

## Successful partnership work gets kids on their bike

At the beginning of September, Colindale Safer Neighbourhoods team (Barnet borough) worked with both Barnet College and Mike Mullen's BMX Academy to offer a series of BMX courses for local youths living on Colindale ward. The event was well attended and boys and girls from the surrounding area were able to learn a new set of skills that go beyond the basic cycle proficiency course.

Mike Mullen, the 1998 world champion half pipe winner, was there to offer advice and tips to the kids and show what tricks can be done on a BMX bike including his party trick of jumping over five people on a small ramp.

Colindale Safer Neighbourhoods team took him up on that challenge and joined in with the fun.



Mike Mullen from BMX academy, said:

"The training gives the kids focus and gives them an opportunity to identify a sport where they can direct their energy in a challenging way. It is great to see the kids develop their skills and build up their confidence."

PCSO Kimberley Johnson, of Colindale Safer Neighbourhoods team, said:

"This was a great day out for the kids and gave them a free opportunity to learn about what's out there to work towards."

## Police Officers guest speak for Multiple Sclerosis Society

Towards mid-September Richmond borough police officers who were recommended by Twickenham Women's Guild gave a 45-minute safety talk at the first meeting of the newly-merged Richmond and Kingston branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The Multiple Sclerosis (MS) branch asked PCSO Chris Smith to head up the meeting at Meadows Hall in Richmond after receiving a glowing report from Twickenham Women's Guild about a crime prevention talk he gave them some months earlier.

PCSO Chris Smith, of Fulwell and Hampton Hill Safer Neighbourhoods team (Richmond borough), whose wife has secondary progressive MS, was joined by the borough's Crime Prevention Officer, PC Bob Mitchell, and Chief Inspector of Partnership, Steve Kyte.

They gave pointers on home and personal security. PCSO Chris Smith also drew on his experience as a carer to raise awareness of the Disability and Equality Act 2010, requiring businesses to accommodate the needs of everyone, for example manoeuvring chip and pin machines so that wheelchair users can hide the handset when they are entering their pin.

The officers then answered branch members' questions before joining them for a cup of tea and a piece of cake.



PCSO Chris Smith said:

"I wanted to give everyone bite-size, but essential, day-to-day safety advice that would help them. Owing to my experience of caring for my wife, I had a particular interest in the talk.

"I also wanted to get across that Safer Neighbourhoods teams are here to support the community and that people living with a disability will always be treated the same as an able bodied person.

“I hope arrange a lot more of these talks reaching out to specific groups in the community in the future.”

Ray Stonehill, chairman of the Richmond and Kingston branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society said:

“The Richmond and Kingston branches have now merged and we wanted the first meeting to be relevant to everyone. Personal safety of people with a disability is very relevant and important.

“The talk went very well. Everyone seemed really interested in what the officers had to say and I’ve already spoken to PSCO Chris Smith about him potentially giving the branch another talk later this year.”

### **Ealing Police help Scouts earn their badges**

The Hanger Hill Safer Neighbourhoods team (Ealing borough) joined the 1st Ealing North Scout Group towards the end of September for their annual AGM meeting and barbeque.

The team were invited to attend and introduce themselves to the scouts, their parents and other members of the community passing through the busy Montpelier Park event. The team were joined by the Traffic Unit, some MSC officers and even managed to get the “India 99” helicopter to come and do a fly by, which proved very popular with parents as well as the scouts.

Hanger Hill Safer Neighbourhoods team pitched their tent and handed out leaflets and gave crime prevention advice to residents reminding them of the importance of safe guarding their homes and Operation Bumblebee security tips. The team also encouraged residents to visit [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) to register their electronic valuables. The team handed out colouring books, stickers and personal safety advice to the youngsters which was very well received especially as the Beaver Scouts have been working on earning their Personal Safety badges.



Malcolm Turner Head of the 1st Ealing North Scout Group said:

“I am grateful to the Hanger Hill Safer Neighbourhoods team and the other units that came today to show the youngsters what the police do and the importance of personal safety. The helicopter and traffic unit were the highlight for the kids.”

PCSO Emma Lamping who helped organise the police presence said:

“The team were really pleased to be involved in the 1st Ealing North Scout Group’s barbeque and we were happy to speak with the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers regarding the police and personal safety and will be delighted to work with them in future.”

### **Partnership work puts the breaks on vehicle number plate thefts**

Soon after mid-September, Hackney police officers in partnership with Halfords Autocentre, offered motorists the opportunity to have tamper proof screws fitted to their vehicle number plates at Tesco in Morning Lane, E8.

Halfords Autocentre technicians were on site and fitted 79 vehicles with the screws free of charge. Hackney’s King’s Park, Victoria, Wick and Hackney Central Safer Neighbourhoods teams (all Hackney borough) and Hackney’s Safer Transport team were also able to provide crime prevention advice to local shoppers.

The event attracted many people for advice and crime prevention tools, such as free Smartwater kits and personal alarms.

Number plate theft is a growing problem and is often linked to other offences including speeding, fuel theft and driving stolen vehicles. Even with prioritised policing, CCTV and intelligence, there are still many reports of stolen number plates on the borough.





PC Carina Ionannou, from King's Park Safer Neighbourhoods team, said:

"We hope that by organising this campaign and alerting motorists, we can tackle this type of crime. I would like to thank Halfords for supplying the staff and the equipment and Tesco for providing their car park for this event. I would also like to thank the local community who were very supportive of the event and the work carried out by the Safer Neighbourhoods teams."

A local King's Park resident said:

"It's really nice and positive to see police about and it's really important to have days like this. It means a lot to people here in Hackney. My number plate has been stolen before and it is good to know the police are doing something about it."

Rory Carlin, Marketing Director at Halfords Autocentre, added:

"This is certainly a growing problem. We are delighted to offer our assistance to the Metropolitan Police and the public in this attempt to thwart number plate theft."

### **Police call 'last orders' on Vauxhall street drinkers**

A number of individuals that chose to loiter around locations in Vauxhall, consuming alcohol and causing a nuisance to local residents and commuters have been removed thanks to the Prince's Safer Neighbourhoods team (Lambeth borough) following community concerns raised to them.

The problem began when a small group of men began hanging around outside the parade of shops in Vauxhall Walk and Pedlars Park, SE11 acting in an anti-social manner.

The Safer Neighbourhoods team took prompt action to engage with the individuals on daily patrols of the area whilst offering them advice and support from Outreach services.

The team adopted an alternative approach to solve the problem by speaking with the license holder of the local shop from which the group would buy their alcohol from. Through this meeting an agreement was sought between the police and the license holder that they would no longer sell single cans/bottles of beer from the multi-packs subsequently stopping the source of their loitering.

Safer Neighbourhoods team officers reminded the license holder that it is an illegal offence to sell alcohol to someone who appears or is intoxicated.

Efforts so far have resolved the issue and Pedlars Park can once again be enjoyed by visitors and residents while the parade of shops on Vauxhall Walk has been relieved of the anti-social behaviour.

Officers will continue to patrol the area and monitor the situation dealing with anyone that returns to the location.



PC Gareth Turner of Prince's Safer Neighbourhoods team, said:

“Since the end of August the numbers of street drinkers outside the store has dropped to one man who turned up last night, only to leave empty handed.

“This is an example of our commitment to resolving local issues. We are here for the community and will tackle any concerns they may have, with the view of making our borough a pleasant place to be.”