

Richmond Safer Neighbourhoods Team brush-up in Week of Peace Event

Towards the end of September, Heathfield Safer Neighbourhoods team (Richmond borough) painted on the exterior wall of the Homelink Respite Centre, Hospital Bridge Road in Heathfield, which had been covered in graffiti. Homelink is a nurse-led day respite centre supporting carers of any age who give help and care to a partner, relative, friend or neighbour who cannot manage without their help. This could be because of age, disability, physical and/or mental illness.

Richmond Housing Partnership kindly donated a Homebase voucher which was used to purchase the paint and tools to carry out the job. They also lent Heathfield Safer Neighbourhoods team their anti-social behaviour team to help with the painting. Homebase kindly donated an extra 20% on top of the voucher which enabled the Heathfield Safer Neighbourhoods team to purchase additional car cleaning equipment for a Cop Wash event the following day.

The following day, the Heathfield Safer Neighbourhoods team cleaned in excess of twenty cars in order to raise money for Homelink and, more importantly, increase overall awareness of the centre and the good work staff achieve there.

As the cars were being cleaned, the vehicle owners enjoyed some refreshments that were donated by Sainsbury's. Last but not least, Heathfield Neighbourhood Watch coordinators helped by advertising the event, supplying cakes and giving their time to help with teas and coffees and even wash cars.

Additional funds were raised with the 'name the bear' competition which is officially sponsored by Hamleys toy store, who generously donated two of their police bears to our cause.

Heathfield Safer Neighbourhoods team would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for their donations help and support. This was truly a good example of a community coming together to make a difference. The money raised will hopefully allow the purchase of a computer for the centre, who has been managing from paper records only, until now. For more information about Homelink, who are a registered charity, please go to their web page <http://www.homelinkdaycare.co.uk/>.

Sergeant Rhiannon Ivens said:

"The Heathfield Safer Neighbourhoods team are committed to improving community cohesion and the theme for this years week of peace event was 'giving back to the community'. We have combined our own mission statement with the theme itself, bringing members of our community together to improve the conditions and facilities of a very worthwhile charity run organisation - Homelink. We are extremely grateful to everyone for their kind donations and for the support we received from our local residents."

Offenders in Sutton pay the community back with work in local park

Officers from Carshalton Central Safer Neighbourhoods team (Sutton borough) helped to organise improvement work to Carshalton Park using the 'Community Payback' scheme which involves offenders carrying out community-based tasks as part of their sentence. Community Payback is the partnership that helps to make London cleaner, safer and greener for its residents, workers and visitors.

The work to the park includes the planting of bulbs and painting the railings as well as bulb planting at other sites in the local area. The work is expected to be completed over the next few months.

The paint is being mainly funded by Sutton Council whilst Carshalton Rotary Club along with the Carshalton Carnival Committee are providing additional paint as well as paint containers, brushes, scrapers and cloths - and the 3,000 crocus bulbs.

The purple crocus bulbs were among the 62,000 purchased by Carshalton Rotary Club's members and friends, which are being planted widely across the area at schools, shops, churches and parks, to highlight the world-wide fight against polio. The colour of the bulbs is significant because when youngsters are immunised against the disease they dip their fingers into a purple ink to show they have been protected. Many of the bulbs were planted at Carshalton Rotary Club's marathon bulb planting in Beddington Park at the beginning of October.



Sergeant John Bouchard, of Carshalton Central Safer Neighbourhoods team, said the improvement work to the park is an excellent example of how Community Payback can improve an area:

"It's already made a huge difference to the appearance of the park - and they are making a really good job of it. It's good to see Sutton Council and Carshalton Rotary Club funding it together."

Phil Blake, who represents both Carshalton Rotary Club and the Carshalton Carnival Committee, said:

"It's great working with the Council on projects like this."

Newham Safer Neighbourhoods Team in Successful Partnership Work

Police seized four vehicles and made four arrests as part of a pro-active Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) operation in Plaistow.

The activity is part of a Met-wide Operation 'Operation Reclaim', which was launched two years ago in Newham, in partnership with the local council.

The operation is designed to target illegal motor vehicles and individuals involved in criminal activity, with an estimated 60-70% of unlicensed or uninsured vehicles used by active criminals.

The afternoon operation towards the end of October saw a total of 19 vehicles stopped; four of them seized for no insurance, with the drivers also receiving a £200 penalty notice, four arrests made for disqualified driving, possession of a Class A drug, immigration offences and theft offences.

Sergeant Kevin Lawrence, of Plaistow North Safer Neighbourhoods team (Newham borough), said:

"I am delighted that we were able to remove four uninsured cars off the road during this afternoon operation. We're doing this to protect innocent road users left with injuries or expensive damage as a result of someone else's disregard for the law.

"This is part of our continued work to tackle motor vehicle crime and we will carry on working closely with residents, the local authority and external partners to make this happen."

Lambeth Safer Neighbourhoods team celebrates Black History Month

The Streatham Hill Safer Neighbourhoods team (Lambeth borough) attended the opening celebration of Black History Month at the Palace Project, Streatham, SW2 in the first week of October.

The Palace Project are holding an exhibition and workshops throughout October to educate and enlighten the younger generation about historic events from past to present day. As well as an exhibition by wire sculptor Carl Gabriel, there will be music, poetry and drama workshops.

The Streatham Hill Safer Neighbourhoods team has a very close partnership with the Palace Project working together to provide support and opportunities for young people and the community on the Palace Road Estate, SW2.



Glen Neil, Chairman of the Palace Project, says:

"We provide opportunities to the community that they wouldn't normally be able to afford. These include drama, dance classes, music lessons, IT courses, film-making, sports, radio and media production to name but a few. For others the Palace provides a sociable, family environment. For instance, we're aiming to provide a daytime club for elderly members of the community, where they can reminisce by watching old films, seek advice or just have a friendly chat with someone."

Sergeant Paul Graves from Streatham Hill Safer Neighbourhoods team said:

"The Palace Centre is a focal point for the community in the area and we recognise the effort and good work carried out there by Glen and others. PC Dennis and PCSO Dell'Avvacato attended the event and were impressed as always. This is an excellent way to begin the Black History Month celebration and the Palace has our full support."

Redbridge Safer Neighbourhoods Team puts the break on motor vehicle crime

Clayhall Safer Neighbourhoods team (Redbridge borough) continually works to reduce motor vehicle crime on the ward and shares best practices with the other wards in Redbridge.

October 2010 intelligence showed that a high number of parts were being stolen from certain models of Ford Fiestas namely Zetecs and ST's. These were occurring across the whole borough and not just isolated to one ward.

Smart Water kits were purchased and every registered keeper of these vehicles in Redbridge was contacted and Smart Water was offered to all the owners free of

charge. This included officers attending the address to apply it to the relevant parts of the vehicle that is most vulnerable to be stolen. If the owner's property is discovered then it can be traced back to the owner. This resulted in 63 vehicles being fitted with Smart Water across the borough. Crime prevention advice was also given to residents on how to protect their property. Smartwater stickers are displayed on all vehicles that have been issued with to highlight that it is in use.

This initiative has led to a significant reduction in theft from Fiestas on the ward and decreased the fear of crime for the residents of Clayhall and Redbridge.

Sergeant Steven Beyler of Clayhall Safer Neighbourhoods team, said:

"I am pleased that this initiative has not only been rolled out across Clayhall but also the whole borough. Sometimes Safer Neighbourhoods teams only concentrate on their own wards and don't think how other teams could benefit with the work they have done. We are working together to bring down motor vehicle crime across all Safer Neighbourhoods within Redbridge. Therefore, best practice needs to be shared across all teams so all the residents benefit. We will continue to work in partnership with the residents to make it harder for offenders to target motor vehicles and to send a clear message that Clayhall and Redbridge borough operates a zero tolerance towards motor vehicle crime."