

# Anti-terror cops go hi-tech in Haringey

**SNIFFER dogs and state-of-the-art finger scanners helped police search more than 650 people in an anti-terror operation, writes Katherine Faulkner.**

The large-scale crackdown took place across Haringey's bus and Tube stations last Wednesday – and the Journal was invited to watch.

Inspector Mark Hembury, leading the operation at Turnpike Lane bus and Tube stations, said terrorists may still be using the Tube to rehearse attacks.

He said: "We aim to disrupt and deter anyone who has chosen today and who has chosen Haringey."

"If we're very honest we'd be very lucky to find a terrorist today. But we want to show them that we're out and that we're not complacent."

He said that "as an added bonus" such operations also helped officers find drugs, knives and stolen goods. During the early evening operation police made four arrests and issued two cannabis warnings.

The Journal spoke to one shopper from Edmonton who had to complete a form and wait as police spent several minutes searching her bags of Christmas shopping.

The woman in her 40s, who declined to give her name, said she was happy to take part in the operation nonetheless. "I do think it's a good idea to deter people," she said. "Crime is bad around here, so I think it's

important." Inspector Hembury praised the public response to the operation. He said: "We almost always get a good public response when we explain what we're doing and seek their co-operation."

"Some people do feel nervous about it, so we try to explain to everyone what we're doing and why we're doing it."

As well as the explosives-trained sniffer dogs, officers used the latest technology to identify criminals, including a £1,500 portable finger scanning device, which checks the scan against a police database of 9.25million fingerprints.

Police Constable John Watson, in charge of the device, said: "We have had very good results from using the machine."

"We had a guy on the run for a really bad, horrible assault. He evaded arrest when he gave a fake name."

"Then he voluntarily put his finger on here and it came back with his real ID."

"We've had people who have been evading arrest for years and years who have been caught using the device. It's proven very, very worthwhile to have out here."

Meanwhile dog handler PC Pete Beal, who was accompanying springer spaniel Archie, said: "The dogs are pretty accurate, but they can get distracted if somebody has food in their bag. Sometimes you pick up squaddies by mistake, because they've been in contact with explosives."



■ "WE'RE out to show we're not complacent," says Inspector Mark Hembury

## Flat rescue

FIREFIGHTERS rescued two men from a burning flat above a chip shop. The men were caught inside the second-floor flat in St Ann's Road, South Tottenham, when fire erupted shortly before 8.50pm last Tuesday.

Firefighters from Tottenham fire station wearing breathing apparatus rescued the men from the rear of the building using an extension ladder. They managed to save around half of the flat.

## Youths blamed for car break-ins

BORED youths are breaking into cars near an industrial estate in Bounds Green which has become one of the few hotspots for vehicle crime in the ward. The works near the Ringway and surrounding roads has seen car windows smashed in or items stolen.

Sergeant Philip Salter, of Bounds Green Safer Neighbourhoods Team, said: "A few cars have been broken into and some seem to have been damaged just out of sheer spite. But we're still only talking about six in the last couple of months."

## Roads get set for tree planting spree

A BEVY of blossoming trees will be planted on streets across the Haringay Ladder next spring, Haringey Council has confirmed.

Between January and March next year, 53 new trees, including flowering cherries and hawthorns, will be planted on the 13 Ladder streets stretching from Sydney Road down to Umfreville Road.

Ladder resident Adam Coffman said: "It's fantastic news for the area and we look forward to more trees being planted in the future."

## MP hails benefits boost 'great bonus'

PENSIONERS and disabled people on benefits can keep their spirits up well into next year after the Government pledged an extra £60 for the next three months.

The pay-out will see 17,340 Edmonton residents get a helping hand in the winter months with an added £10 cash boost for December. Edmonton MP Andy Love said: "This is a really great Christmas bonus for my constituents."



## Outstanding achievement

MUSICIAN Levi Roots hugs students Nadia Sulaimen and Leon Osborne after handing them awards for outstanding educational achievement.

Teenager Kaisha Jagdeo, who started up a voluntary project teaching young people how to use cameras and computer software, was also among those

rewarded. The Haringey Sixth Form Centre students attended a gala dinner with their families and teachers after the ceremony, which was hosted by the African Caribbean Education and Youth project.

Levi, the founder of Reggae Reggae Sauce who found fame and fortune through the BBC's

Dragons' Den, was joined on stage by Yolanda Brown, a MOBO award-winning jazz musician, and Lord Taylor of Warwick, the first black Conservative peer.

Programme area manager Kevin Anderson, who nominated Kristen Johnson, said she was "pleased to see that Haringey Sixth Form Centre was well represented".

## 'Municipal' Samaritans centre blocked by planning inspector

THRILLED residents have won their fight to stop a controversial modern Samaritans Centre in their street.

The charity has lost its appeal to transform the rundown Shaftesbury Hall in Herbert Road, Bounds Green, into a drop-in centre.

Planning inspector David Stephenson said: "In my opinion this design would have the appearance similar to a municipal or commercial building, of which there are none in the vicinity."

The building's appearance and its effect on neighbours' peace and quiet were cited as deciding factors against the scheme, which also includes two-storey flats. Councillor John Oakes (Liberal Democrat), of Bounds Green ward, welcomed the

chance for all parties to thrash out a new plan for the site saying all residents supported the Samaritans' aims. He added: "I was very pleased to support my residents' objections to the proposal because I thought there planning objections were sound."

"Inspector Stephenson gave us all a nice Christmas present by confirming my assessment."

The scheme was first rejected by Haringey Council's planning committee back in March.

Simon Block, director of the Enfield, Barnet and Haringey Samaritans, said: "We respect both the final decision of the planning experts, and the consistent strength of feeling of local residents against the proposed new building. In light of this decision we will need to properly consider all available options."

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