local council officers made checks on waste disposal vehicle licences.



Sergeant David Wright, of Northwood Hills Safer Neighbourhoods team, said:

"Our efforts on this day enabled us to detect those without insurance and other vehicle crime. Hopefully our presence also sent out a message to other drivers who may have wrong intentions. This operation enabled excellent partnership working with other bodies to tackle those who fall foul of the law. The results will go some way in improving road safety in our area."