

# Richmond upon Thames Community Safety Partnership Newsletter

## December 2011



### Introduction

Welcome to the December 2011 edition of the Richmond upon Thames Community Safety Partnership newsletter for partners and residents involved in reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime in Richmond upon Thames. This edition includes stories about the launch of the Operational Support Unit, police successes against a prolific burglar in Kew and news that crime has fallen again on London transport. If you have any comments please e-mail David Noakes, Community Safety Officer at [d.noakes@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:d.noakes@richmond.gov.uk) or telephone me on 0208 891 7214.



### Richmond upon Thames News

- **Arrests made in operation to tackle anti-social behaviour following the launch of new special constables unit at Richmond Police Station** An operation at Richmond rail station on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October saw the arrest of 7 people and action taken against a further 14 as the result of an evening operation to detect and disrupt anti-social behaviour and related crime during the Halloween weekend. The operation followed the formal launch of the new Operational Support Unit, which is made up of 40 special constables, who have the same powers as regular officers but give their time free. The unit, which has been active since September, is tasked with assisting south west London boroughs to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour on Fridays and Saturdays. The formal launch was attended by senior police officers and Councillor Pamela Fleming, The Cabinet Member for Community, Business and Culture. A few days prior to this the team had been involved in arresting Darren Wheeler, a violent robber who was one of Richmond's "most wanted" and had breached the terms of his licence having been released early from prison.
- **Memorial plaque will be replaced** A new bronze plaque will be cast to replace the one stolen from the Radnor Gardens war memorial in Twickenham last month after local people voted to support it's replacement at a public meeting. Extra security measures will be put in place, including new lights, by the Council to increase the protection of the war memorial. If the War Memorials Trust and the Royal British Legion agree a new inscription honouring the dead of modern conflicts will be added to the stone plinth. Councillor Clare Head, who organised the meeting said "We cannot let the thieves who stole the plaque under the cover of darkness win, and people agreed doing anything less than replacing the plaque would have been to admit defeat." The RFU has decided to give the profits from its Christmas tree sales to the RTT's Remember Radnor Fund.



### Current Crime Trends, Reports and Campaigns

- **Burglaries in Kew stop following the arrest of a prolific burglar** A prolific burglar who was believed to be responsible for a number of burglaries in Kew was arrested last week for an offence in Surrey.
- **Series of linked robberies in the Hampton area** Since 12<sup>th</sup> November there have been a series of linked robberies in Hampton, predominately over the weekend between 3-5pm in the afternoon and 8-9pm in the evening. The hotspots for these offences have included Holly Bush Lane and Percy Road and the robbers have been a group of black males wearing red bandanas and dark hooded tops. The targets have been young local males

and females who have had mobile phones and other items taken. A knife was shown in one incident and intimidated in other incidents. One suspect has been arrested in connection with 2 offences and has been bailed pending further enquiries.

- **Rise in motor vehicle crime in the St Margarets area** Various areas of the borough have seen an increase in motor vehicle crime including St Margaret's. This trend started at the beginning of November with offenders smashing windows or opening insecure vehicles between 4-7:30pm and overnight. The offenders have been targeting Sat Navs and cash and it is believed this increase relates to the appearance of a number of known vehicle crime suspects, some of whom have been arrested.
- **Vehicle crime around Barn Elms** The car parks at the Barn Elms sports facilities and the Wetlands Centre have been targeted on a number of weekends since the beginning of October. The peak times for offences are Friday, Saturday and Sunday between 10am and 2:40pm and 2 white males on bikes have been linked to at least 3 reports.



## Westminster and London News

- **Crime on London transport falls again** The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has welcomed new figures that show that crime on public transport is continuing to fall. Crime on the bus network is now at its lowest rate in over 7 years, with just 9.3 crimes per million passenger journeys in the first half of 2011/12. This equates to 1,122 less bus related incidents compared to the same period last year or a 9.4% reduction. Figures for the Tube and the DLR fell by 272 offences, which is a 4.1% reduction.
- **Cabinet Office publishes first independent research into the involvement of young people in the August riots** The Cabinet Office has published the first major study on the motivations of young people involved in the August riots. The report focuses on the motivations of young people in 5 riot-affected areas and 2 areas which did not riot. Penny Young, Chief Executive of NatCen who carried out the research said "It is clear from the findings that there is no simple explanation as to why young people got involved, but it is extremely beneficial in aiding our insights into what happened and exploring different motivational factors". To read the report go the following link  
<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/august-riots-england-understanding-involvement-young-people>



## Dates for your diary in December 2011

- **Operation Lockout events (crime prevention information, bike and phone marking)**
- **Operation Lockout event-Richmond Victorian Evening in Richmond town centre 6-9pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011**
- **Operation Lockout event-Hampton Christmas Fair-Hampton Village midday-4pm on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2011**
- **Operation Lockout event-Barnes Late Night Christmas Shopping in Barnes High Street 4-8pm on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December**
- **Operation Lockout event-Sunday shopping event in George Street, Richmond midday-4pm on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2011**
- **Operation Lockout event-Christmas shopping event in George Street, Richmond midday-3pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2011**