

1988 Press Cuttings

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Judge praises have a go cop

TRAFFIC policeman Ian Thomas has risked his life for the second time in five years.

Sgt Thomas, 29, lives in Harington and is a motor cycle patrolman attached to Bow.

His "great courage" when faced with gunmen has now earned him his second highest commendation for bravery from an Old Bailey Judge.

But it was not without cost. Sgt Thomas was off duty for six months after a bullet smashed into his hand and shattered part of his arm.

Mr Justice Farquharson told him: "You are responsible for us. You protect us. You put your life on the line and you suffered for it."

Also commended for his gallantry was the Sgt's motor cycle colleague, Pc John Henderson, 23.

They were praised after the judge jailed John Newnam, 27, a street trader from Camberwell, for ten years when he was convicted on charges of wounding and possessing firearms.

Michael Turner, 30, from Rotherhithe, was cleared of those charges and, with Newnam, also acquitted of attempted murder of Sgt Thomas.

But he was sentenced to four years when he admitted escaping from prison custody on his wedding day. That sentence will run consecutively to a 12 year term he is currently serving. It was imposed at the same court in 1983 on

charges of conspiracy to rob and possessing a sawn off shotgun.

The court heard that Turner arranged for a gang to "spring" him from custody on January 20. Guards took him to Wandsworth Register Office for his planned wedding to his long-time lover, Susan Reed, 28.

Minutes before the couple were due to wed the prison guards were attacked. Turner fled, leaving Miss Reed waiting inside and in tears.

Six days later Turner and Newnam were on a high powered motor bike which shot traffic lights in docklands. They were spotted by Pc Thomas and Pc Henderson who gave chase, unaware that Turner was on the run and that Newnam was armed.

The "crazy" pursuit in the East End involved speeds of up to 90 miles an hour. Turner rode across council gardens, up and down flights of stairs, down one way streets and jumped lights.

Finally the suspects' bike clipped a kerb and sent them sprawling. Sgt Thomas jumped from his machine and grabbed Turner who fought fiercely and began to run. The Sgt went for Newnam when pulled a loaded Tuger pistol.

"Leave it out, it just ain't worth it for a stupid motor bike," said the officer thinking that the pair had stolen the Honda. In a battle with Newnam the gun went off. A bullet went through the officer's outstretched hand, shattered his wristwatch and exploded out through his forearm.

Despite the "appalling" injury Sgt Thomas grabbed the gun barrel with both hands and managed to get it away from Newnam. Pc Henderson arrived and went to his aid.

Together they grabbed Newnam and Turner and were assisted by a security guard, Mr Ernest Burnett — he was also praised by the judge and awarded £200 — to overpower the two desperate men. Pc Henderson struck both with his truncheon across the head. A second gun, a pistol, was tucked down Newnam's trousers.

Since the incident Sgt Thomas has undergone several operations and is still receiving treatment. In 1982 a man was jailed for 12 years at the Old Bailey for attempting to murder him. On that occasion the judge paid tribute to Sgt Thomas and said: "It is little short of a miracle that he wasn't killed."

The court was told that the officer was searching a flat in East London when a man threatened him with a pump action shotgun. The trigger was pulled several times at point blank range but the gun jammed. Sgt Thomas grabbed the weapon and arrested the man.



● Sgt Ian Thomas — risked life

Paul Breeden Investigates police issues in the borough

Lay visitor scheme keeps watchful eye

THE long arm of the law will be under the watchful eye of the public in the New Year when Hackney sees the start of a Home Office scheme to protect prisoners.

A group of 26 "lay visitors", working in pairs, will be able to visit police stations to inspect conditions at any time of the day or night.

City Road, Hackney and Dalston stations will be open to the visitors and the police can only keep them out for "reasons of security" — or if prisoner doesn't want to see them.

"Confidence in the police is tragically much too low in Hackney at the moment" said Mrs Betty Blomfield, acting chair of the scheme and chair of the

borough's police consultative committee.

"I think this scheme will go a long way towards restoring that confidence."

Rejecting claims that the lay visitors, who have to be approved by the Home Office, will be "police stooges," she said.

"If anything going on at the police stations we will be able to expose it."

Supt. John Robinson, the community liaison officer, said, "It will hopefully eradicate many myths."

"The people selected are a good cross section of the local population with many ethnic groups, both men and women, and people who live and work in the borough."

"The whole idea of the scheme is to ensure that all people in the borough can be confident of feeling that the treatment of prisoners is being carefully watched by independent lay visitors acting on their behalf."

By RUSS LAWRENCE

DETECTIVES are probing a possible gangland link with the Jamaican-based "Yardies" after a stabbing at a Dalston nightclub.

A 28-year-old man was knifed in the back and slashed across the face at the Four Aces club in Dalston Lane in the early hours of last Monday.

Police hunting the knife man have been given information about a possible suspect who has known connections with the "Yardies" gang.

Scotland Yard recently launched a crackdown on the organised mobsters who since coming to London have set up drugs and vice rackets in the capital.

Dalston police have named the stabbing

victim as John Samuels who lives in Holloway.

He was rushed to Barts Hospital with a three-inch facial wound and a stab wound in the chest.

This week police appealed to revellers who were in the club and witnessed the stabbing to contact them.

"Although it was Jam the club was still full and many people must have seen the incident," said Sgt Tony Read.

Anyone with information should contact Dalston Crimedesk, tel: 488 7159.

Critics say plan's powerless

THE lay visitors scheme has met with scepticism from the council's chief spokesperson on the police, Cllr Adrienne Morgan.

"This idea is little more than a public relations exercise" she said.

The visitors are only allowed to advise on the physical condition of the prisoners.

"And it's always open to the police to refuse access if they think the visit is interfering with the running of the station."

Last week, she said, lay visitors in Lambeth said they wouldn't go ahead with the scheme as the police wouldn't let them talk to prisoners in private.

"I think the power the visitors are given is just too limited" she said.

Cllr Morgan suggested the lay visitors should be able to advise on the charges against prisoners and other matters.



Betty Blomfield — "We will not be police stooges."

Insults fly in the war of words

THE war of words over Hackney Council's public meetings about policing issues in the borough is continuing.

Tory councillor Joe Lobenstein attacked the series of six meetings held earlier this year as an unrepresentative "charade" because only 300 people turned up.

But now Labour's Cllr Adrienne Morgan, who chairs the council's Police Committee, has hit back.

She said: "This attempt to play the numbers game is really just a cheap political trick."

An average attendance of 50 at a series of meetings is a high one. "The 300 figure relates to the number of people who left their names and addresses for further information."

"Many came as representatives of groups with the intention of reporting back to those groups."

She went on to attack Cllr Lobenstein's claims that the borough's Labour rulers are anti-po-

lice.

"It is nothing but irresponsible Tory propaganda," she said. "I categorically state that Hackney Council is not anti-police."

"We have a genuine concern about the type of policing and the quality of policing in Hackney."

"We want a police force which is responsive to the needs of the community, which is accountable to all sections of that community without prejudice."

"There are very real problems to be addressed in the prevention of crime and in the policing of Hackney."

"It is a very sensitive issue and I would ask that in future Cllr Lobenstein adopts a more responsible and constructive attitude."

Hackney Council plan to draw up a Charter for Better Policing based on public opinions expressed at their meetings.

Torchlit demo planned

A TORCHLIGHT procession sets off from outside Hackney police station at 7 pm tonight (Friday) to commemorate the death of one man in police custody and the severe injuries sustained by another.

The march, which has the backing of Hackney Council, will take in Stoke Newington station and end with a rally outside Dalston

police station.

It has been organised by supporters of Trevor Monerville, the man who needed brain surgery following his arrest by Stoke Newington police last January; and by supporters of Tony Hagan, who died at Dalston police station in June, and whose inquest begins on January 14.

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Call for more black officers in police

MORE black officers are needed in the police force.

So says Tower Hamlets Police Community Consultative Group, which has called on members of ethnic minority groups to promote the police as a career for young people.

Set up two years ago as a forum for the police and the community, it has just produced its first annual report. And chairman Reg Beer reckons the experiment has been a success.

He said: "The resolve of the group to pursue consultation rather than confrontation has led to

increased dialogue between the community of East London and those who police it."

The group's activities for 1986-87 included:

- monitoring the police conduct during the News International dispute, and trying to help residents affected by it.
- Investigating the racial attack that took place at the Christian Street Mosque in October 1986.
- condemning the decision of the Inner London Teachers Association to ban police from local schools.
- helping to set up a lay visitors panel to

monitor conditions in police stations.

The group also wrote to the Home Office to express concern at the way the Inner London Education Authority had been forced to open John Scurr School for a meeting organised by the British National Party which ended in violence.

The group currently has 48 members, and is open to any bona fide formally constituted body representing a significant number of local people. Groups wishing to join can obtain an application form from Bethnal Green Town Hall.



● Reg Beer — group chairman

Dalston tops London league

Police stretched as crime spirals

CRIME is rife in Hackney and looks like reaching epidemic proportions according to shock figures released this week

Crime has become an accepted part of life in crime-ridden areas of the borough like Stoke Newington and Dalston.

Statistics showing the number of reported crimes dealt with by Dalston police station in the past year totalled a staggering 21,000.

And borough-wide the figure is doubled when you add the combined totals of reported crimes dealt with by Hackney and City Road police stations.

Dalston now has one of the top

By RUSS LAWRENCE

three highest crime rates in the Metropolitan police area.

A breakdown of the figures reveals there was 1,983 robberies in the area the station covers in the past 12 months with 3,751 beat crimes, 3,598 major crimes, 4,900 burglaries and 6,450 motor vehicle related crimes.

Serious assaults are up by 48 per cent on last year with a 45 per cent increase on the number of rapes.

Street robberies are also up 45 per cent with burglaries on residential and non residential properties showing

an 18 per cent increase.

Snatches and theft from person are down by 29 per cent due to the success of special police crackdowns.

But indecent assaults are up 30 per cent with motor vehicle crime up 20 per cent.

But Dalston police are catching more criminals than ever and the detection and arrest rate is up overall in all categories.

"The sheer volume of crime shows the task that we are faced with and our manpower and resources are stretched to the limit," said Sgt Tony Read.

"That is why we appeal to the public to give us as much co-operation and assistance as possible so we can help fight crime together."

Police slammed as racist by report

A 300 page report heavily critical of policing in Hackney comes out next week.

It accuses the police of persistently racist behaviour, and claims they are getting worse.

And it calls for an independent judicial inquiry into policing in the borough.

The report, which covers 40 years and took two years to compile, was put together by a special panel of inquiry set up two years ago.

Headed by the Rev David Moore, it also included former Brent council leader Merle Amory, and writer Melissa Benn.

They heard evidence from a number of community groups, including the Commission for Racial Equality and Hackney Law Centre, and also talked to

councillors and former Hackney North MP Ernie Roberts.

But police in Hackney refused to co-operate with the inquiry.

Gunshot

The panel was set up by the Roach Family Support Committee, which has been campaigning for five years for an inquiry into the death of Colin Roach from gunshot wounds at Stoke Newington police station in January 1983.

The report is heavily critical of the way the police handled the affair, and especially of the way the victim's family were kept in the dark about his death for several hours.

And it says that the inquiry into his death — which returned a verdict of suicide — left many ques-

tions unanswered.

The report will be published on Tuesday.

There will be a public meeting at Hackney Town Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday to discuss the main implications and findings of the report.



● Commander Bill Taylor was the top policeman in Hackney at the time of Colin Roach's death. Police have refused to co-operate with the inquiry panel.

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● Frank Wilkinson — cautious welcome

Report gets a cautious welcome from top cop

FRANK Wilkinson, the new man in the hot seat at Stoke Newington station, gave the inquiry report a cautious welcome.

"It is always useful to learn lessons from other people's perceptions of relations between the police and the community."

"If this report is read by open-minded people, then there is a possibility that it can contribute to a better understanding between the police and the community in Hackney."

Concerns

"But I have two concerns. First, that the report will confirm the prejudices of people who are not open-minded and do not appreciate the enormous effort police have put into

community relations in the five years since the death of Colin Roach.

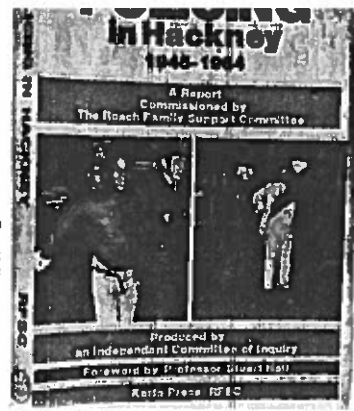
"Secondly, the report talks about things which may have been true five years ago as if they were true today."

Chief Supt Wilkinson admitted that Stoke Newington station had a bad reputation five years ago, but said that much had changed since then.

"Much has been done in that time to improve relations with the community, including work with youth clubs, schools, and old people."

"And we also have area liaison panels, a lay visitor's scheme, and the police consultative committee."

And he added that Stoke Newington police had nothing to hide from the public. "I'd be delighted for anybody to come along to the station and see what we are doing."



● Tunny Hassan

Torchlit demo sparks anti police jibe



● Demonstrators laid wreaths outside Stoke Newington and Dalston police stations in memory of those who died in custody.

A TORCHLIT procession took to the streets of Hackney last Friday in memory of two men who died in Police custody.

The procession, which the organisers say attracted 700 people, set off from Hackney police station and made its way to Stoke Newington.

There Pauline Roach laid a wreath in memory of her brother Colin, who was found shot dead in Stoke Newington police station in 1983.

From there the procession moved on to Dalston police station where a weeping Safiye Hassan laid a wreath in memory of her son Tunny, who died at the station last June.

An inquest into his death was due to open yesterday (Thursday) at St Pancras Coroner's Court.

The procession, which then numbered about 300, stood in silence for a minute as a mark of respect.

The procession then held a rally outside Dalston library where they heard a speech by John Monroville, the father of Trevor Monroville who needed brain surgery following his arrest by Stoke Newington police last January.

Among the crowd were banners commemorating the deaths of Asela Sims, who died in Stoke Newington police station in 1971, and Michael Ferreira, who was carried into Stoke Newington station in 1979 with fatal stab wounds.

The procession was good-natured, and police said it passed off without incident.

Chief Supt Frank Wilkinson, of Stoke Newington station, described the event as an "anti-police march".

He said: "I am heartened by the fact that not a single elected representative took part in the march, nor any community leader that I recognised."

This anti-police march did not represent the views of the local people."

currently facing charges for his murder.

A story linking him with the shooting in last Friday's Carver Road last May.

George Williams, who was involved in the shooting of Michael Sims, was not involved in the shooting of Michael Sims.

Police say the "bustling" area is a "hotbed" of crime.

Throughout the Met's area there is a "hotbed" of crime.

special dossier has been circulated to senior officers.

"We are not complacent about the gang threat and the spectre of any other criminal groups," said a police spokesman.

Varies or any other criminal groups, said a police spokesman.

moderate was adding and had been working and most will be in general Hackney's black community is politically

helping police investigate the crime.

There have been several cases in the past year where victims of various kinds of attacks have been interviewed in

action taken for fear of reprisals.

Dalston police have noticed a "reluctance" in giving evidence

their reputation for "righteousness" in giving evidence

names and known to each other by their

gang because they are nicknamed instead of their real

Police have found it difficult to identify members of the

have come from Jamaica.

"Some of them were born in the UK and have

The Yardies being in different fashions which they call

"fronks".

Police have also uncovered strong evidence of their

of illegal drinking clubs and shebeens.

although they are believed to be involved in the running

multitudes but most have tried to influence Hackney's black

The Yardies have tried to influence Hackney's black

Police surveillance teams have kept a close watch on

year.

They and the rest of the Yardie suspects have been

closely monitored in a secret operation which began last

regard music industry according to the Scotland Yard

All four Hackney-based Yardies have links with the

regard star who had a top ten hit record.

He lives in Stoke Newington and is a Jamaican-born

out in London and the rest in Jamaica.

is suspected of at least 33 murders — two of them carried

One of the four known Yardie leaders living in Hackney

their illegal activities.

At least 30 Yardie leaders are suspected of operating in

expelled three years ago.

The mobsters got their name from the tough dock area

of Kingston, Jamaica, and moved to London after being

once ruled

rackets in an area where East End's notorious Kray twins

known as the "Yardies" which now control drug and vice

according to a secret Scotland Yard report.

They are known to live in Hackney

at least four are known to live in Hackney

new underworld barons of the East End and

BLACK mafia bosses have become the violent

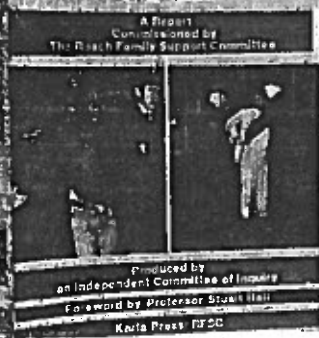
BY RUSS LAWRENCE



● Trevor Monroville in flight

New
barons
of the
East
End

Yardie link in borough revealed in report



Report slams serious abuses

"THE police in Hackney have, over a period of years, been guilty of serious abuses of their powers and their position."

That's the verdict of the inquiry panel after looking at 40 years of policing in the borough.

And they have a grim catalogue of evidence to support their verdict.

Most notorious among these is the White case — the elderly couple awarded £51,000 damages against the police in April 1982 for what the judge called a "catalogue of violent and inhuman treatment" by Stoke Newington police officers.

Judge Mans-Jones said the police, in trying to cover

up their behaviour at the White's home, had been guilty of "monstrous, wicked, and shameful conduct in the name of justice."

But according to the inquiry, "despite this statement and the extent of the damages awarded against the police, no police officer involved in the case has ever been disciplined."

Most of the evidence submitted to the inquiry about malpractice concerned police behaviour to black and ethnic minority communities.

The report highlights instances of malpractice, including wrongful arrests, unlawful use of force, racial abuse, police raids on people's homes, and the use of stop and search.

POLICING — It's one of the most contentious issues in Hackney today. The conflicts about consultation and accountability to the community seem never ending. And so do the accusations of brutality, racism and indifference in the face to the needs of local people. The subject came under public scrutiny again this week with the release of a report by a team of experts into policing in Hackney since the end of the war. It was commissioned by the Roach Family Support Committee and pays particular attention to events surrounding the death of 21-year-old Colin Roach in Stoke Newington police station in January 1983. These pages contain a blow-by-blow account of the report and the reactions of local police chiefs and community leaders. It's essential reading for anyone interested in what's really going on in Hackney today.

Questions unanswered over Colin's death

COLIN Roach could not have died in the way the police and the inquest say he did.

That's the verdict of the inquiry panel set up to investigate the death of the 21-year-old in Stoke Newington police station five years ago.

He died in the foyer of the station from a single gunshot blast through the mouth. The inquest said it was suicide.

But a 300 page report out this week claims the evidence presented at the inquest was riddled with inconsistencies.

It says the inquest left many vital questions about the death unanswered. And it does not rule out the possibility that he was shot by someone else.

The report was published on Tuesday — five years to the day from the death of Colin Roach.

It was compiled by a panel of six experts, headed by vicar David Moore, and including former Brent council leader Merle Amory, and writer Melissa Benn.

Its main recommendations include:

- an immediate public inquiry into the death of Colin Roach and the surrounding circumstances.

- a demand for magistrates to take action when police witnesses commit perjury.
- proper democratic control of the police, including a London-wide police authority.
- more support for community crime prevention initiatives, especially from tenants, blacks, and women.

Borough

The report examines policing in the borough over the past 40 years — and is scathing of the police force in Hackney.

Panel member A.B. Ngcobo said: "We adopted an open-minded and objective approach in examining the policing history in Hackney."

"But after considering extensive evidence, we became convinced that the police in Hackney have, over a period of years, been guilty of serious abuses of their powers."

The report shows that policing problems in the borough do not stem from the actions of ill or misguided individuals, but from police priorities, the structure of the force, and the relationship, or lack of one, between the local force and the community it is supposed to serve."

The police were invited to submit evidence to the panel of inquiry, but declined to do so.



● Colin Roach

Roach family see inquiry report as vindication...

THE report into the death of Colin Roach came out on Tuesday — exactly five years after he was found shot dead in Stoke Newington police station.

It was produced by an independent panel of six, set up in 1983 to examine all aspects of policing in Hackney.

The report was commissioned by the Roach Family Support Committee, which has campaigned for five years for an independent public inquiry into the death of Colin Roach.

Sister

Welcoming the report, Colin's sister Pauline said this week: "We believe the report vindicates the position we have taken for

the past five years.

"On the basis of the available evidence, it is clear to us that Colin Roach did not take his own life."

"The circumstances in which Colin died have yet to be established."

The report has also been greeted by Adrienne Morgan, who chairs Hackney Council's police committee.

She said: "We will be making representations both to the commissioner and the local MPs to consider the findings of this invaluable inquiry."

"We would urge local police to take the report seriously."



● Cdr Adrienne Morgan

Top barrister doubts police inquest evidence over gun death

TOP barrister Lord Gifford — who chaired the Broadwater Farm inquiry — believes that the evidence given by the police at the Colin Roach inquest was tainted by lies and conflicting evidence.

He says the government should order an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the shooting.

His opinion — obtained by the Roach Family Support Committee in 1983, but never before made public — is contained in the report.

In it he says: "The extraordinary failure of the police for 2½ hours to tell Mr Roach of his son's death raises the suspicion, which in my view is a reasonable

suspicion, that time may have been needed to concoct a story."

"That this suspicion is heightened by the lies (as the jury found them to be) told by the police about the length of this period, which the police claimed to be 15 minutes."

"That there was remarkable absence of forensic evidence to show any connection between Colin Roach and the gun which killed him."

"That the gun could not be contained inside Colin Roach's bag without the end stitching out; yet Colin Roach's companion that evening saw the bag but no gun."

That there was conflicting evidence as to who took two unused cartridges from Colin Roach's pocket.

"That no sensible explanation could be given of the position of Colin Roach's body."

"That the inquest rules made it impossible for these and other matters to be properly investigated; in particular the police officers' statements and other records from the police station, could not be examined by the family's lawyers."

"That the jury themselves complained that the case could have been investigated more professionally and more extensively."

GAZETTE SPECIAL REPORT
BY MAX VELODY

HC 15.1.88

Coroner told of drug overdose

Hassan arrest led to police AIDS fears

DRUG addict Tunay Hassan was given "a good thumping" by police officers who arrested him for burgling a house, an inquest heard.

And he was hit again because one Pc feared

Kennedy, representing Hassan's family, told the court that police officers, who arrested Hassan and his girlfriend Seanna Walsh for breaking into a house in Stoke Newington, were "hysterical" after Hassan spat out a blood-stained plastic medicine bottle containing two tablets and a needle.

Pc Brian Reid denies assaulting Hassan after he got some of the blood on a cut on his finger and was later told by a police doctor to have a hepatitis injection.

Pc Reid said: "If he was a drug addict he could have hepatitis, he could have AIDS, he could have anything."

Pathologist Dr Peter Vanezis told the hearing that Hassan's injuries could have occurred in the course of a struggle but they did not contribute to his death.

He said there were a number of injection marks on his body and there was also evidence of inhalation of food particles.

Hassan was taken to a cell at Dalston police station and was taken to Homerton Hospital twice during his night in custody.

He was dead on arrival on the second occasion.

Stomach

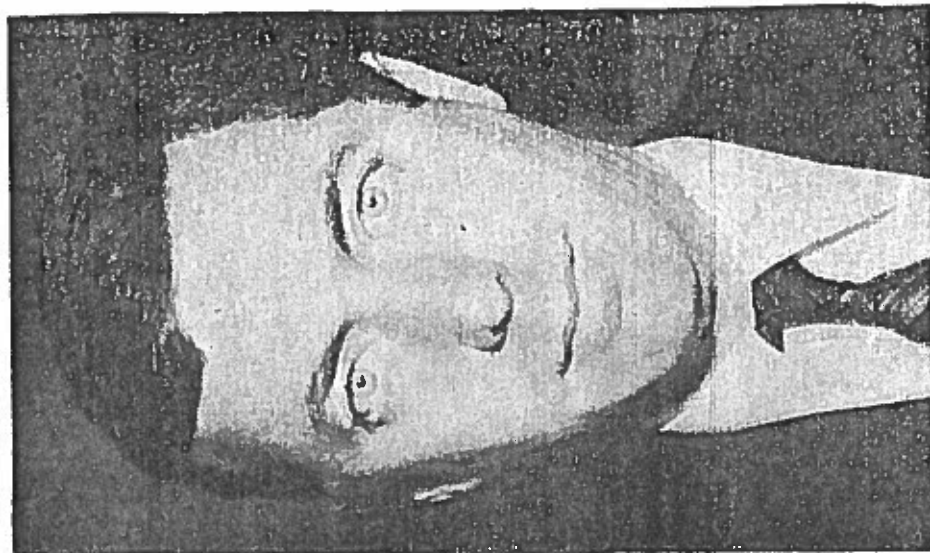
Hospital casualty officer, Dr David Goodier, said he might have used a stomach pump on Hassan on the first visit had he known he'd swallowed drugs. But Hassan had denied doing so and returned to Dalston police station.

Sgt Gerrard Carroll told the hearing that on Hassan's return, the police surgeon had said "I wouldn't be surprised if he snuffed it."

The doctor also told the officer Hassan's breathing sounded similar to "terminal breathing associated with drug-induced coma".

On Wednesday Coroner Dr Douglas Chambers agreed to let the jury hear details from a statement made to police by Seanna Walsh and an interview she gave to a Turkish newspaper where she claimed Hassan had been assaulted.

● The inquest was due to continue yesterday (Thursday).



● Tunay Hassan

Hassan may have infected him with AIDS or hepatitis when his blood splashed on a cut on the officer's hand.

The inquest into the death of 25-year-old Hassan, from Chingford, who was found dead in a cell at Dalston police station last June opened last week at St Pancras Coroner's Court.

Burglary

He was arrested for burglary at a house in Stoke Newington with his 25-year-old pregnant girlfriend, Seanna Walsh, who died from a drug overdose two days after him.

A post mortem revealed that he died from inhaling vomit because of a drugs overdose but that his body, face and head were covered in bruises.

Pc Michael Frost said no blows were struck during the violent struggle as he tried to arrest Hassan at the house in Winston Road.

He also denied that his first concern was to get to a nearby house to wash his finger for fear he may have been injured and infected with hepatitis during the struggle.

Pc Frost said it was untrue that police officers "gave him a good going over" in the back of the police van.

Barrister Helena

Police launch street crime crackdown

New plain-clothes squad aim to make Hackney safer

By RUSS LAWRENCE

A SPECIAL crack police squad has been formed on a permanent basis to combat street robberies in the borough.

Dalston police have made violent street muggings and handbag snatches a main target in the New Year crackdown.

Police have decided to concentrate their efforts on combating the problem after consultation showed it was the public's number one priority.

The newly formed squad follows the success of the special "Santa" squad which operated over Christmas in trouble-spot shopping areas.

It consists of six CID officers and nine uniformed officers who will all be in plain clothes.

Its objective is to investigate street crime and gather intelligence on suspects by

using covert observation and surveillance.

"The formation of the squad and the special initiative against street crime is a reflection of the wishes of the public who we consulted about policing priorities in December by writing to community leaders, the council, the police consultative group and other interested parties," said Chief Supt Frank Wilkinson.

"It showed that muggings came out top with women and old folk nervous about going out after dark."

"We have taken special note of this and are concentrating our efforts on making the streets of Hackney a safer place by setting up this full-time team of officers."

HC 22.1.88



© Tunay Hassan

New Roach probe call

HACKNEY COUNCIL this week renewed its call for a public inquiry into the death of Colin Roach at Stoke Newington police station in 1982.

And councillors backed claims that local police were guilty of "malpractice and abuses of power."

It came as councillors considered their response to the "controversial" report into Colin's death by a special independent panel of leading legal and social experts.

The report, commissioned by the Roach Family Support Committee, questioned the suicide verdict recorded at the inquest into Colin's death.



© Colin Roach

And it called for massive reforms in the way the borough's police force is run.

Councillors at Monday night's Police Committee meeting concluded: "The 309-page report is a devastating indictment of police malpractice and abuses of power and its criminalisation of the black community of the borough."

"Its findings on the evidence submitted to the Colin Roach Inquest leave one with very little doubt that a full and proper public inquiry is necessary into the death and the circumstances surrounding Colin's death."

They agreed to ask Hackney MP's Brian Sedgemore and Diane Abbott to discuss the Roach Family's report with Home Secretary Douglas Hurd.

Hassan Inquest verdict: drug dependency aggravated by lack of care

Rows follow the inquest decision

TUNAY HASSAN died from a dependency on drugs aggravated by lack of care, an inquest jury decided.

The jury took an hour to reach their verdict after hearing seven days of evidence about the death of 25-year-old heroin addict Hassan.

He was dead on arrival at Homerton Hospital last June after spending 15 hours in police custody at Dalston police station.

St Pancras coroner Dr Douglas Chambers told the jury last Friday: "There is no evidence to say this man was killed unlawfully."

After the jury returned their verdict, he said: "It is plain the jury feels concern over this death and I do too."

He said he would be contacting the General Medical Council, the Pharmaceutical Society, the DHSS, the Committee for Safety of Medicine, the Professional Association of Police Surgeons and hospital casualty officers about the case.

Dr Chambers had heard that when Hassan was arrested for an alleged burglary in Stoke Newington, he had taken pills and methadone.

Two post mortems showed that his body had suffered bruising but death was from the inhalation of

vomit due to a methadone overdose.

Hassan, from Chingford, and his 24-year-old pregnant girlfriend, Seanna Walsh, were arrested for burglary - but two days later she died from a suspected drug overdose.

In a tape recorded interview for a London Turkish newspaper she had claimed that Hassan had been assaulted by police while in custody.

Superhuman

During the inquest, Pe Michael Frost denied during questioning from barrister Miss Helena Kennedy, that he had given Hassan "a good thumping" and that other police officers had given him "a good going over."

He said that when Hassan was arrested he had shown "superhuman strength".

After the inquest the dead man's brother, Turkey Hassan, of Parkhurst Road, Wood Green, said: "I have this image of my brother lying on this mattress in a cell in a police station grunting and moaning in pain and left to die."

He continued: "That is an image that will stay with me for ever. It was murder; it was unlawful killing."

Mr Hassan added: "In my opinion lack of care means something could have been done."

The death has been the subject of an investigation by the Police Complaints Authority although Det Supt John Kemp had told the inquest: "I have no evidence that this man was badly treated."

The day before the jury returned the verdict, a police surgeon said that any medicine containers found on drug addict Tunay Hassan when he was arrested should have gone to hospital with him to provide information.

But Dr Krishna Gupta added that the treatment or eventual outcome would not have been any different.

However, barrister Miss Helena Kennedy, representing the family, reminded the inquest of the evidence that, had doctors been aware of Hassan having a medicine container in his possession, then he would have had his stomach pumped.

Hassan would have been detained in hospital for treatment had they been aware that he had taken methadone.

He was taken to hospital for treatment, but returned to custody. On the second occasion he was dead on arrival at Homerton Hospital.

Girlfriend died after heroin substitute

THE pregnant girlfriend of Tunay Hassan choked to death after taking a heroin substitute after being held in police custody for 15 hours.

Pathologist Professor David Bowen told an inquest at Homerton Coroner's Court that Seanna Walsh, 24, was five months pregnant when she died from bronchial pneumonia and the inhalation of stomach contents due to methadone overdose.

He said she would have "died slowly and silently" developed bronchial pneumonia over a two to three day period.

Drowsy

The methadone she used would have made her drowsy and led to the inhalation of food particles. Miss Walsh was staying at Lonsome Close, South Tottenham, following her arrest for burglary. Her common law husband, Mr Phedon Phedones, told the inquest: "She told me she had been arrested and Tunay Hassan was killed."

Professor Bowen said he found a small graze on Miss Walsh's thigh and two small bruises. The woman she was staying with, Mrs Angelica Stone, said she told her the marks were done at the police station but she had fallen down a flight of stairs when the police arrived at the scene where she was arrested on June 24. Her sister Tessaon Sieri said he prescribed methadone on June 22 and then another dose on June 25 when Miss Walsh claimed her head been confiscated by police. Dr Sieri did not check this and it was found to be untrue.

Recording a verdict of manslaughter, coroner Dr David Paul said there was no evidence that Seanna Walsh intended to kill herself.

Police surprise at family's reaction

POLICE action during Tunay Hassan's 15 hours in police custody was "correct in every way".

That is the conclusion of Dalston police chief, Chief Superintendent Frank Wilkinson, following the inquest verdict.

He said: "The coroner said he would be making representations to various bodies, but this did not include the police."

"In summing up the coroner said police action was correct in all respects. The verdict and the evidence show that police action was correct throughout and there was no evidence of anything other than that."

"As far as the police were concerned there was never any doubt that Tunay Hassan died from a drug overdose."

"I am very sorry some people saw fit to allege that police were responsible for what happened to Tunay Hassan."

Ch Supt Wilkinson also expressed surprise that supporters of the Hassan family's Campaign for Truth had welcomed the verdict as "a great victory."

He said: "I find it very surprising that people can talk about victories in relation to somebody's death. It seems to me quite inappropriate."

No comment from police committee chief

HACKNEY'S police consultative committee was due to discuss the outcome of the inquest at a meeting last night (Thursday).

The committee, boycotted by Labour councillors and

Hackney's two MPs, was meeting at Roots Pool in Dalston.

Chair Betty Blomfield would not comment on the inquest verdict before last night's meeting.



Truth campaign hails a 'great victory'

SUPPORTERS of the Hassan family's Campaign for Truth over Tunay's death have welcomed the inquest verdict as "a great victory."

Cllr Adrienne Morgan, Chair of Hackney Council's Police Committee, said: "It is of great significance and raises a lot of questions about Tunay's last hours."

"That is borne out by the Coroner's decision to raise certain points with some of the organisations involved in the case."

"It is something we should publicise as widely as possible. And now we should be thinking about what we can do to give further support to the Hassan family."

Further comments came during Monday night's meeting of the Police Committee - which was addressed by the Hassan family's solicitor Ingrid Sutherland.

Ms Sutherland said: "The verdict implies that there are a lot of questions to be answered about what happened to Tunay Hassan during the last 48 hours of his life."

"There was obviously a case for the police to answer."

"It is a good thing the family were legally represented. If they had not been, I don't see that such a verdict would have been returned."

"The police and the police surgeon involved were legally represented."

Dave Leadbetter from the organisation INQUEST, which attempts to get Coroner's Court procedure changed, told the Committee: "It is very rare for a jury to return such a verdict - it is a great victory."

"After all the campaigns over such deaths, it is the first time that a jury has expressed criticism."

"The police's attempt to say there was no blame to distribute was absolutely shattered. Their evidence was tremendously contradictory."

"Although this incident involved Dalston police station, we are really talking about the Stoke Newington police."

"At long last a court has said there is something wrong there."

Report John Dillon and Julie Davies

HC 29.1.88

HASSAN STORM

FEW rows erupted this week following the inquest into the death of Tunay Hassan in the custody of Dalston police.

A jury at St Pancras Coroners Court decided that the 25-year-old heroin addict died from "a dependency on drugs aggravated by lack of care".

Supporters of the Hassan family's Campaign for Truth about the affair immediately hailed the verdict as a great victory.

The family's lawyer and Hackney councillors said: "It proves there are still a lot of questions to be answered about Tunay's death."

But Dalston police chief, Chief Superintendent Frank Wilkinson, said the verdict shows his officers were in no way to blame for Hassan's death.

"We were never in any doubt that Tunay Hassan died from a drugs overdose," he said.

The jury's decision also prompted re-

newed calls for an inquiry into the conduct of the Stoke Newington divisional police, who are based at Dalston.

Several people have died or been injured in their custody in recent years, including Colin Roach and Trevor Monerville. Hassan was dead on arrival at Homerton Hospital last June after spending 15 hours in cells at Dalston police station.

He had been arrested with his 24-year-old girlfriend, Scanna Walsh, for breaking into a house in Winston Road, Stoke Newington.

Miss Walsh, who was five months pregnant, died from a drugs overdose two days afterwards at a house in South Tottenham.

The deaths provoked an outcry from the Hassan family, Labour councillors and pressure groups who demanded a public inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the deaths.

More than 300 people joined a protest rally over the deaths outside Dalston police station earlier this month.

FULL REPORT AND REACTIONS PAGE 3



● Tunay Hassan

Three councils were represented

MAY I put right the article which appeared in the January 15 issue of the Hackney Gazette about the procession from Hackney Police Station to Dalston Police Station to remember the injuries sustained by Trevor Monerville and the death of Tunay Hassan whilst in police custody.

Chief Supt Wilkinson was quoted in the article as saying that no elected representatives took part. In fact councillors from the London boroughs of Hackney, Islington and Haringey participated. Myself and Cllr Peter Chalk, Chair of Haringey Council Police Committee, addressed the rally.

Chief Supt Wilkinson's comments in the article gave the misleading impression that responsible political opinion was not behind the march. On the contrary, not one, but three local authorities have put their weight behind the Tunay Hassan Campaign and Hackney Council is proud to stand behind the Friends of Trevor Monerville in asking for a full account of the events in police custody that led to his injuries.

Since your article was published, an inquest has held that "lack of care" played a contributory part towards Mr Hassan's death. In the light of this finding, Hackney Council Police Committee's support of the march may be seen to be fully in keeping with the interests of the public. - CLLR ADRIENNE MORGAN, CHAIR, HACKNEY COUNCIL POLICE COMMITTEE.

Crisis meeting on muggings

TENANTS living in fear after a spate of vicious robberies and stabbings on their estate are to hold a public meeting next week to discuss policing.

It follows the knifing last Friday afternoon of a 57-year-old tower block tenant on Lower Clapton's Nightingale Estate.

Bus driver Russell Chittick was recovering from serious stab wounds to his chest and face in Homerton Hospital

this week after he was attacked in the lift lobby of Rachel Point

Violent

Dalston police are already hunting one mugger who has carried out eight violent robberies on the estate since the beginning of the year.

But they are not linking him with the latest attack because they say he has never used a weapon before and his description does not match that of the knifeman.

Tenants who have been calling for better police protection and more patrols on the estate have invited police, council and representatives of the joint police consultative committee to a public meeting to discuss the crime problem at the Downs Hotel in Downs Road on Wednesday night at 8pm.

"We have been pressing for better policing for months because the estate has become a muggers' paradise," said tenants' leader, Ray White.

"We want police foot patrols of the estate stepped up and perhaps some kind of permanent presence to deter and catch these villains." - TV hunt for mugger - page 16.

Police should not 'rubbish' campaigns

CHIEF Superintendent Frank Wilkinson, of Stoke Newington police station, was quoted in the Hackney Gazette concerning the torchlit procession organised by the Trevor Monerville Campaign and the Justice for Tunay Campaign. He said: "This anti-police march did not represent the views of the local people."

Chief Superintendent Wilkinson does nothing to improve community/police relations when making such remarks. By dismissing local concern of police racism and thuggery, he is directly contributing to the community's distrust of the police.

Indeed, by rubbishing local campaigns against police brutality - campaigns which have the support of the two Hackney and Stoke Newington MPs and Hackney Council - he is declaring that the police do not take any notice of public demonstrations. Instead of noting the community's concern and working to change the situation, Stoke Newington police choose to engage in various public relations exercises while disregarding the real issues. - GRAHAM SMITH, TREVOR MONERVILLE CAMPAIGN, RECTORY ROAD, STOKES NEWINGTON.

HC 29.1.88

ILLEGAL car-parking, the Police Complaints Authority and the death of Tunay Hassan in the custody of Dalston police were some of the subjects discussed at the meeting of Hackney's Police Consultative Committee last Thursday. Gazette reporter Paul Breeden was there.

Police complaints boss faces independence demands

THE investigators who look into complaints against the police should be independent of the police themselves.

That was the message from some members of Hackney's police and public consultative group to Sir Cecil Clothier, chairman of the Police Complaints Authority (PCA), who spoke to their meeting last week.

Chairperson Betty Blomfield made it a condition that members couldn't ask questions about specific PCA investigations like that into the death of Tunay Hassan.

Sir Cecil said that with 6,600 cases to deal with in 1986, the Authority relied heavily on police officers to do the investigations.

The officers were very professional and the Authority had wide powers to overrule them anyway, he said.

But that was not good enough for some in Hackney.

"The public have no confidence that an investigation carried out by the police can be truly independent" said Eddie McGinly of Hackney Chamber of Commerce.

"We don't think that's right", replied Sir Cecil, "in our experience their investigations are very thorough."

Mr McGinly said: "It doesn't matter how honest, fair and thorough they are in the investigation, the public simply aren't going to accept it. They (the police) will not be seen to be fair."

Sir Cecil would not say whether he wanted an independent team of investigators.

But he did reveal that he thought opening the PCA's files to the public would be bad - the files would become sterile and lacking in informative opinion, he said.

"Perhaps they would be totally factual, Sir Cecil" responded David Fitzgerald, the member from Millfields User group.

Member rapped over letter

A MEMBER of the borough's police-public consultative group has been ticked off in public - for using the group to "tout for business".

Group member Ronnie Grenada used the membership list to advertise his services as an insurance adviser, members were told at last week's meeting.

Group secretary Terry Oakham read a letter from Mr Grenada, on headed notepaper from the Abbey Life assurance company in Oxford Street, to group member Mrs Rene Lewington.

The letter spoke of Mr Grenada's pleasure at joining the consultative group -- and went on: "I felt that you might wish to consult me in my capacity as life adviser."

Point of principle

Group member Bernard Lantman - also a Tory member of Hackney Council - tried to stop the letter being read to the group, saying they shouldn't have to hear every letter that was sent in.

But he was overruled after protests from member David Fitzgerald, representing Millfields User Group, that a point of principle was involved.

Chair Betty Blomfield agreed - "I don't think you should use the Consultative Group to tout for business" she told Mr Grenada.

"He's completely 100 per cent out of order and as long as I'm in this chair I'm not going to allow this group to be used for anything other than what it was set up for" she said.

Mr Grenada apologised if his letter, sent to several members, had caused offence. "I just wanted all the members to know what I really do" he said.

Estate mini police station shelved

CLAPTON'S Nightingale Estate isn't going to get its own mini-police station after all - despite the success of a pilot scheme to cut down on robberies.

For the first three weeks of the year a special squad of a sergeant and four constables saw street crime almost disappear on the Landfield and Nightingale estates as they stepped up their foot patrols, said Chief Supt Frank Wilkinson at the consultative group meeting.

But statistically there is more crime in the area of Clapton just to the north of the estate, and that's where extra police will be put in future, he said.

The Chief Supt heard Nightingale tenants' representative Ray White protest that crime had made the estate a no-go area for taxis and milkmen, and made insurance rates sky-high.

But he responded: "It is a matter of fact that other areas have more crime than this estate" he said. "People living in terraced houses don't make a fuss about it because they don't know their neighbours and don't realise how many burglaries there are."



Motorists ignore Narrowway scheme

POLICE have charged more than 200 motorists for driving or parking in the Narrowway since it was pedestrianised, Hackney's police community consultative group was told.

But even all the police activity hasn't been enough to please shoppers or traders, admitted Chief Superintendent Niall Mulvihill.

"Too many drivers are exempted from the regulations - buses, school buses, works buses, post office vans, Dial-A-Ride cars for the disabled", he said. Though Dial A-Ride drivers caused no problems there were still too many drivers ignoring the law, he added.

He called for "very high road humps" or several large flower tubs to be laid in the road to slow drivers down.

But the police were ignoring illegal drivers, protested a member of the public, Esther Fricker of Frost Road. "I saw a timber lorry come running down the Narrowway from Dalston Lane right past a police van which did nothing. There could have been a bad accident" she said.

Michael Freeguard of Hackney Chamber of Commerce said the road should be closed off entirely to encourage more shoppers.

"Our Christmas trade was way down on last year, though the January sales weren't bad" he said. "The road needs much better lighting - a lot of people are still too frightened to go down here."

Race hate paper row

THE police-public Consultative Group is to protest to MI5 about the Government's failure to prosecute the race-hate newspaper "Holocaust News".

The paper written by an extreme right-wing group caused a storm when it was put through letterboxes in South Hackney. It pretends that the genocide of six million Jews by the Nazis in the second world war did not happen and claims world opinion has been hoodwinked by Jews.

But the Director of Public Prosecutions has decided not to prosecute the publishers of the paper for inciting racial hatred - despite demands from Hackney Council and the police-public Consultative Group. "We have to protest," said member David Fitzgerald.

The Group agreed to write to Hackney MP's Diane Abbott and Brian Sedgemore, asking for the matter to be raised in Parliament.

Chief Supt Frank Wilkinson told the group they would not get the DPP to discuss his reasons for not prosecuting the paper, because it was not government policy to do so.

Police cells get a clean bill

PUBLIC "watchdogs" for Hackney's police stations have found no evidence of mistreatment of prisoners.

That was the message given to the police-public Consultative Group by Charles Wolfray, chair of the lay visitors scheme which has been operating in the borough since January 1.

In one of his 16 visits to police stations they found a man whose face was streaming with blood.

"I expect you think I've been beaten up by the police," the man told lay visitor Betty Blomfield (also chair of the Consultative Group), "but I haven't - my dog attacked me as I was being arrested."

"He had nothing else but praise for the police," Mrs Blomfield told the group.

The only problems found, said Mr Wolfray, were when prisoners complained of a delay in being allowed to phone their relatives or a solicitor. "In general though, this was just right when we spoke to the custody officer" he said.

The lay visitors were dealt with promptly by the police, he added - "there was no evidence that they had been kept waiting while any mess was cleared up. And no-one was saw was subject to any mistreatment by the police."

No comment on Hassan inquest

NO comment about the outcome of the inquest into Tunay Hassan's death was made by Hackney's police-public consultative group.

Chief Supt Frank Wilkinson announced the verdict - revealed in last week's Gazette - that Mr Hassan died from "drug dependency aggravated by lack of care".

He added that coroner Dr Douglas Chambers had said police acted correctly in all respects in Mr Hassan's 15-hour detention at Dalston police station.

Dr Chambers was writing to six official bodies about the death - which followed Chingford man Mr Hassan's arrest for burglary - but not to

the police, said Chief Supt Wilkinson.

"What is being criticised is the medical treatment and the drugs that he got rather than any suggestion that in any way there was a lack of care by the police."

His statement drew no comments from the consultative group.

HG 5-2-88

Police probe Yardie links in drugs raid

By Russ Lawrence

POLICE swooped to arrest suspected members of the Black Mafia crime syndicate known as the Yardies after raiding a Dalston disco club and bar.

Seven people were charged with drugs offences this week - including the club's owner - and three more were facing possible deportation for being in Britain illegally after 60 armed officers mounted a major operation at the New Four Aces club, only a few hundred yards from Dal-

ston police station.

Police burst in using sledgehammers to break down the doors just after midnight last Thursday and arrested 14 people suspected of drug dealing.

They seized 300 packets of cocaine with a street value of £5,000 plus a quantity of cannabis.

The club had been kept under surveillance for several months and police acted after learning that an alleged meeting had been fixed between Yardie members and local drug dealers to organise fresh supplies of cocaine.

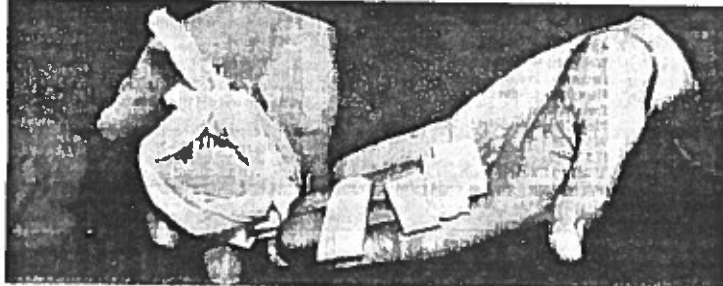
Police have been concerned for some months that cocaine was being sold in the area replacing cannabis which was a

major problem in nearby Sandringham Road until they cracked down on the dealers.

They launched an operation to find out who was creating the new market and became suspicious of a number of "strangers" in the area.

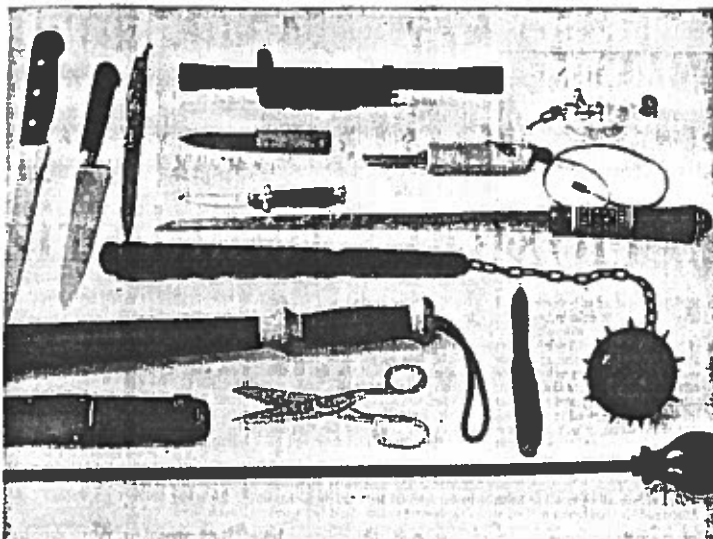
Chief Superintendent Frank Wilkinson, who led the raid, said: "They stood out from the local black community who certainly haven't welcomed them."

"The newcomers had great difficulty understanding English. They spoke in a strong Jamaican dialect. They obviously carried knives. The key clue was that they simply did not know the area."



● Wraps found in the raid containing cocaine

● Pic courtesy Daily Mail



Police turn a blind eye in knife amnesty

By Paul Breeden

A FEARSOME array of knives and other weapons, including a home-made ball and chain with sharpened spikes, have been handed into police since a special month-long amnesty was introduced this week.

Dalston and Hackney police are taking part in the scheme which allows people to deposit knives in special bins outside the stations with no questions asked.

Hackney has a high incidence of

crimes where knives are used, and detectives hope the special amnesty will reduce the number of weapons in circulation and help prevent future stabbings.

The horrific haul of weapons displayed in the photograph above were dumped into the bin at Dalston police station. In addition to the ball and chain and a variety of knives, there was a sword-stick, a vicious home-made club and a telescopic rifle right.

The amnesty will last a month until March 9, and anyone can drop knives or other offensive weapons into the bins without having to give their name.

Every home in the area is also being sent a leaflet to publicise the campaign.

Detective Chief Inspector Chris Newman, who heads the CID at Hackney and

City Road, said: "Hackney is a particularly violent area and crime involving knives and other weapons is a very serious problem."

"Any initiative which attempts to solve, or at least ease that problem, must be welcomed."

Last year, police at City Road put on public display a terrifying haul of weapons seized from teenagers in the borough. It included knives, axes and baseball bats.

"We aim to influence not the hardened criminal, but men and women who carry knives for self defence or to look tough and are then provoked into using them," added Commander Walter Borcham, head of Scotland Yard's Community Involvement Branch.



● Police arrest a Yardie suspect.

● Pic courtesy Daily Mail

Is THIS living without fear?

AS A member of the tenants' association in the Stamford Hill area, I was asked to attend a Police Liaison Panel Meeting at Stoke Newington police station on the evening of January 26. The chairman, Sgt Drew, introduced the panel of speakers, and then began a lively meeting.

The main topics of discussion seemed to be about muggings and assaults, also concern was felt about motorists not keeping to speed limits and using the

roads as race tracks. This irresponsible attitude was endangering the lives of children and old people.

As the meeting progressed, people were getting rather irate regarding their points of view. My own views on the meeting are that the police answered the questions in a clear and concise manner, that the public are showing a lack of support in not coming forward with information that would help the police to catch and convict the criminal, and that politicians are more interested in vote catching than making the laws stronger, whatever their particular allegiance is.

We were told the last war was fought for freedom to live without fear. Yet today we have allowed the thug and the swaggering bully boy to put a curfew on our old folk. Wake up, Britain. - A. STONE-MAN, STAMFORD HILL.

HC 12.2.88

Monerville family serve summons on health bosses

THE family of brain-damaged teenager Trevor Monerville have taken another step in their fight to find out how it happened.

On Monday they went to Homerton Hospital to serve a summons on the City and Hackney Health Authority. They believe hospital medical records will reveal how Trevor sustained his injuries.

Trevor needed brain surgery for his injuries after he was arrested and held in Stoke Newington police station in January last year.

Confirmed

Dad John Monerville and aunt Annette Monerville went to the hospital to hand over the summons to health bosses.

The hospital later confirmed it had received the summons been in touch with solicitors acting for the Monerville family, but refused to comment further.

Allegations made by the Monerville family about the treatment of Trevor have been taken up by the Police Complaints Authority. It has already started legal moves to obtain the records.



● John and Annette Monerville with the summons they served on City and Hackney Health Authority.

For the record

ON page 16 of your February 5 issue, you state that Mrs Betty Blomfeld made a condition that members could not ask questions about specific Police Complaints Authority investigations, like that into the death of Tunay Hassan.

It is true that Mrs Blomfeld made a condition that members could not ask questions on individual cases, but she did not say "like that into the death of Tunay Hassan".

On the same page under the heading "Estate Mini Police Station Shelved", you carried a story which gives the impression that Mr Ray White of the Nightingale Estate is a representative of this consultative group. We would like to make it clear that he was at this meeting as a member of the public asking questions in respect of the Nightingale Estate and not as a delegate of this group. - E. OAKHAM, SECRETARY, HACKNEY POLICE/COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP.

HC 19-2-88

Poster outrage sparks angry backlash on estates

Report by
Paul Breen

SICK posters celebrating the death of PC Keith Blacklock, the officer who died in the Tottenham riots, have sparked a furious backlash on Hackney's housing estates.

The council say they will rip them down - and the police and their watchdogs have united to condemn them after the Gazette exposed the outrage.

The posters, one of which we show below, have been pasted up on Stamford Hill and Nightingale estates, and on a Stamford Hill church.

They are headed "The Official Hooligan" and list four names - Blair Peach, Cynthia Jarra, Clinton McCubin and Cherry Groce allegedly killed by police.

A picture shows police in riot gear fronted by an officer with a pig's head, brandishing a truncheon with a nail driven through it and wearing a swastika armband.

Below is a picture of PC Blacklock, and the

words, "A PC Blacklock Production." At the bottom is the slogan, "Today's Pig is Tomorrow's Bacon."

"It sounds very offensive," said Chief Superintendent Frank Wilkinson at Dalston police station.

"We'll be looking into it to see if it breaks public order laws. It might also be offensive under race relations legislation."

Benny Blomfield, chair of the borough's police consultative group, said: "The people who did this must be sick in their minds."

And Cllr Adrienne Morgan, chair of the council's police committee that opposes Benny Blomfield's group, added to the condemnation.

"We'll be taking these posters down" she said. "They are obviously in extremely bad taste if they mention PC Blacklock. We wouldn't be supporting anything that encourages that kind of violence."



● The Official Hooligan - the poster which blames the police for inner city violence and jokes about the death of a policeman.

Skyflat tenants in plea over muggings

TENANTS on a Hackney estate dubbed a muggers' paradise took their concerns about policing to the top on Monday.

A deputation from Lower Clapton's Nightingale Estate went to the Home Office to deliver a massive petition demanding greater police protection and more bobbies to patrol the estate and the surrounding area.

Representatives of the New Nightingale TA collected over 1,500 signatures for the petition.

It follows a spate of vicious muggings and a brutal stabbing in the lift lobbies of the six 19-storey tower blocks on the estate.

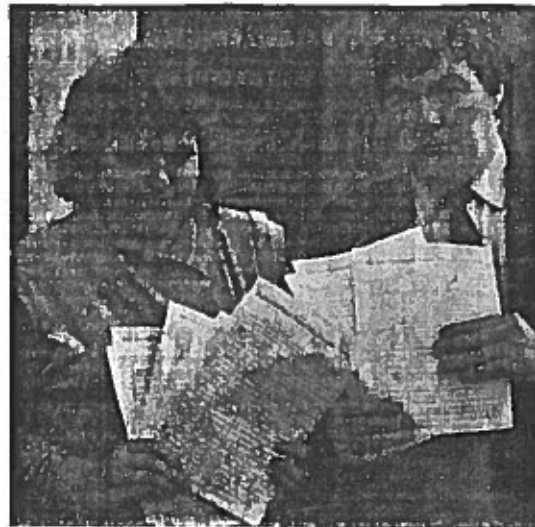
Pressure has led to Dalston police step-

ping up patrols. As a result two extra home beat officers have been deployed on the estate and additional manpower from the Met's Territorial Support Group has been directed there for the next few months.

But tenants fear the crime problem will return when the police withdraw the extra men at the end of the period.

"We feel the levels of policing are just about adequate to ensure the public's safety at the moment, although we still don't have sufficient cover of a night" said TA leader, Ray White.

The police want extra manpower and resources and tenants here are actively lobbying for that.



● New Nightingale TA chairman Ray White and secretary Frances Ryan with the petition they delivered to the Home Office.

HC 26-2-88

The police and the people met at last Thursday's Police-Public Consultative Group, still opposed by Hackney Council as a talking shop. Paul Breeden was there to hear debates on subjects ranging from the Yardies to tenants' associations.

Top cop moves on



© Ted Oakham: "We were just getting to know you."

FOR the third time in four years, Dalton's top cop is leaving - after just six months in the job.

And some members of the Police-Public Consultative Group reckon the area is getting a bad deal because senior officers don't stick around.

Chief Superintendent Frank Wilkinson is to take up a course in senior command at the end of this month, and he won't be returning to his Dalton desk.

"I'm not in control of where I get posted any more than any other officer in the Met" said Mr Wilkinson.

But I have just got to know you," protested Ted Oakham, secretary of the Group. "We have had three Chief Super-

in four years - I feel this is damaging community relations."

"I'm sorry for Stoke Newington that officers sometimes go as soon as they have understood the full problems of the area," said member Maurice Owen.

Member Remand Lantman joined in: "I regret the lack of foresight in appointing a Chief Superintendent and moving him on in so short a time."

Mr Oakham also protested he had heard Supt John Robinson, Dalton's community liaison officer, was retiring soon, also after only a few months in the borough.

Mr Wilkinson said Mr Robinson could retire when he wanted, but hadn't

said if he was going.

Chief Supt Peter Twist, from Holborn police station, will replace Mr Wilkinson.

"I'm sure we will work just as well with Mr Twist as we have with you," said Group chair Betty Blomfield, after a vote of thanks to Mr Wilkinson.

Cdr Adrienne Morgan, chair of the council's police committee, also paid tribute to the departing chief: "Our relations with the police have improved and I think that's been in part due to his approach. But I think it's bad policy that someone should be moved on so quickly."



© Chief Supt Frank Wilkinson: moving on after six months.

Committee chief slams crime spiral

CRIME in Hackney is soaring ahead of the rest of London, the Police-Public Consultative Group were told last week.

Violent crimes, robberies, sexual offences and fraud were all up by more than 25 per cent in the borough in 1987 - figures damned as deplorable by chair Betty Blomfield.

For the police, Chief Superintendents Niall Mulvihill and Frank Wilkinson agreed the statistics are depressing - but claimed a new system of "crime screening" will help solve more cases.

The figures show Hackney had a massive 45 per cent increase in sexual offences reported in 1987, against a "no change" picture for the rest of London. Part of the increase is believed due to greater awareness of child abuse.

Street robberies in the borough were up 37 per cent, against a 12 per cent rise for the rest of London.

For violent crimes, it was 28 per cent up for Hackney, 11 per cent for London.

There were 25 per cent more reported cases of fraud and forgery in the borough - though the rest of the Metropolitan force recorded a 17 per cent decrease.

"I find these figures very, very disturbing. They are deplorable, aren't they?" said chair Betty Blomfield, turning to the police chiefs.

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill agreed the figures were deplorable, but said when police devote more attention to serious crimes, the success rate is high.

Chief Supt Frank Wilkinson agreed - three-quarters of sex crimes are solved, and half of all violent crimes, he said.

The group are asking to meet Home Secretary Douglas Hurd to press for more police officers.

These figures give us all the more reason to go to him to say we need more police in Hackney to bring the figures down again," said Betty Blomfield.

'SCREENING' CRIMES

● A new system of "screening" all crimes, starting all over London in April, will mean police pay most attention to crimes they have the best chances of solving.

Crimes "screened in" - only about 10 or 15 per cent - will get full attention from detectives because witnesses or other evidence make it more likely they can be solved, Det Chief Insp Bill Grahamslaw told the meeting.

The rest will merit a visit from an officer to take full reports and see what can be done - for example, whether fingerprinting is needed. Extra training is being given to all officers.

A system of points will decide which crimes get screened in or out, and local police chiefs can adjust the system to suit local needs, said Mr Grahamslaw.

"It strikes me that some people aren't going to get investigated as well as others are going to get away with it," said group member David Fitzpatrick.

But Mr Grahamslaw said each constable was being trained to act as an investigator. Surveys after a pilot scheme in Wandsworth showed victims of crime were more satisfied with the police response, he said.

TA has its say

TENANTS in one of the Nightingale estate's two residents' groups have got a voice on the Police-Public Consultative Group.

Members of the group voted against Ray White's New Nightingale Tenants Association becoming a member, even though Mr White withdrew his application during the meeting.

The New Nightingale TA has 1,100 members, compared with the Nightingale TA's 300, claimed Mr White, and so it should have a voice on the group.

But chair Mrs Betty Blomfield said the New TA didn't have a constitution, AGM or accounts as approved by Hackney Council, whereas the original TA did.

Mr Jack Talhoys, of the "old" TA, was voted in as delegate to the group.

Ethnic drive for police

ETHNIC minorities are at their highest levels ever in the Metropolitan police, and numbers are rising all the time.

But that still means only 417, or two per cent, of the Met's officers are non-white, said Insp Bernard Law, announcing a new recruitment drive in Hackney for the spring.

The drive, starting on May 11, involves Scotland Yard, Hackney's Job Centres, the local Crime Prevention Panel and has the backing of the Police-Public Consultative Group.

As well as more non-white officers, the force also wants more officers from the inner city, as they will understand local problems better, said Insp Law.

Racist sheet escapes court threat

PUBLISHERS of the racist newsletter Holocaust News are not to be prosecuted - despite protests to the man in charge of starting court cases.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Alan Green, has refused a second request from Hackney's Police-Public Consultative Group to bring charges of inciting racial hatred, the Group was told.

But the DPP has yet to reply to Brian Sedgemore MP, who wrote telling him: "I cannot understand why no one is being prosecuted for

conduct which clearly acts as incitement for racial hatred. The public has a right to know why people are not being prosecuted."

The DPP told the Consultative Group that despite reconsidering Holocaust News, which pretends that Nazi genocide of Jews in World War Two did not take place, he still thought it should not be prosecuted.

The newsletter was pushed through doors on the Wyke and Morningside estates, among others.

Yardie stories cause anger in community

STORIES about the "Black Mafia" in the media are causing tension in Hackney's black community the consultative group was told.

"A handful of people seems to be creating a storm within the community," said Mike Muirhead, spokesperson for Roots Pool Development Association, a black Dalton community association.

The special police squad set up to catch the "Yardies", allegedly drug pushers from the Caribbean, was focussing on black people, he said.

"Black dances might have

a small element of trouble in their midst - but only as there might be at a football match or at the Hilton hotel," he said.

Raids

Chief Supt Frank Wilkinson said the squad was aimed at the criminals, not at raids on a particular part of the community.

Media reports about the Yardies were confusing people, said Mr Muirhead, and community workers would have to work hard to avoid panic.

Police probe into pub beating drags on

INVESTIGATIONS into the seven policemen accused of beating up a man in a Hackney Road pub are still going on, four months later.

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill said he hoped the inquiry was "rapidly reaching its final stages," speaking at the Police-Public Consultative Group.

The seven policemen, all suspended at City Road police station since November 17, are alleged to have kicked and punched 24-year-old Gary Stretch in the Limes pub.

His face was said to be slashed with a broken glass, and his ear cut so badly it was almost hanging off.

Police apology to Monerville

POLICE this week apologised to the family of Trevor Monerville following his wrongful arrest this week.

He was arrested at his girlfriend's flat in Holmerton on Tuesday morning and taken to Hackney Station on suspected breach of bail conditions.

But two hours later he was released and police admitted they had made a mistake.

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill told the Gazette: "Trevor was arrested because the officer believed - honestly but wrongly - that he was in breach of his bail conditions."

"I regret any inconvenience caused to Trevor Monerville but I must stress that the officer acted in good faith."

"Unknown to police, Trevor's address for bail purposes was changed."

"I hope that my apology will go some way towards pouring oil on troubled waters."

MP blames media for hysteria over Yardies

MP Diane Abbott has hit out at what she says is hysteria whipped up by the media over the Yardies.

Dubbed the "Black Mafia" by the national press, the Yardies are said to be a gang of Jamaican criminals now spreading through Hackney and the rest of London.

But Ms Abbott, MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, said their role in London crime is being hugely exaggerated.

"We all know there is black involvement in crime in London," she said. "And some of that involvement is Jamaican and some is from there recently. But there is a danger of blowing the whole idea of the so-called Yardies gang out of proportion."

She said: "The concept that there is some huge black mafia that controls all black crime is absurd, and the danger is that the non-existent threat of a mythical huge Yardie gang may be used as a justification for counter-productive policing against the black community as a whole."

"I brought this matter up in a meeting with the Home Secretary, Douglas Hurd, last week, and he agreed with me that it should be a joint effort to bring the Yardies to the attention of the public."

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HC 4-3-88



Squatters dig in over battle for homes



**Gazette
Two Page
Report
Newsteam:
Paul
Breenen,
Max
Velody,
John
Billon,
Russ
Lawrence.
Pictures
from Chris
Wood.
See P7.**

SQUATTERS turned the Stamford Hill estate into a no-go area for police this week as they prepared to resist threatened mass evictions.

About 250 protesters set up the barricades at 4am on Monday - setting fire to two abandoned cars, rolling over giant rubbish bins and overturning lorry-sized skips.

They were in control of the estate until Wednesday morning when squads of police moved in to clear the barricades.

All the entrances to the estate were padlocked and shut, watched by squatters masked by scarves.

They were responding to what they thought was an imminent raid by police, a threat feared for weeks since Hackney Council said it was going to court to get eviction orders for the 120 squatted flats.

The first action - unknown to those on the estate - was the arrest of three people in a car outside the estate at 12.10am.

One, a squatter from Quantock House, was released without charge. The driver, from Hemel Hempstead, was taken to St Albans for questioning about an alleged motoring offence. Another was questioned about an alleged drugs offence.

Hours later, at about 4.30am, before the barricades were up, squatters say a car drove into the estate and two men got out, abusing squatters and knocking them about. "They turned around and drove out fast," said one.

After that came hours of tension as squatters watched and waited.

At 8 am, trucks with containers thought to be ready to hold the squatters' furniture arrived in Lynmouth Road.

Early on Monday afternoon a breakdown truck appeared at the

main gate on Stamford Hill, ready, according to the driver, to tow off a car in the main barricade.

But that, too, drove off around 3pm.

Squatters guarded the gates in shifts, responding to complaints about spilt rubbish by clearing it up during the night.

They also opened one gate for tenants who wanted to come and go in their cars.

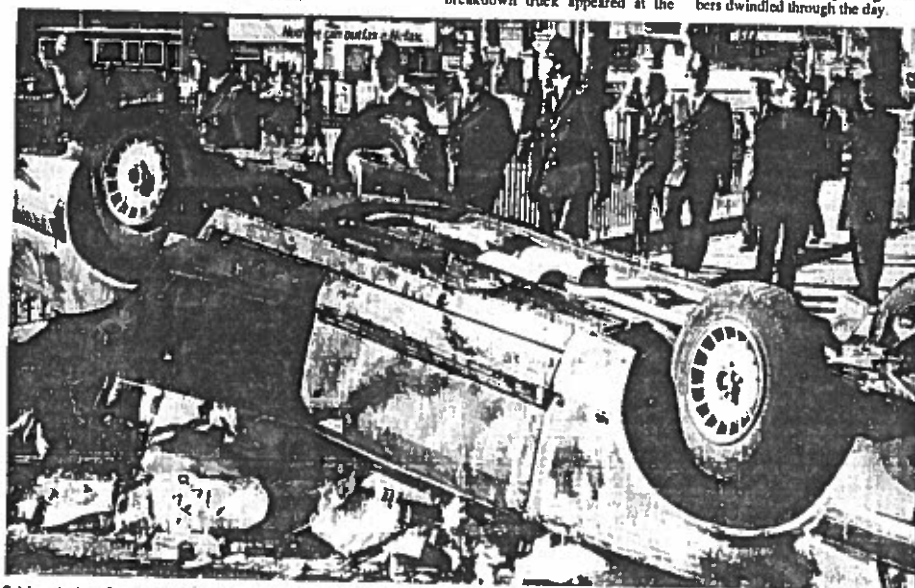
It was all quiet until 8.40 Tuesday morning - and the next arrest.

Squatters say Donald Brown was doing nothing more than walking along Lynmouth Avenue when he was arrested by officers from a riot van.

The squatters stayed at the barricades through Tuesday though numbers dwindled through the day.



● A squatter behind a mask.



● A burnt-out car forms a barricade on the estate.



Phone line demand to beat race attacks

BANGLADESHI community leaders want a racial attack hotline set up in Hackney.

They met police top brass at Stoke Newington police station this week to make their request.

They want a phone contact set up between the station and leading Bangladeshis so that they can liaise more closely over racial incidents.

And they also want to see greater Bangladeshi representation on the police-community consultative group, and Bangladeshi speaking liaison officers employed at police stations.

Present at the meeting were Mohammed Abdul Mannon, chair of the Clapton and Homerton Bangladeshi Welfare Association and Uddin Hudaib of Hackney Bangladeshi Youth Organisation. They met the police community liaison officer, Insp John Robinson.

● Hackney Council last week gave the green light to a £225,000 Bangladeshi Community centre to be built this year in Amhurst Road.

Man let police tyres down

A MAN deflated the tyres of a police car during a demonstration by squatters to stop them leaving the Stamford Hill Estate on Monday of last

week. Street, Blanton was given a conditional discharge for a year and ordered to pay £10 costs and £10 compensation after admitting criminal damage.

HC 11.3.88



Assault alleged

A WOMAN press photographer was attacked by a squatter, it was claimed this week, as she covered Monday's Stamford Hill estate siege.

Theris Michaelidou reported the incident to Dalston police after she says she was involved in an argument with a squatter who threw water over her, pulled her hair and punched her on the side of the head.

She was advised to take out a private prosecution for common assault.

... siege of Stamford Hill... siege of Stamford Hill ...

Housing chief in flats handover pledge

FLATS cleared of squatters will be handed over to homeless families within a few weeks, Hackney's housing chief pledged yesterday.

Cllr Brynley Heaven said refurbishment work would begin immediately to prepare the flats for people currently living in bed-and-breakfast hostels to move in.

"Some will take just a day to do up. Others may take a few weeks," he said. "It depends what sort of condition the squatters have left them in."

Squatters were kicked out of around 100 flats when police finally moved on to the estate to begin evictions on Wednesday.

Tough security measures will now be in force to prevent squatters returning to the estate.

Cllr Heaven said: "We have mobile estate patrols and arrangements have been made with local police to ensure the squatters do not come back. Obviously, these measures will be stricter than those usually in operation."

He said most tenants on the estate would be glad the squatters were gone.

"A minority of people backed them - largely through war-weariness at the condition of the estate, I believe. But the majority were fed up with the violence and the vandalism," he said.

"Their actions this week were reprehensible - and dangerous."

"We have now cleared the largest squat in the borough. But our policy of evicting squatters will continue so that we can remove more families from the squalor of bed-and-breakfast hostels."

Cllr Heaven also praised police actions during the two-day "siege" at the estate.

He said: "Sometimes they are accused of over-reaction - sometimes they are accused of under-reaction. Their actions in this case were quite right and correct."



● RIOT police move into the estate on Wednesday morning



Fire chief hits out over

barricades

A FIRE Brigade chief accused squatters of putting the lives of tenants at risk this week by throwing up barricades across the entrances to the Stamford Hill estate.

Two burned out cars and overturned council rubbish skips were placed across the four main entrances to keep out the anticipated mass evictions by police and bailiffs.

But it could have caused firemen great difficulty in reaching and rescuing occupants if a flat blaze had broken out on the estate, say senior fire officers.

"Any delay, however small, is important where lives could be at stake," said Divisional Officer, Paul Godfrey.

"And vital seconds might have been lost if the barricades had needed to be shifted so fire engines could gain access."

But the Fire Brigade say they were confident they could have responded quickly to a genuine emergency despite the barricades.

"They would have slowed us down minimally and I'm sure the squatters and residents would have co-operated in moving them," added Mr Godfrey.

HC 11.3.88

Squatters slam fascist link claims

"Evict Labour - not the homeless" campaign - which the squatters say is just cashing in on their action.

Searchlight believed the fascists tried to infiltrate the squatters campaign so they could launch attacks on Hackney Council because of its anti-racist policies.

They warned that it would be easy for the NF to convince disaffected squatters to support them and take violent action against the council if they covered up their true political beliefs.

But Jason Blake said: "That's a load of rubbish. We abhor the NF."

HACKNEY'S squatters army have angrily denied claims they are linked with the fascist National Front.

Jason Blake, of the Hackney Housing Action Group, said: "They tried to get involved with the occupation at Stamford Hill Estate - but we chased them off."

"We are anti-racist and anti-fascist and we want nothing to do with the National Front."

A report in the anti-racist newspaper Searchlight said NF activists had infiltrated the campaign by squatters against evictions by Hackney Council.

And the NF have since launched their own

Murder victim's family distressed over funeral arrangement delay

THE grief-stricken widow of Thomas Lee finally buried her husband last week nearly five months after he was attacked in the street and killed.

The 52-year-old never regained consciousness from head injuries he suffered in the attack just yards from his home in Belgrade Road, Stoke Newington, in October last year.

A man has since been charged with his murder and police are still hunting for three other suspects.

Mourners who attended his funeral at St Matthias Church in Matthias Road, Stoke Newington, included neighbours, representatives of local black community groups and shopkeepers along Stoke Newington High Road, many of whom also sent wreaths.

He was later buried in a private ceremony at Manor Park Cemetery.

The long delay in getting Mr Lee's body released from police custody so arrangements

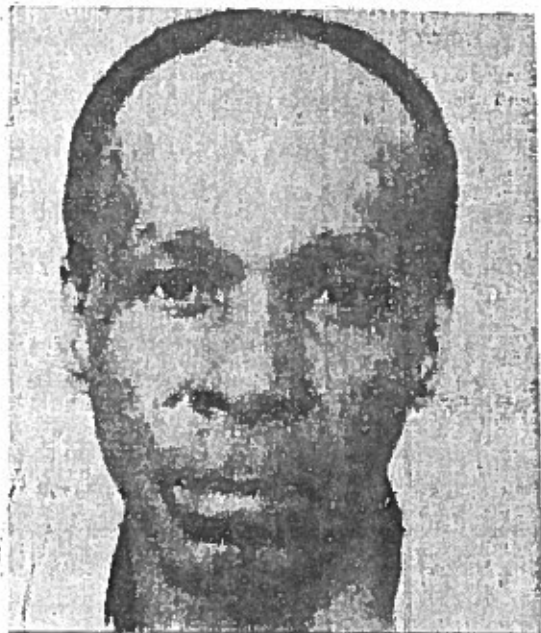
could be made for his burial brought strong demands for an explanation this week.

The Claudia Jones Organisation - a Stoke Newington-based Afro-Caribbean Women's welfare group - said the lengthy hold-up had caused upset and distress to his 57-year-old widow, Elmaud, and the rest of the family.

"The family was only given clearance to remove the body for burial a couple of weeks ago, so everything had to be hastily arranged at short notice for the funeral," said a spokesperson for the Claudia Jones Organisation.

But Det Chief Supt, Roger Stoodley, said it had been necessary to keep the body for that amount of time to allow it to be examined by lawyers representing other defendants.

"It was examined by defence counsel for the man we have already charged, but other arrests might have followed during our inquiries and each of their defence lawyers would have been entitled to examine the body as well."



● Murder victim Thomas Lee

HC 18-3-88

RACE ATTACKS, gay-bashing and force accountability were just three of the issues discussed at Monday night's meeting of Hackney Council's Police Committee. Gazette reporter PAUL BREEDEN was there.

Attacks on Fears that race gay men assaults can bring police still go response unreported

ATTACKS on gay men outside a Shoreditch pub have brought a strong response from the police.

The Hackney Council Police Committee gave the police a pat on the back for their patrols and swift arrests after five attacks in January, involving four head injuries and damage to a car.

Five people have been charged with violent disorder and one with criminal damage.

But there is a fear that the police will not be backed up in court by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), which decides what charges to bring, said Barbara Roche, head of the council's Police Committee Support Unit.

"We have found the CPS sometimes reluctant to press more ser-

ious charges," she said.

"I fully appreciate the CPS has just taken over the job of prosecutions from the police," she said.

Ms Roche wrote to the CPS asking for "the fullest possible range of charges to be considered," after problems bringing charges when a man had beer glasses rained on his head at the same pub in March 1987.

On that occasion, she said, police said they could not bring charges because the man could not identify his attackers as blood was streaming into his eyes.

The CPS said: "We are obviously aware of the nature of these attacks, and we have a policy on them, but we make charges purely on the strength of the evidence."

Have-your-say chance on policing unveiled

PEOPLE'S ideas on how they think Hackney should be policed will be launched in a blaze of publicity later in April.

Hackney Council's "Charter For Better Policing," was unveiled on Monday, based entirely on public reactions to policing in the borough.

Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the national Labour Party, is hoped to be on hand for the official launch.

It calls for the police to pay more attention to community groups in deciding which crimes to fight.

New move to combat child abuse

CHILD abuse is to be tackled head-on with the co-operation of social workers and the police, the committee heard.

Members welcomed a new report from the Metropolitan Police on how child abuse cases can be handled with the interests of the child the first priority. Every organisation that could help, like schools and hospitals, would be involved, said Barbara Roche, head of the Police Committee Support Unit.

POLICE response to race attacks in Hackney is now much quicker and more efficient.

That's the view of Hackney Council's Police Committee which met on Monday.

A second spate of racist window-breaking at Wigan House in Upper Clapton brought "intense police activity" on the estate, said Ian Booth, district housing officer.

An officer was in the victim's flat when windows were smashed - he ran out but couldn't catch the culprits, according to Mr Booth.

One suspected snacker has left the estate and the council has taken the first legal steps towards eviction according to Mr Booth.

against two others, said Mr Booth.

But housing shortages meant he could not offer the family suffering the attacks suitable accommodation, he said.

Chair of the committee Cllr Adrienne Morgan said she was still worried that a lot of racial attacks were not being reported to the police. She was surprised, she said, that most attacks logged by the police were in private accommodation, not on council estates.

Barbara Roche, head of the council's Police Committee Support Unit, criticised a London-wide police seminar on racial incidents for being "vague" and "moralising."

'Meter maids employed by council' idea

TRAFFIC wardens could become council employees, if long-term suggestions from the police are followed up.

Hackney Council's Police Committee backed the idea on Monday, but said they needed to know more about how they could pay for the service.

"Parking on main roads is a problem in Hackney, especially roads like Stoke Newington High Street and Kingsland Road," said Cllr Tony Millwood.

The police should deal with crime-involving cases, and the council with parking, he suggested.

The idea is to be looked into by council officers.

Top cop quits his beat



DALSTON'S top cop waved goodbye to his beat this week as he stepped down to go on a training course.

Chief Superintendent Frank Wilkinson, pictured above, is being groomed for promotion by the Met and has to leave his job in charge of policing Dalston and Stoke Newington after only seven months.

But he's taking away with him a strong impression of a lively area and people eager to help fight for the kind of police force they want.

"People here are very keen to improve the borough in all sorts of ways - in other areas I've not seen the same keenness to get involved in things like the Crime Prevention Panel, the Police-Community Consultative Group, the support scheme for crime victims and the lay visitors scheme for police stations."

"There's a very high crime rate and people are very concerned about that. But there aren't sufficient police officers to provide the service we would like."

Difficult

"I don't think it's a difficult job - but we have more work to do in keeping in contact with all the different parts of the community that have their own ideas about how they would like to be policed."

Chief Supt Wilkinson's departure aroused criticism when it was announced last month - it means the area has had three police chiefs in four years.

But he'd love to come back, he assured the Gazette. Despite their dismay he was leaving, members of the consultative group and the council's police committee both congratulated him on his hard work and open approach to the job.

His successor is Chief Superintendent Peter Twist, former chief at Holborn police station.

HC 25-3-88

Screen test aims to put crimes in focus

A NEW system of screening crimes so police concentrate their efforts on those cases which they believe they have the best chance of solving has been introduced in Hackney.

The special points system for assessing crimes known as "crime screening" is being introduced throughout the Met and will enable more police officers to be released for street patrols.

They will no longer be tied up helping detectives investigate crimes where lack of evidence means there is little or no hope of them catching anyone.

The system will mainly apply to street robberies and burglaries. All serious crimes including murder, rape, serious as-

sault and racial attacks will be fully investigated.

Under the new system, which had successful trials in South London, crimes will be "screened out" before they are passed onto the CID for investigation.

Instead uniformed officers who initially respond to a crime will be expected to gather as much information as possible including descriptions or details of a suspect and whether a potentially identifiable vehicle was used and the possibility of forensic evidence.

The details of the crime are then evaluated on a points system based on what evidence and clues emerge from the initial investigation. It will allow detectives to concentrate on crimes they can solve and prevent them facing a huge backlog of often hopeless cases.

Dalston's new top cop, Chief Superintendent Peter Twist, reassured Hackney's public this week that the police wanted them to report all crimes and not to decide themselves about whether it was worthwhile.

"Every crime is carefully recorded and a number of procedures followed," he said. "Where we think we can detect a particular crime we are directing more resources to these offences by screening out crimes where we have little chance of ever detecting the persons responsible."

"I stress that every crime reported remains on our books and we will continue to do all we can to detect as many of these as possible and help the victims in any way we can."

● SCREENING will enable police to detect more crimes - Chief Supt Peter Twist.

Ethnic police plea goes to the top

HACKNEY needs more police officers from the ethnic minorities patrolling its streets - and that plea has gone right to the top.

The Metropolitan Police are to launch a big recruiting drive in the borough in May - and the Hackney Police-Community Consultative Group are hoping for a large catch from the ethnic minorities.

The Met has been aware for some time that it's failed to encourage many black and ethnic minority people to become police officers. Inspector Bernard Hall told the Group's last meeting in February.

But the figures were now higher than ever and going up every year, he said.

Now Ted Oakham, secretary of the Group, has put in a plea to the Met's Staff College in Hampshire for the recruiting drive to pay special attention to Hackney's different ethnic communities.



● "Ethnic minority officers have much to offer the police force" says Ted Oakham.

"We are sure they have much to offer the Metropolitan police force", he said.

"Most of all, it would be good for this community to have more ethnic minority police officers on the beat in Hackney and Stoke Newington."

HC 8-4-88

CHIEF Superintendent Peter Twist, the new boss of the Dalston police division, took a bow at last week's meeting of the Hackney Police Consultative Group - and he straight away made his mark on borough affairs. The meeting covered many policing issues. Gazette reporter MAX VELODY was there.



Hate paper escapes court

THE publishers of an evil anti-Jewish newspaper circulating on the streets of Hackney are not to be prosecuted. The Director Of Public Prosecutions has said that, under existing laws, a prosecution of the printers and publishers would be unlikely to secure a conviction.

Hackney South MP Brian Sedgemore and Bow And Poplar MP Mildred Gordon have both expressed their outrage at the "Holocaust News" paper, and have pressed the DPP to take action.

The consultative committee has also written to the DPP calling for a prosecution.

Headmaster lashes out

HEAD teacher John Light has lashed out at those Hackney heads who refuse to have police in their schools.

"I think they are misguided and wrong," said Mr Light, a group member and head of Hackney Free And Parochial School.

Hackney Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill said "Steps are being taken to get police into those schools which 'are at present stopping us'."



● Peter Twist - already in the thick of action.

Probe over teenager's police beating claim

Get tough plan on muggings

A CRACKDOWN on muggings and burglaries is expected next month when cops from the Territorial Support Group come into the borough.

The TSG was formed to replace the Special Patrol Group, whose policing tactics were regularly criticised by black community leaders.

But Hackney's top cops moved swiftly to reassure the consultative group about the arrival of the TSG.

Chief Supt Peter Twist said: "The TSG are very different from the SPG which had a very unfortunate reputation, particularly among the black community."

And Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill said: "The TSG have been here three times in the past year, and we have had no problems."

Charlie Collins, co-ordinator of the Root Pool Development Project, said it was important that policemen moving into the area were aware of all the work that was being done to improve police-community relations. "Senior police must tell the new officers to thin about the future," he said.

A TOP-LEVEL police probe has been ordered into allegations that a teenage boy was beaten up by plain-clothes cops from Hackney station.

Jason Makalla, 17, claims that he and a friend were beaten with truncheons after being arrested in Lower Clapton Road last month.

And he claims that he was in agony after one policeman yanked his earing during the arrest.

He says he could recog-



● Charlie Collins - report submitted.

nized one of the officers if he saw him again.

An official complaint has been filed against the police, and is being investigated by officers based at Leman Street station.

And the matter was brought before the consultative group following a report submitted by Charlie Collins, of the Root Pool Development Agency.

Jason, who lives in Hackney, was released without charge after the incident, and claims that police his parents in the dark about his arrest until after he was released.

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill said he would be investigating the matter fully and presenting a full report on the alleged incident at the next meeting of the consultative group.

Top cop blasts gunshop

NEW Dalston top cop Peter Twist has made an immediate impact on local affairs by launching a broadside against the controversial gun shop in Albion Road, Stoke Newington.

He said: "We are increasingly concerned about the use of firearms. We would regret anything that made them easier to obtain."

"The increasing use of firearms, particularly in Hackney, is alarming."

He was backed by Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill of Hackney police station, who said: "I hate the thought of a gunshop in the borough."

There was concern at the meeting about the display of guns at the controversial gunshop, and at the easy availability of air rifles for youngsters.

The group will be writing to the Home Secretary to support his call for tighter controls on weapons. It will also write to Hackney Council to support its opposition to the gunshop.

Hero cop commended

DALSTON cop Chris Green, shot in the thigh while trying to thwart an armed raid in Stoke Newington in February, has received a letter of commendation from the committee.

Members heard that the constable's courageous act was an example to all the officers in the police and to everyone in the London Borough of Hackney.

Drug user cheats death after swallowing coke

A DRUGS user came close to death after swallowing a massive bag of cocaine in a police station.

The man was put on a respirator in an intensive care unit after gulping down the cocaine.

He had hidden the drugs in his mouth, and when comed policemen into giving him a glass of water. They realized something was wrong when his mouth began foaming.

The incident emerged in a report of the lay visitors, who make regular visits to prison cells. But Hackney Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill sounded a warning about making cell visits in the early hours of the morning.

He said: "It might be prudent for custody officers to point out to lay visitors of the dangers of awakening prisoners in the middle of the night."

He claimed there was a risk that court cases could collapse if defence lawyers could prove their clients were questioned by police while over-tired following late night interruptions from lay visitors.

Ted Oakham, secretary of the consultative group, warned lay visitors not to be too trusting of information where the police were the only source.

Row over meeting held during passover

JEWS in Hackney were up in arms at the decision to hold last week's meeting during the Jewish Passover holidays.

Group members forced to miss the meeting included Tory councillors Joe Lohenstein and Bernard Lansman, and Maurice Owen.

Group chairperson Betty Blomfield said: "I apologise to all the members of the Jewish community who were offended in any way, as I know they were, by the timing of this meeting."

But she added: "Both Cllr Lansman and Mr Owen were present at the last meeting when the date of this meeting was fixed, and they raised no objections at the time."

She confirmed that several Jewish organisations had written to complain.



HC 15-4-88

BUSTED!

Report by RUSS LAWRENCE and PAUL BREEDEN

ONE of Britain's most wanted Black Mafia crime bosses was arrested when drug squad officers raided an illegal drinking den in an empty house in the early hours of yesterday (Thursday).

The ruthless "Godfather" of the crime syndicate known as the Yardies was among 20 people arrested in a dawn swoop by officers on an all-night party being held in the run-down detached house in Clapton Way, Lower Clapton.

Our photograph captures dramatically the moment when police in riot gear burst in and handcuffed their captives after searching them for drugs.

Police seized a quantity of cocaine, a large number of weapons including butterfly knives, flick knives and a machine. The raid followed repeated complaints to the council from local residents.

'Dangerous'
The ruthless Yardie leader captured in the dawn swoop in Stoke Newington had been named in the Sunday Express as one of the "most dangerous" men in London. He is described in a special Scotland Yard dossier on the Yardies as one of the "most dangerous" men in Britain.

Over 60 officers from Dalston police, Scotland Yard's Serious Crime Squad and the crack riot unit from the Met's Training Branch carried out the drugs bust.



● PHOTO COURTESY OF THE EVENING STANDARD.

Yardies leader arrested in dawn swoop

Wearing protective clothing, including helmets and flame-proof vests, the officer stormed the premises, many of whom were wearing their own protective gear.

They also used sniffer dogs to search the premises to discover hidden drugs.

The arrested men and women were taken to a police station for questioning. Several of those arrested are also being quizzed by immigration officers and face possible deportation.

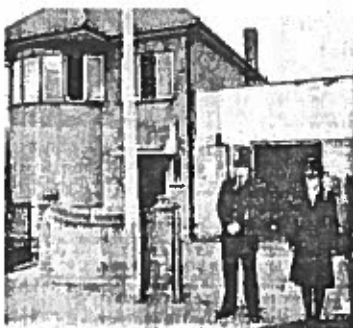
It is the second successful operation Dalston police have mounted on suspected Yardie drug traffickers in the last two months. In the first, they raided a Dalston nightclub and charged seven people with drug offences.

Dalston's new top cop, Chief Supt Peter Twist, accompanied his officers on the latest raid and said that it was a "major success" to achieve completely without any violence or disorder.

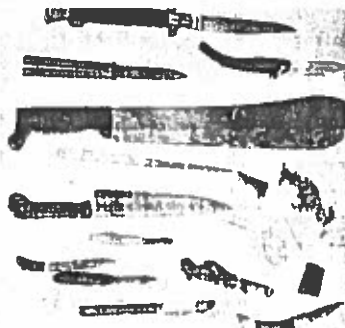
"The house had become a focal point for serious and organised black crime," he said. "We received numerous complaints from the area about the noisy music and the fact it was being used for illegal drinking."

"I was alarmed so many people from Hackney found their way into such a house. I was particularly alarmed for myself as a white man in a neighbourhood where the supply of drugs and frequent by criminals with violent tendencies as the number of knives found prove."

HC 15-4-88



● Police stand guard outside the house.



● Some of the weapons seized by police at the Clapton Way house.



● Police officers arrest suspects during last week's raid on the drugs den in Clapton Way.

DRIVE to get more black officers

A DRIVE to recruit more black police officers will form part of a special campaign being mounted by the MET in Hackney next month.

The intensive recruitment campaign to encourage job seekers to choose a career in the force is being specifically aimed at the borough's multi-racial community.

The Met wants to attract men and women from the ethnic minorities so it is more representative of the multi-racial communities it polices.

The recruitment campaign will run for four days from Wednesday, May 11 until Saturday, May 14.

Special police recruitment centres are being set up at Hackney Job Centre and Roots Pool Community Centre in Arcola Street, Stoke Newington and police officers will be available everyday to discuss any questions.

A special mobile recruitment van equipped with videos will be situated on Kingsland Waste for the first three days and then be located at Dalston's Ridley Road market on the Saturday.

"We are particularly interested in increasing the numbers of black men and women who choose a police career," said Dalston's new top cop Chief Supt Peter Twist. "And for that purpose there will be at least one black police officer to talk frankly at each of our recruiting points."



Council anger over police drugs raid

by RUSS LAWRENCE

A ROW has flared between Hackney Council and the police over last week's successful drugs raid on an empty council house used as an illegal drinking den.

The council reacted angrily this week because it claimed it was kept in the dark about the operation even though police were able to liaise beforehand with the Evening Standard newspaper so a reporter and photographer could cover the drugs bust.

Five people were charged with drugs offences following the dawn swoop by 60 officers on the all-night party being held in the run-down detached house in Clapton Way, Lower Clapton.

It followed repeated complaints to the council and the police from local residents about the activities taking place in the house. Adrienne Morgan, chair of the council's own police committee, has requested a full briefing on the matter which threatens to increase the rift between the Labour-controlled authority and the borough's police.

"We are very concerned about this whole matter and are trying to get in touch with the police to discuss it," she said.

"We are very surprised that they were able to liaise with the Evening Standard about it before the raid and not us."

But Dalston's new top cop, Chief Supt. Peter Twist, assured the council this week that there had been no prior consultation with any-

one outside the police force before the raid and that it was arranged and took place in complete secrecy.

"The men we were dealing with were, we believed, violent and dangerous, so to have breached this secrecy could have put people's lives at risk," he explained.

"Arrangements were made with a reporter and photographer from the Evening Standard to meet at a specified venue for purposes which were not disclosed with them until the actual arrangements for the raid commenced."

The reason why no consultation took place with the council, he said, was because of the secrecy of the raid itself.

"I hope that consultative arrangements for the future can be put on a better footing through the Hackney police consultative group," he added, "and that in appropriate cases better liaison can be established with the council, which I would welcome."

Residents living near the dilapidated house which police raided also expressed outrage this week at the length of time the council-owned property had remained empty.

A council spokesperson said it had been acquired several years ago under a compulsory purchase order and had been awaiting demolition as the proposed site for the now abandoned Afro-Caribbean Centre.

"It was occupied without our permission by the Triangle Music Workshop who vacated it two or three months ago," she said.

"Then another group moved in who were basically squatting. This was brought to our attention by residents and we were in the process of issuing the illegal tenants with notices to quit."



● Mrs Lewin pictured with her children

Apology over armed swoop

POLICE have apologised to a woman for causing damage when they carried out an armed raid on her home.

But the officers involved will not face criminal charges. It follows an investigation by the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) into the raid in February, 1986 on Jackie Lewin's house in Wayland Avenue, Dalston.

Hackney Council this week said the PCA was "too scared" to bring charges.

Mrs Lewin, pictured above, then aged 24, claimed that four plain-clothes detectives burst in and pointed guns at her without first identifying themselves as police officers - which is against regulations.

She said the policemen ransacked rooms and frightened her two small children while searching for firearms.

They arrested Mrs Lewin's boyfriend.

Hackney councillors took up the case and a formal complaint was made to the PCA.

Now, more than two years later, the PCA had delivered its report.

It says: "There is not sufficient evidence to justify a prosecution for assault or criminal damage. The Assistant Commissioner (DAC Wyn Jones) has now told the authority that, for the same reason, he does not propose to prefer disciplinary charges."

"He has, however, asked the Authority to express to you (Mrs Lewin) his regrets for the distress and inconvenience caused and to apologise for the damage."

The report adds that, because of the potential danger in the raid, "a swift unannounced entry to the premises was essential."

The officers involved told PCA investigators that they shouted out they were armed policemen.

And the Inspector in charge showed Mrs Lewin his warrant as soon the house was "secured" by his colleagues, the report adds. "It was not practicable," to do it before.

The officers admitted that Mrs Lewin's children had seen their guns but this was "unavoidable." They were re-united with their mother as soon as possible, says the report.

The cost of the damage to the house is now being considered by the police Accident Claims branch.

Mrs Lewin was not available for comment. But Cllr Adrienne Morgan, Chair of Hackney Council's Police Committee, said: "Although we remain concerned that the PCA is too afraid to bring charges, we are pleased to note for the sake of the family that some recognition has been made of the injustice done to them in the form of apology."

HC 22.4.88

A MONTH ago, Chief Super Peter Twist was the face of the law in many national newspapers. But he has also shown a keenness to get involved in the borough affairs. Here reporter Russ Lawrence meets the top crimebuster to find out what makes him tick.

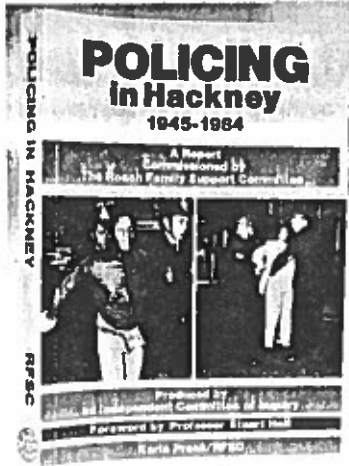
New top cop has a zest for life in Hackney



▲ THE happier side of policing.



▲ POLICE in riot gear.



▲ A REPORT on policing in Hackney.

DALSTON'S new top cop had hardly settled into the hot seat vacated by his predecessor when he received his baptism of fire.

Chief Superintendent, Peter Twist, made an instant impact in the job by helping to mastermind last month's headline grabbing drug raid on an illegal drinking den in which a suspected Yardie gangster was one of five people charged with drugs offences.

There could not have been a more dramatic introduction to the borough for the newcomer so soon after his arrival. But surprisingly his first impressions are not of the raid, but of the vibrant teaming life of the Dalston and Stoke Newington community which he will police.

"What struck me most when I first arrived here just over a month ago was the amount of life that there is in the locality with the bustling market at Ridley Road and traders and shoppers of all ages going about their daily lives," he said.

"The place has a vitality about it..."

"The place has vitality about it and I want to make sure people continue to enjoy their environment by reducing crime and making it a more pleasant place in which to live and work."

The 40-year-old bachelor ("I'm married to the police service," he jokes) joined the force 19 years ago after gaining a university law degree.

"I chose to become a policeman rather than a lawyer because I wanted to be out doors meeting people and not stuck in an office," he said.

"But ironically the higher you progress in the police force the more time you to spend behind a desk."

He is not new to the policing of deprived inner city areas with a large multi-racial community having worked in many parts of London with similar problems to Hackney.

"We've got to get back to talking to the local community..."

He was a PC at Notting Hill then moved to Hammersmith where he became a sergeant. He was promoted to Inspector and served at Marylebone police station in the heart of the West End at the time of the IRA bombing campaign and the famous Balcombe Street siege.

He moved to the Public Order division at New Scotland Yard when the first disorders happened at the Notting Hill Carnival and was also there for the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

After that he became Chief Insp at Paddington Green police station and was there when the IRA carried out the bombing of the Royal Green Jackets in Hyde Park.

His last appointment before coming to Dalston was as a superintendent at Holborn police station in the borough of Camden.

He does not underestimate the challenge he faces in his new job. There are many contro-

versial issues affecting the policing of the borough. They include the relationship between Hackney Council and the police and the anti-police policy of some local schools which have barred police from the classrooms.

But he says he has been tremendously encouraged by the amount of commitment shown by the local community towards working together with police to solve the crime problem.

"I was very impressed by the police consultative group..."

"I was very impressed by the local Police Consultative Group," he said, "but disappointed that local councillors do not yet feel it is appropriate to participate in these arrangements."

"I'm enthusiastic about the commitment shown by the community, I only wish we could have the same level of participation by the locally elected representatives."

In an effort to build bridges and establish a dialogue of trust and understanding he has offered an open invitation to every councillor to meet him personally and discuss local issues and problems.

He has also extended the invitation to community groups or residents who want to talk to him about a problem they feel strongly about.

"Police alone can never strike at the heart of these problems..."

He intends to concentrate on combating the three main areas of crime which he says the local community have identified as undermining the quality of life in Hackney. They are the problems of burglary, street crime and drug dealing.

"But I am also aware that much criminal activity is committed by people who are suffering from the disadvantages of living in the inner city," he said.

"And I believe the police alone can never strike at the heart of these problems without root causes being tackled by the community at large."

"Principally these are the problems of unemployment, housing, the breakdown of family life and inner city deprivation."

"If the police can work together with the community perhaps inroads can be made into these basic social problems," he added.

He also backed people's calls for more police officers on the street.

"We've got to get back to talking to the local community, listening to them and letting people see we are around," he said.

"I'm a great believer in being your own customer and understanding the problems the people you are policing face. In fact once in my last post in Camden, where I still live, I was tempted to write a letter to myself on behalf of the local community."



▲ NEW top cop, Peter Twist.



▲ POLICE make an arrest.



▲ MOVING on - Frank Wilkinson

HG 29.4.88

Police slam bystanders who do nothing

We need YOU in crime fight say cops

THE public will have to take the fight against crime into their own hands if villains are to be beaten.

That's the message from the policeman in charge of the Dalston police station Crime Desk, across which a staggering 21,000 crimes pass each year.

Sgt Tony Read says he isn't asking people to put themselves at risk in any way - but there's a lot more the public could do to help catch

criminals, he says.

He hit out at the inaction of bystanders after three teenagers knocked over a 67 year-old man, stealing his groceries and £100 at midday in Knightland Road, Upper Clapton on Friday.

"Often we find that old people are willing to put up a struggle but it's a shame that members of the public don't go forward to help," he said.

"We're not advising people to tackle villains if they think they might get hurt.

"But there are other things they could do to help us without getting involved - giving us descriptions of suspects, noting car registration numbers, even following suspects if they can do it unnoticed, to tell us where they've gone."

"We appreciate people's fears - we're not asking them to take up arms.

"But the fight against crime cannot be left to the police alone. Support and co-operation from the public is vital."



● Sgt Tony Read: public must get involved.

Police should help lay visitors

AS a visitor to the meeting of the Hackney Police Community Consultative Group on April 7, I know only too well the incident to which Chief Superintendent Mulvihill was referring when he warned lay visitors about making call visits in the early hours of the morning.

The visit in question was made on a Sunday morning, starting at 12.15am. None of the detainees was due to appear in court later that morning, so the visit could not have interfered with their ability to function at court, but Chief Superintendent Mulvihill could correct me if I am wrong.

It would be prudent on the part of the police if lay visitors could have their full co-operation so that they are able to perform the duties for which the Home Secretary has given his approval, provided that the lay visitors guidelines are allowed to. - GLORIA VAN COOTEN (ADDRESS SUPPLIED).

HC 29-4-88

Police plan to smash a muggers' paradise

POLICE have launched a major crackdown on muggers as part of a drive to make Hackney's streets safe again.

They have been alarmed at a sharp rise in the amount of robberies and violent street crime in the borough and are mounting a special campaign to combat the problem.

A total of 580 muggings, handbag snatches and dippings were recorded by Dalston and Hackney police stations in the first four months of this year alone. That's an increase of more than 100 compared with the same period last year.

Now the two stations are mounting a joint operation which starts on Monday aimed at catching the thieves and preventing robberies by making the public more aware.

Uniformed officers and plain clothed squads are to be deployed in targeted areas which have been identified as having a problem. Special surveillance teams will also stake out premises. And the Met's Territorial Support Group will offer additional assistance.

Dalston's bustling Ridley Road market, the Narroway and Mare Street near the town hall are some of the areas which are being targeted because of the high number of thefts which take place there.

Two mounted officers on horseback will

also be used to patrol Ridley Road market during its busiest days - Friday and Saturday. Police want to show a high-profile and from their vantage point in the saddle the two mounted officers can see and be seen.

A special crime prevention stall is also being set up in the market providing leaflets on crime prevention and demonstrating anti-mugging devices such as audible alarms. And the post office is helping to mail thousands of special crime prevention leaflets to thousands of households in the borough.

The crackdown has the backing of Hackney Police Consultative Group and Hackney Crime Prevention Panel.

Dalston's new top cop, Chief Supt Peter Twist, said: "Robbery is one of the most serious offences because often the victim, especially if they are elderly, can ill afford to lose their property and it can take weeks and sometimes years for them to get over the shock."

Det Chief Insp Chris Newman at Hackney police station added: "Most are opportunistic thefts and people can reduce the risk of being robbed by taking a few simple steps like covering up expensive jewellery and neck chains and taking care not to leave purses on the top of shopping bags."



© Ridley Road market police patrol - on horseback. WPC Beverley Critchley and PC Richard Jarvis keep their eyes on the bustling crowds.

They want YOU

POLICE will be available for questioning tomorrow when job hunters are invited to quit them about a career in the force.

A special mobile recruiting centre showing videos will be parked in Dalston's Ridley Road market tomorrow (Saturday) from 10am until 4pm.

It is part of a recruitment drive launched in Hackney and the Met is particularly keen to attract more black and Asian officers as well as young men and women from other ethnic minority groups to reflect the multi-racial make-up of the borough.

A black officer from Dalston police station will be available at the mobile recruiting centre to chat and talk frankly about the job.

SUSPENDED COPS FACE A SECOND PROBE

Report by
MAX VELODY

TWO City Road cops are to be quizzed after a judge said police lied in court.

It's the second rumpus concerning the two men in six months.

Both were suspended in November for allegedly beating up a man in a Hackney Road pub. Now they face a new interrogation by a crack police squad over a controversial court case.

They were among 12 officers whose evidence was thrown out by the judge trying a gang accused of belonging to the notorious Inter City Firm of West Ham football hooligans.

The judge said the police evidence had been fabricated, and ordered the gang to be released.

The two officers have been suspended since last November during an investigation into allegations that 24-year-old Ilkerton man Gary Stretch was beaten up by plain-clothes policemen in The Limes pub.

Within minutes of Tuesday's verdict at Snaresbrook Crown Court, a special squad was set

up to quiz the policemen who gave evidence. The probe squad is headed by Det Supt Roger Thomas of Scotland Yard. Its brief is "to consider the evidence given by police officers and others at Snaresbrook Crown Court".

So far no officers have been suspended as a result of Tuesday's court case. Scotland Yard refused to say how many of the 12 officers are based in Hackney.

Betty Bloomfield, who heads the Hackney police consultative group, has called for a full explanation of the case from the Hackney division's top policeman, Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill. And Cllr Adrienne Morgan, who chairs the Hackney Council police committee, said: "We have been concerned over the length of time it has taken to inquire into the Gary Stretch incident. Our concern is doubled now we have learned of the circumstances surrounding the ICF court case."

Mr Stretch, who lives on the Cranston Estate, was left with his left ear hanging off. The Police Complaints Authority is expected to produce a report soon.

© Alleged ICF leader is cleared - back page

Soccer trial collapses

A NIGHTCLUB manager was cleared of leading a gang of football thugs after a judge said police evidence had been fabricated.

Cass Pennant, aged 30, of Samuel Lewis Trust Buildings in Amburst Road, Hackney, was one of 11 West Ham soccer fans accused of belonging to the notorious violent Inter City Firm.

Officers claimed the 11 had organised football hooliganism at matches between 1980 and 1986.

But the three-month trial, which followed a police undercover investigation known as Operation Own Goal, collapsed this week after officers entered the court and seized all the evidence, including notebooks containing disputed entries.

Scotland Yard immediately launched an inquiry into what went wrong at the trial which is estimated to have cost hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Judge Alan Hickling directed the jury at Snaresbrook Crown Court to return a verdict

of not guilty on a charge of conspiring to make an affray because of the falsified evidence.

He said: "It has been quite clear from the outset that an issue has always been, and remains, the integrity of the officers and their logs in respect of these matters."

"It has been made quite clear by the defence throughout that these documents were not safe and satisfactory to rely on."

The defence had claimed in court that the officers, who had infiltrated the gang during the six-month undercover operation, had lied and that video footage from police surveillance cameras had showed the accused behaving impeccably.

Cass Pennant, who had boxing promoter Terry Lawless appearing as his character witness last week, is now planning to take legal action.

Danny Daly, a 26-year-old West Ham fan from Lefevre Walk, Bow, was also cleared.

Probe launched into police beating claims

AN investigation has been launched by police into claims that four people were attacked by officers in two separate incidents in front of crowds of shoppers.

The incidents allegedly took place in the Narroway, Hackney.

Hackney Council Police Committee Chair Adrienne Morgan says five different witnesses have contacted the Town Hall to complain about the police actions.

Two women who complained about police actions during the first incident at Hackney police station claim they were attacked and abused by officers.

Another incident allegedly occurred later that afternoon at the Woolwich Building Society in the Narroway.

Witnesses said a black youth, who was being questioned inside by police, was at-

tacked by officers with truncheons.

Two women went to Hackney police station to complain.

It is thought the youth was questioned by immigration authorities.

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill of Hackney police said: "An investigation into these claims was launched on the same day as the complaints were made."

"It is being handled by the Police Area Two complaints office. Unfortunately, I can make no further comment because the matter is now out of my hands."

Cllr Morgan said: "We are gravely concerned that several independent witnesses appear to have seen the incidents - which could have serious repercussions for police/community relations."

HG 13-5-88

Call for a bigger say in policing



A REVOLUTIONARY new blueprint for policing was unveiled this week by Hackney Council.

It calls for people to have more say in how they are policed. And it says many sections of the community feel they are not getting the service they are entitled to.

The new Policing Charter was launched at Hackney Town Hall on Tuesday in the presence of Shadow Home Secretary Roy Hattersley.

by MAX VELODY

It was drawn up following a number of public consultation meetings. Tenants and residents associations, youths clubs, trade unions, and religious bodies were all invited to give their views.

Its demands include:

- more emphasis on crime prevention
- better monitoring of estate crime
- more experienced beat officers
- setting up a special squad to deal with race harassment
- a crackdown on pushers of hard drugs

drugs

● more action to stop gay-bashing efforts to create a better understanding between the police and the community.

He said: "The clear aim of Hackney Council is to ensure that police, community, and council tackle crime together, and that, by improving the relationship between the police and the local community, the people of Hackney can be better protected against crime."

But he drew short of endorsing the council's refusal to take part in the statutory Police Community Consultative Group.

He said: "I understand exactly why the council refused to take part, but I would have taken part because I believe in trying to talk."

Cllr Adrienne Morgan, who chairs the council's own police committee, did not rule out future council participation in the consultative group.

But she said: "The council could not accept having only three seats on an undemocratic group of 80 or more." Hackney's MP, Brian Sedgmore, and Diane Abbott also refuse to take part in the consultative group.

Copper swops the rural life for a city beat

COUNTRY copper Tony Buchanan has swapped his rural round for the big city beat in Hackney.



● Country copper Supt Tony Buchanan months here and hope to play my part in maintaining a good quality service

The 44-year-old Hertfordshire officer has swapped posts with City Road's Supt Trevor Harvey, also 44, for six months - the main objective is for them to see policing in another light.

And he's already enjoying his taste of life at the station in Shepherdess Walk.

"I have already been very impressed with the professionalism of the officers at City Road. I am looking forward to my six

Full support for lay visitors scheme

I REFER to the letter printed in the April 29 issue of the Hackney Gazette regarding lay visitors to police stations. While not wishing to enter into public debate over individual issues, I would like to make it perfectly clear that I have fully discussed this subject with the Hackney Police Consultative Group, and indeed the Lay Visitors' Panel themselves, and I feel they have accepted my point. It is unfortunate that the writer of the letter appears to have misunderstood my comments.

Since the scheme started, visits to police stations by lay visitors have been well received and full cooperation given. It is inevitable that a few teething problems will occur with any newly-implemented scheme. Generally speaking, however, it is working well and it will continue to receive my full support.

- N. G. MULVHILL, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT, METROPOLITAN POLICE, HACKNEY STATION.



● Architect Simon Ward (right) explains his plans for the De Beauvoir estate to Roy Hattersley during his visit to Hackney this week. Cllr Michael Barber (centre), who is leading the crackdown against drug abuse on the estate, looks on.

Tenants reveal crime-fighting ideas to Hattersley

TENANTS on De Beauvoir Estate have come up with a £1 million pound plan to beat crime.

They say their scheme will reduce vandalism, cut down on burglary, and make the 900 home estate safer for everyone.

They described their plan to shadow home secretary Roy Hattersley when he toured the estate this week.

Ted Searle, 64, secretary of the Tenants Association, told the Gazette: "Our plan will break up the estate into smaller units and give everyone more privacy."

"No longer will burglars and vandals be able to roam the estate at will."

The TA has appointed its own architects to come up with a plan for the estate. So far £100,000 has been spent on improvements during the past four years.

The tenants are hoping to get the £1 million they need for major improvement works through the inner city partnership scheme.

Mr Hattersley's visit was timed to coincide with the launch of the Charter For Better Policing unveiled by Hackney Council.

It calls for more emphasis on crime prevention.

ROOTS Pool community centre was the venue for the Hackney Police/Community Consultative Group meeting last week. The issues were wide-ranging. Our man Max Velody was at the centre in Arcola Street, Dalston.

HC 27.5.88

Conmen pose a threat to old folk

CONMEN are making life hell for old folk in the borough.

Brazen crooks posing as plumbers, electricians, or council workers have pulled off dozens of cons in the borough.

They wrangle their way into the homes of the old and the sick before making off with savings and treasured

possessions.

The group listened in silence as member Maurice Owen described the heartache of a 78-year-old partially sighted woman who had been robbed by a callous conman in her own home.

He was backed by Stoke Newington top cop Peter Twist who said "There are no lengths to which these people will not stoop to prey on old people in

their homes."

A poster campaign begins this week warning old folk to ask for identification before letting anyone in.

Sponsored by the police and the Midland Bank, its message will also be printed in pension books.

And blind people have been told to check a policeman's identity by feeling his helmet.

Tempers flare

STOP slugging us off! That's the call of angry consultative group secretary Ted Oakham to Hackney Council.

He was fuming after reading reports that council police committee chair Adrienne Morgan had called the consultative group unrepresentative.

Mr Oakham said: "We have 60 organisations in our group, and what she says is insulting to them."

"I wish she'd stop slugging us off."

Call for black cops

MORE black people are showing an interest in joining the police.

Sixty-one people — including 25 black people — inquired about joining the force during a week-long recruitment campaign in the borough.

Complaints totals

LAST year there were 160 complaints made against Hackney police officers. The figure London-wide was 5734.

A more detailed breakdown of those complaints will be made at next month's consultative group.

Funfair policing

THE policing of funfairs will be fully discussed at the next consultative group meeting.

It follows concern from David Fitzpatrick, of Millfields User Group, over the number of funfairs coming into the borough, and the problems they can bring.

Parking nightmare

THE new shopping centre at Dalston Cross could cause a parking nightmare.

So said Chief Supt Peter Twist. He told the committee: "The situation is bad enough as it is."

"When Dalston Cross is built, it will be hell for local businesses and residents."

One-way mirror

A ONE-WAY mirror will transform identity parades at the new Stoke Newington station.

Witnesses will be able to look at suspects on the parade without being seen.

Police hope scared witnesses will be less intimidated by the new set-up.

Crack squad in raid on drug den

SUPERFIT cops carried out the massive raid on an illegal drinking den.

The officers were trainers at the police public order training centre in Hounslow, and were exceptionally fit.

And their expertise ensured that everyone in the den was spreadeagled and handcuffed within seconds of the raid starting.

Frightening

The police believe that, although these tactics seem frightening, they ensure that neither the police nor the public were injured. A large number of weapons were found in the den in Clapton Way, Lower Clapton, following last month's raid.

It was revealed last week that, of the 70 people arrested on the raid, four have been deported, five were arrested on drugs charges, one was already wanted, and one was charged with possessing an offensive weapon.

Charlie Collins, of Roots Pool, said that his organisation backed the way in which the raid had been handled.



● Charlie Collins - backed handling of raid.

Hand picked robbery squad

A CRACK team of 115 officers moved into Hackney this week.

They are on a three week mission to crack down on robbery in the borough.

The hand-picked officers are members of the Territorial Support Group. All have to go through tough psycho-analysis tests designed to weed out personality defects before getting in.

The TSG was set up last year after the demise of the Special Patrol Group, the controversial task force whose policing methods aroused much hostility among the black community.

Chief Inspector Woodhouse, who runs the TSG, told the consultative committee: "We are well aware of what happened in the past."

"Our role is crime prevention and public order."

The committee heard that the TSG had arrested 3,000 people in the last 12 months.

Jewish attacks spark teeny terror probe

POLICE launched a teeny terror probe following a spate of attacks on Jewish children in Stamford Hill.

Four children — two aged nine and two aged 11 — were found to be behind a number of attacks on Jewish kids, which included stone-throwing and fighting.

The committee heard about the attacks from home beat officer Mick Fitzpatrick.

He said: "The four culprits came from two families. Children of that age can cause an awful lot of trouble."

Following P.C. Fitzpatrick's intervention, the attacks have stopped. The constable is trying to have one of the culprits readmitted into the 12th Hackney cub scouts.

Urgent report spotlights need for 100 extra officers

ONE hundred more officers are needed in Hackney.

So says the consultative group, which has sent an urgent report to the Home Secretary calling for more police in the borough.

The report also includes demands for:

- priority for street crime, burglary, and sex offences;
- more emphasis on crime prevention;
- more experienced officers;
- more black policemen;
- better communications with the public.

The report was backed up with up-to-date crime figures supplied by the police which showed rises in muggings, robberies, and sex offences.

Crime alert gets cold shoulder

GET knotted! That was the message doggers got when they tried to help women shopping in Ridley Road market.

Crime prevention workers stopped hundreds of women carrying purses in their shopping bags or prams and warned them

they were easy targets for muggers and snatch thieves.

But many women told them in no uncertain terms to mind their own business.

This week police hoses will be in Ridley Road to deter and observe criminals.

Rows over probe into police beating claim which 'took too long'

THE probe into seven suspended cops accused of beating up a Hoxton man in a Hackney Road pub is over.

The six-month investigation has been carried out by the Independent Watching, the Police Complaints Authority, whose secret report is on its way to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

He must decide whether to take action against the City Road policemen alleged to have beaten up 24-year-old Gary Stretch in The Limes pub.

Last week, Supt Ivan Brown, of Hackney police, confirmed that two of the suspended men face a second probe after giving evidence in the trial of men accused of belonging to the notorious Inter City Firm of West Ham soccer hooligans.

The judge threw the case out after saying police had lied in court and fabricated evidence.

There was a massive row at the Hackney Police Consultative Group meeting last week after member David Fitzpatrick lashed out at the six-month delay in investigating the Stretch case, and condemned the police's refusal to comment on cases under investigation.

Mr Fitzpatrick — who identified the two officers facing a second probe as P.C. Peter Clissold and P.C. Paul Wells — also called on the police to issue interim reports while controversial cases were investigated.

He said: "There is widespread concern about the time it takes for investigations to be carried out."

"I despair of police officers saying interim reports cannot be given."

He was backed by group member Eddie McGinly, who said: "If a member of the public assaults a policeman, he is charged within days. If a policeman assaults a member of the public, it takes months to charge him."

And group secretary Ted Oakham said that Hackney people were fed up with reading about alleged misconduct by their police and having to wait months for something to be done about it.

But Supt Ivan Brown said that policemen deserved a fair hearing. "Too often the assumption is that, if a police officer is charged with something, he must be guilty," he told the meeting.

By eight votes to six, the group voted to complain officially about the time it takes for reports to come through.



Consulting with the police successfully

I WOULD like to respond to Cllr Adrienne Morgan's letter (Gazette, May 13). In view of the fact that our Labour councillors, Members of Parliament and ILEA representatives have chosen not to take up their seats on the Hackney Police/Community Consultative Group, I fail to see why Cllr Morgan can speak as an authority on the function of the group.

If the councillors and their supporters attended our meetings, they would see that the community in Hackney is well represented and we are definitely not a talking shop. What is discussed at group meetings are issues which concern the people of Hackney regarding the role of the police and the general policing in the borough.

Perhaps Adrienne Morgan would publicly report on what the council's police committee have achieved since it was formed in 1982 that has been a benefit to the people of Hackney. — BETTY BLOMFIELD, CHAIRMAN, HACKNEY POLICE/COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP.

A hypocritical visit from Mr Hattersley

WHAT hypocrisy! Mr Hattersley coming to Hackney giving people the impression that Labour cares about crime. We all know Labour are sympathetic to criminals. How many times have we heard our politicians say "poor things they are deprived because they can't find a job".

Labour MPs, like our councillors, are always making excuses. Thank god we have a Party in power that is not soft on criminals. I would like Mr Hattersley or Mr. Kinnoch to live in Hackney and see for themselves. — MR. P. BYRNE, CAZENOVE ROAD, UPPER CLAPTON.

Probe into police beating claim continues

ALLEGATIONS that plainclothes police beat up 17-year-old Jason Makalla in Lower Clapton Road are still being investigated.

Charlie Collins, of Roots Pool community centre, brought up the incident at last month's Police Consultative Group meeting. Mr Collins said it was important that black people felt free to bring

their problems to the group.

He called for the meetings to be advertised in the black press, and said Roots Pool were planning to make a three-hour video showing selected highlights from the meetings. All of them have been filmed since the group was set up last year.

● Consultative Group full report — page 17

HC 27.5.88

Six men cleared after Asian group probe

SIX men arrested in a major Fraud Squad investigation into the Hackney Asian Association have been completely cleared.

They were told by police this week they will not face any form of prosecution.

A letter from Scotland Yard to the men said: "Further enquiries into this matter are not justified, there being no reasonable prospect of obtaining sufficient evidence to institute criminal proceedings."

The six held leading positions in the Association.

They were arrested in a Fraud Squad swoop on its Dalston Lane headquarters in autumn 1986.

They were released without charge but enquiries into financial matters continued.

Hackney Council, who helped fund the As-

sociation, suspended its grant during the investigations.

The controversy caused a split in the Association - which represents all of Hackney's (5,000) Asians - and its work in the borough has now almost ceased.

Former Chair Jagmohan Singh, one of the six men cleared, said: "We feel completely vindicated."

"We co-operated all along with investigation because we knew we had done no wrong."

"We have been proved right."

"But it is sad that the Association has been wrecked in the process. Now we must work again to restore it to the position it once held."

The six men cleared were Jagmohan Singh, Bhajam Chatterjee, Dilip Choudhury, Alok Biswas, Ranjit Saha and Dipak Basu.

Heroin case man wins retrial

A MAN was cleared of pushing heroin - after winning a retrial and the quashing of a four-year jail sentence because of a legal technicality.

Mr Recorder Alan Suckling QC told a shocked jury at Snaresbrook Crown Court that 49-year-old Carlton Moraise had been found guilty at the same court last November on the same charges.

Moraise, unemployed of Queensbridge Road, Haggerston, was sentenced to four years after his arrest following a police search of his home.

But on March 8 he took his case to the Court of Appeal and was granted a retrial on the grounds that the court at the original hearing had forgotten to sign the indictment, Mr Recorder Suckling QC said.

The new jury had cleared Moraise of two charges of supplying heroin, and one of conspiracy to supply, but failed to agree on two charges of possessing a total of 15 grams of the drug worth £1,800. The charges relate to a period between September and October, 1986.

Mr Recorder Suckling told the jury: "The defendant was tried at this court on these charges and found guilty. By some oversight the indictment had not been signed by the clerk of the court and the Court of Appeal allowed his appeal and ordered a retrial."

He said it would be proper for the prosecution to proceed yet again on the two outstanding charges which, he said involved "a not negligible amount of a highly dangerous drug."

Moraise was granted £100 bail on condition that he live at his home address.

HC 3.6.88

This police charter has got it wrong

I HAVE just read a booklet called "A Charter for Better Policing in Hackney", published by something called the Police Committee Support Unit, presumably at my expense. According to this obsessive document, police worries in Hackney are caused mainly by racist attacks, the beating up of gays and wife-beating.

Such is not the case.

I am an ordinary man in the street, not a member of the an oppressed minority. If anyone attacks me or my possessions or anyone else(s) in the street or home, I want him caught and severely punished. The colour of the criminal's skin or the nature of his sexual preferences worry me not at all.

Heaven forbid that control of the police should ever fall into the hands of anything so incompetent and biased as Hackney Council. - W.H. SIMONS,
ROWLEY GARDENS, MANOR HOUSE.

HC 10.6.88

Policing aims are those of the public

I AM writing in reply to the somewhat confused and contradictory letter published in last week's Gazette about Hackney Council's "Charter For Better Policing".

Your reader, Mr Simons, seems to have not only misunderstood the intentions of the Charter and the reasons why it was produced, but appears also to have failed to grasp the contents of the document.

As many of your readers know, a series of public consultation meetings were held at which a large and varied cross-section of Hackney residents attended to air their concerns about the way in which their borough is policed. The meetings and the resulting document were not, as Mr Simons suggests, a compilation of police priorities for Hackney; on the contrary, they were the priorities of the local community who wished to see the police take more account of their concerns.

And yes, these included, among other things, better clear-up rates and greater efficiency, as well as a concern to make the environment safer for all Hackney residents, including members of oppressed minority groups.

If Mr Simons had attended any of these consultation meetings, he too would have had the opportunity to express his own concerns about policing, and would not now be spending his time making unfounded, misinformed and cheap political points about Hackney Council and its Police Committee Support Unit.

The Charter is intended to initiate discussion. It is the wish of Hackney Council that police-community relations are improved. A way of doing so would be through dialogue between the police and the council, using the Charter as the basis for discussion. - CLLR ADRIENNE MORGAN, CHAIR, HACKNEY COUNCIL POLICE COMMITTEE.

HC 17.6.88

MUGGERS ON THE RUN

POLICING issues in the borough were discussed at Monday night's Hackney Council police committee: Gazette reporter Max Velody was there.

Meeting prompts new skirmish

HC 24.6.88

POLICE have got the muggers on the run after a crack-down which has cut street robberies by almost a third.

A special five-week campaign involving mounted officers, dog handlers and under-cover surveillance squads has resulted in a massive increase in arrests and a startling drop in street snatches.

Delighted police chiefs have hailed it as a success.

But the crackdown has brought protests from Hackney Council about police horses harassing shoppers in Dalston's Ridley Road market — a favourite spot for bag-snatchers.

Street robberies across the whole borough are down by almost a third since the scheme started.

And compared with the same five-week period last year, arrests of suspected muggers are up 100 per cent in the Hackney division and 17 per cent in the Stoke Newington division.

There were 1,255 street robberies in Hackney in 1987.

Supt David Dugmore, Hackney's new police community liaison officer, put most of the successes down to more bobbies on the beat in

by PAUL BREEDEN

mugging trouble spots.

But plain-clothes officers and staff from the crack Territorial Support Group also took part, he said.

Mounted officers in Ridley Road market were a big deterrent to muggers and could easily spot suspects in a crowd, said Supt Dugmore.

He added: "We have been using very high-profile policing because mugging is a very high-fear crime."

"We haven't had any complaints. There is no suggestion that people feel oppressed by what we are doing."

Hackney Council's police committee support unit disagreed. In a report, they claim the police horses "plodded along, obstructive in a small crowd area, and basically harassing shoppers, thereby increasing hostility."

The report adds: "Whilst the purpose of this may be to deter, the effect, however, is likely to be minimal."

THE gulf between the council police committee and the statutory police community consultative group remains as wide as ever.

On Monday night police committee chair Adrienne Morgan blasted her opposite number, consultative group chair Betty Bloomfield.

She ACCUSED former mayor Betty of vilifying the work of the council committee in the letters page of the Gazette.

She CONDEMNED the consultative group as "undemocratic".

And she REFUSED to invite a consultative group member to sit on the council's own committee.

Cllr Morgan also refused to nominate a councillor to sit on the rival group. She said the council would have to change its policy first.

And she added that, in her most recent meeting with the police, the council had suggested that the consultative group be disbanded.



● Cllr Adrienne Morgan

Top cop to get a talks invite

TOP cop Wyn Jones is to be invited to talk to the council's police committee.

Councillors want to hear his views on how policing in the borough can be improved.

And they want to use the council's own policing charter — drawn up after a series of public consultation meetings — as a basis for discussion.

The charter was launched last month by Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the Labour Party.

Cllr Adrienne Morgan told the police committee: "Before the charter was launched, I spoke to Deputy Assistant Commissioner Jones on the phone and he said he would be happy to use the charter as a basis for tackling problems with the community."

"I will be surprised if he reneges from that position."

New police watchdog group planned

A NEW police monitoring group is to be set up in the borough.

The Hackney Community Defence Association will be launched at a public meeting taking place at the Town Hall on July 23.

Its aims include helping race attack victims, monitoring allegations of police malpractice, and co-ordinating community campaigns.

Those behind the new group include members of the Trevor Moncreville Campaign, and Anti Fascist Action.

Organiser Graham Smith said: "People still live in fear of the police. We need an organisation they can turn to."

The police committee welcomed the launch of the new group. But it refused to give it any practical or financial aid.

Anti crime stall illegal

A POLICE crime prevention stall set up in Ridley Road is illegal.

So said council police committee chief Adrienne Morgan, who first heard of the stall's existence on Monday night.

She said: "We have not received an application for any such stall."

The stall hands out crime prevention advice, and has also been used as a recruiting centre.

Bulletin idea

A QUARTERLY bulletin on policing issues in Hackney could be launched this year.

The police committee is investigating the possibility of launching the bulletin, which may be produced jointly with Haringey.

It would cost the borough around £4,000 a year.

Kids attack policeman

TEENY thugs tripped an off-duty policeman and kicked him in the groin following a flare-up on a bus.

Six youths — some with child bus passes — caused a row on the top deck of a 15 bus at 11pm on Saturday.

After the driver ordered them from the bus, one hurled a bottle through the bus window.

Pc Michael Smith, who is based at Dalston station, leaped off the bus and gave chase. But he was tripped and kicked.

Pc Smith was taken to Bart's Hospital, but was back on duty this week.

HC 24-6-88

Armed swoop fails

ARMED police swooped on a house in Upper Clapton in the hunt for a dangerous bank robber.

But he wasn't at the home in Southwold Road when the raid took place in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

A specially-trained squad of marksmen from Tottenham police station, backed up by Hackney officers, carried out the dawn swoop.

Det. Insp. Frank Salmon of Tottenham CID said: "Unfortunately, we didn't get our man."

Top cop hits back

DALSTON's top cop has hit back at the knockers who criticised police tactics involved in a crime crackdown.

The special five-week campaign, which ended last week, succeeded in reducing street robberies by a third, but brought protests from Hackney Council's police committee support unit.

It described the methods as intimidatory and accused police officers on horseback in Ridley Road market – a favourite spot for dippers – of obstructing and harassing shoppers.

And police committee chairperson, Adrienne Morgan, claimed the police crime prevention staff in the market was illegal because the council had never received an application for it.

That suggestion was dismissed as "absurd" by Chief Superintendent Peter Twist, who said it was arranged with the market inspector and the appropriate fee for the pitch was paid. "The only people to feel intimidated were the muggers," he said.

Viewing the police as 'class enemies'

HACKNEY Council's Police Committee Support Unit has just compiled a report condemning the recent street robbery initiative.

We in Hackney are suffering badly from street crime such as mugging with many people (especially women) afraid to go out even during daylight. Just when we need increased policing to combat such crime instead of supporting the police, our caring Socialist council again does its best to hamper the police. It seems that Hackney Council sees the police as "class enemies" and will never help to make our streets safe.

The council's priorities can be seen in the closing of libraries due to cuts while such costly and useless bureaucracies such as the Police Committee Support Unit remain untouchable. – ALLAN WILLIAMS, NAVARINO MANSIONS, DALSTON LANE, DALSTON.

Protest over court system

BRITISH justice comes under attack next week when the Troops Out movement holds a meeting with other groups who claim they've fallen foul of the courts.

Campaigners for those convicted of the Guildford pub bombings, the Broadwater Farm riot, the Trevor Moncreville campaign and others will be at Hackney Town Hall on Wednesday (July 6) for a public meeting starting at 8 pm.

The following week Troops Out launch a broadside against the use of rubber bullets in Northern Ireland, which have killed 16 people between 1972 and 1986.

A video called "Plastic Bullets – The Deadly Truth" is to be shown at 7.30 pm in the basement video lounge at the Rio cinema, Kingsland High Street on Tuesday July 12.

HC 1.7.88

We don't want to hamper police

I AM writing in response to one of your readers' accusations that Hackney Council's Police Committee Support Unit sees the police as "class enemies" and committed to "hampering" the work of the police.

The first accusation is meaningless and without foundation. The second does a great disservice to the council, the police committee and its support unit.

The report in question clearly states that both the council and the police are eager to reduce levels of street attacks and robberies in the borough. The council would give total support to the police in dealing with, and hopefully reducing, such incidents, as long as the way in which they chose to deal with them are sensible and not merely exercises.

Your readers will note that the police have not claimed that the use of mounted police in Ridley Road

market was the reason why levels of pickpocketing and other incidents had apparently decreased. The Hackney Gazette a fortnight ago quoted Supt David Dugmore as putting the police success down to more police officers on foot patrol. The police committee welcomes this, and applauds the police for a move which is in line with the recommendations contained in the "Charter For Better Policing" that the council recently commissioned.

The council is determined to secure an efficient and responsive police service for Hackney residents. Our criticisms of police tactics, such as the use of mounted police, are certainly not intended to "hamper" the police. Instead, there are attempts at getting the police to respond to areas of concern that the council and the community have frequently expressed with more reasoned and thought-out policies and initiatives.

This will convince all those involved that the police are genuinely seeking better police-community relations, rather than attempting to divert attention away from low clear-up rates and inefficiencies through the use of high profile policing. - CLLR ADRIENNE MORGAN, CHAIR, HACKNEY COUNCIL POLICE COMMITTEE.

HC 8-7-88



ORDER

Delivery problem over crime leaflets

NOT everyone has received a copy of the police crime prevention leaflet which was supposed to be delivered to homes in the borough as part of last month's crime crackdown on muggings.

The consultative group raised the matter with Chief Supt Peter Twist after the police promised that every home in the borough would receive a copy through the post.

Dalston's top cop said he was unaware that some residents' copies had not arrived through the post yet.

"All the people I have asked at random out and about on the street have had their copy and nobody has complained to me about not receiving it," he said.

"But I shall certainly look into the matter."

LAW AND ORDER
CENTRE FOR ANOTHER MEETING OF THE HACKNEY POLICE/COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP. THE ISSUES DISCUSSED WERE WIDE-RANGING AND SOME WERE CONTROVERSIAL. REPORTER RUSS LAWRENCE WAS THERE.

We're winning the fight against crime, say police

HACKNEY'S police are winning the fight against crime according to the latest statistics provided to the police consultative group.

Figures for January to May of this year (illustrated in the chart here) show crime clear-up rates have improved and more offenders are being arrested compared to figures for the same five-month period last year.

The success of special robbery initiatives on targeted crimes such as muggings has been one of the reasons for the increase in the number of arrests for serious offences such as violence against the person and robbery.

But some consultative group members were concerned that burglary and auto-crime were still unacceptably high.

	Offences		Arrests		Clear-ups	
	'87	'88	'87	'88	'87	'88
Violence	300	443	134	226	146	239
Sex offences	72	68	30	23	47	25
Robbery	1221	1126	60	114	73	132
Burglary	2835	2886	192	264	259	285
Autocrime	4066	3703	227	252	344	232

And it was noted that fewer sex offenders had been arrested this year compared with the corresponding period last year.

But Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill from Hackney police station explained that last year's figures had been artificially inflated by the mugging of a child sex ring in the south of the borough.

"Burglary and auto-crime are opportunistic crimes, but I feel much more encouraged especially as 264 people were arrested for burglary in the first five months of this year," he said.

He said he was "optimistic" that this time next year he would be reporting a similar success.



Chief Supt Mulvihill: "Optimistic" about reducing crime further.



ORDER

Support scheme appeal for members

AN APPEAL to recruit more volunteers for the borough's Victims Support Scheme was made at the meeting.

It followed complaints from member Maurine Owen about the lack of after-care and support provided to many elderly victims of crime.

A spokesperson for the special victims support scheme said it was short of volunteers and unable to make personal visits to every victim.

"If we cannot visit personally, we contact them by letter or telephone and if there is no response to the letter then we assume that person doesn't need our help," he said.

"We are only scratching the surface at the moment because we desperately need more volunteers willing to give up their spare time to help."

Group told of chopper pad on marshes

HACKNEY Marshes is used by Scotland Yard as a helicopter pick-up point to fly crash police firearms teams to incidents where armed officers are needed quickly.

The car park on the marshes is occasionally used as a copter pad to whisk the Met's firearms teams to emergency incidents in the district.

The operational details about the Met's two helicopters were revealed to

the police consultative group after it had asked for information about them at its previous meeting.

It followed complaints about the number of times the helicopters appeared in the skies over Hackney and the noise it made when it flew low over homes.

Dalston's top cop, Chief Supt Peter Twist, relayed the information supplied by the Met's Helicopter

Squad. He said the helicopters usually flew 1,000 feet above the ground, but on occasions could drop to between 700-800 feet. It also had special permission from the Civil Aviation Authority - which no other aircraft has - to enable its wheels to touch the ground if necessary when flying over London.

He said on average it overflew Hackney once a week, but it could be several times in one day if needed.

He said the last time it was used in that way in Hackney was in 1981 with the council in their mass eviction of squatters from the Stamford Hill Estate. Apart from using Hackney Marshes as a pick-up point for the Met's firearms team, he said the Marshes were also used as a makeshift base for the helicopters when searching for missing children.

Top cop refuses to reveal complaints investigation details

POLICE bluntly refused to provide the consultative group with information on the progress of individual investigations into complaints against their officers at the meeting.

That was made clear when District Area Commander Wyn Jones replied to a request from the group for interim reports on police complaints under investigation.

The group had asked for an update on the case of two off-duty City Road detectives suspended for an alleged attack on a man in a Hackney Road pub.

Despite being under suspension, they still gave evidence in a football hooligan trial which collapsed after their evidence was thrown out by the judge.

The consultative group also wanted to know which senior officers gave them permission to give evidence in court when under suspension.

DAC Jones said the discussion of complaints against police officers was not the subject of the forum and was of no relevance to the committee, especially as the alleged brawl happened outside the

borough's boundaries.

"It is not the function of the committee to investigate on its own or to pass information to the Police Complaints Authority or the Commissioner," he said.

"It is grossly unfair to individual officers and we are not here to pre-judge the

issue. I will not issue interim reports on any confidential matter involving any police officers.

"What I will do is give a concluding report on the outcome of an investigation as to whether there has been a disciplinary hearing or if no action was taken."

But David Fitzpatrick of the Millfields Users Group, said the consultative committee's constitution allowed the discussion of general patterns of complaints and this was an issue of public concern.

"We've received three complaints about the police," he said. "It is important we have interim reports, so we know how they are progressing so the public can see that justice is seen to be done."

"They don't have to give specific details and we don't want to question the integrity of officers or deny them their due rights of law, but we need to have updates so we know what is happening."

Consultative group secretary, Ted Oakham, asked who gave permission for the two suspended City Road detectives to give evidence in court. DAC Wyn Jones replied: "I did."



David Fitzpatrick

Complaints against officers 'usually made in the heat of the moment'

COMPLAINTS against Hackney's police officers totalled 168 last year.

A detailed breakdown of those complaints was supplied to the consultative group by Dalston's top cop, Chief Supt Peter Twist.

Only two per cent of them were found to be substantiated. Another 10 per cent were resolved informally between the parties after discussion.

A further 24 per cent were withdrawn and 26 per cent were not proceeded with.

Four per cent were not proceeded with by the Police

Complaints Authority because there was not enough evidence or they could not contact the complainants.

And 32 per cent were not substantiated following a full investigation.

"I'm never happy when any complaint is upheld against the police, but only two per cent is encouraging," said Chief Supt Twist.

"The reason why many complaints are withdrawn or not proceeded with is because they are usually made in the heat of the moment," he said.

"Later when the procedures are explained to them the steam goes out of it and they do not wish to continue."

Britain's first super nick gets a warm welcome

THE new Stoke Newington "super nick" will have some of the best facilities of any police station in the country, the consultative group was told.

Dalston's top cop, Chief Supt Peter Twist, said he had been impressed after being taken on a guided tour of the £1.2 million building which is still under construction and should be completed next spring.

An artist's impression of the new station is pictured above.

It will be fully glazed with an open-fronted reception and a hanging flower garden. It has purpose-built ramps to allow easy wheelchair access for the disabled.

And because it will have a lift the police say they will be able to employ disabled civilian staff.

All the cells conform to Home Office standards and there are two custody rooms which will solve the problem of overcrowding among prisoners.

A special rape suite will be provided on the top floor where victims of rape and other sex crimes can be examined by female doctors in comfortable surroundings.

Also provided will be showers and a rest room where the victim can wait for her family.

But plans for an identification parade suite have been deferred for the moment, although

there is room to spare if it is agreed at a later date.

The old police stables will be rebuilt again after the station has been opened and there is potential for the "super nick" to be further extended.

"The new station is unique and has some of the finest facilities of any police station in London, if not the country," said Chief Supt Peter Twist.

"As it was provided with public money we intend to organise an open day so the people of Hackney can inspect it themselves."



Chief Supt Peter Twist - impressed by the new police station's facilities.

Where have the police horses gone?

I WOULD like to know where all the police and horses have gone from Ridley Road, because only the other week the police were saying their campaign down there was such a success. Well, if so why don't they get back there and carry on with the job - or do they take their orders from the local council and other groups who seem to be on the side of the criminals?

The majority of people in Hackney who are not bothered by the police presence will be the ones who suffer most. Maybe the ones who are driving all the bells ringing about the police and their horses down Ridley Road are the ones who need watching. - MRS JOAN BUSH, CECILIA ROAD, DALSTON.

HC 15.7.88

Skinhead's axe attack

HQ 22.7.88

in street

SKINHEADS "armed to the teeth" with weapons almost hacked off the arm of a man when they attacked him with a chopper.

The violent mob were wrecking a car containing three people in Northwold Road, Stoke Newington, on Sunday evening.

As the occupants cowered in fear in the vehicle the gang set about smash-

ing it up with hatchets, wrenches and wooden clubs.

But as 24-year-old Francis Murray passed them in the street with his girlfriend, one of the skinheads - think-

ing he was one of the men from the car - struck him with the hatchet, causing a deep cut on his right forearm.

He was taken to Homerton Hospital

where he received stitches for a six-inch long gash.

Police are baffled about the attack and want to trace the occupants of the damaged blue Citroen car which was later found abandoned a short distance away. They also want to hear from other witnesses to the attack.

Anyone with information should contact Det Sgt Stuart Collier at Dalston Crimedesk on 488 7159.

Cops plan new blitz on market crime

ICE plan to repeat the successful anti-theft campaign which drastically reduced crime in Ridley Road earlier this year.

Robbings and street robbery were cut by almost a third during the crackdown which ran for five weeks.

Involved officers on foot, dog patrols and undercover surveillance.

Supt David Dugmore, the community liaison officer in Hackney, said: "Robbery operations, like one carried out so successfully recently, are

both manpower intensive and costly.

"Accordingly, they can-



● Supt Dave Dugmore

not be sustained indefinitely.

"However, campaigns of that nature will be undertaken from time to time and I understand that further actions are proposed for later in the year."

There were 1,255 street robberies in Hackney last year.

Hackney Council's Police Committee said the last crackdown upset the public because the horses caused a nuisance in the market.

But police chiefs said it was a success and had the full backing of local people.

Judge frees man after court bungle

A Dalston man who went through three crown court trials on drugs matters finally walked free after the prosecution offered no evidence against him.

Fifty-year old Carlton Morais was jailed for four years last autumn for five counts of possession and supply of heroin at his home in Queensbridge Road.

But after a successful appeal in the High Court, a re-trial was ordered on a legal technicality because the Clerk of the Court had failed to sign the indictments.

The second jury at Snaresbrook Crown Court in May acquitted Mr Morais of three of the charges but were stunned when the Judge told them that the earlier jury had found him guilty.

The prosecution then asked for a third trial, pressing the remaining two charges against him.

But at the third trial, earlier this month, Judge Beddard at Snaresbrook Crown Court, directed that a not guilty verdict be recorded because the prosecution, led by Mr Duncan Munro-Kerr, decided to offer no evidence.

The court was told that police arrested Mr Morais at a flat on the Somerford Estate, where, they claimed, he was supplying drugs to a housewife.

When they returned with him to his home, they found 15 grams of heroin in a wardrobe. But Mr Morais's defence counsel, Mr Philip Weller, claimed the police had planted the heroin to strengthen their case against him on supplying to the housewife.

Racist attacks monitored

A NEW campaigning group has been formed to monitor police malpractice and oppose racist and fascist attacks.

Called the Hackney Community Defence Association, it will be launched

tomorrow (Saturday) at an all day conference at the Town Hall.

The organisers, including the Trevor Monerville Campaign and Hackney Anti Fascist Action, say 25 local groups have already expressed

interest, and they expect 100 people to turn up at the event.

The new group will help co-ordinate community campaigns and aims to set up a support network to help victims of injustice.

HQ 22.7.88

New group launched to monitor police malpractice

A NEW campaigning group to monitor police malpractice and oppose racist and fascist attacks was launched on Saturday.

Around 60 people, including representatives from eight community groups, were at Hackney Town Hall at the formation of the Hackney Community Defence Campaign.

There was discussion about deaths in police custody, and a report on the levels of racism and fascism in the borough.

The new group will help co-ordinate community campaigns, and aims to set up a support network to help victims of injustice.

One of the first steps will be to organise a

by MAX VELODY

"telephone tree" of volunteers who will give help to attack victims.

Graham Smith, of the Trevor Monerville Campaign, said: "The event was very successful, and came up with many practical ways of offering support."

The HICDA plans to arrange an annual march - possibly in January - in memory of people who have died in police custody.

The campaign can be contacted on 249 6930.

Stretch case moves forward

THE official police watchdog this week issued a statement about the investigation of seven policemen accused of beating up Hoxton man Gary Stretch in a Hackney Road pub.

Jeff Crawford, the Police Complaints Authority member supervising the investigation,

said he was satisfied the investigation had been properly conducted.

The case papers are now with the Director of Public Prosecutions, who will decide whether or not to bring charges in the case.

HC 29.7.88

Demonstration plan abandoned

HC 5-8-88

Monerville denies wounding charge

SUPPORTERS of Trevor Monerville packed Snaresbrook Crown Court's public gallery on Monday when he appeared on robbery and wounding charges.

A planned demonstration outside was abandoned for fear of contempt charges.

Monerville, aged 20, of Bannister House, Homerton High Street, appeared with two other youths charged with wounding three men at a Halloween party last year, and trying to rob one of them.

Dentist Mr Christopher Long told the court that the three accused stopped him and demanded money after he left the party in Richmond Road, Dalston at 1.15am on November 1 to have an argument with his girlfriend, Jane Hervey.

"I only had a pocket full of loose change. I turned out my pockets to show them. One man said 'You are joking.' He was not very pleased. Another stood there tapping a piece of wood in his hand.

"Once they decided we did not have any money, they left, and said 'just remember we could have mugged you'."

Mr Long said he and Miss Hervey headed back to the party but met up with two friends, fellow dentist Christopher Roome and Dr Richard Barker, on the way.

The three men decided to chase after the accused while Miss Hervey rang the police.

Mr Long claimed that as he came up to the three accused, one headbutted him and he was struck around the head and face with an oil filter remover.

The fighting stopped suddenly and three accused strolled off casually down the road. Mr Long and his companions managed to stop a passing police van and the three were arrested shortly afterwards.

Prosecutor Simion Evans told the court that Monerville elbowed a police officer, loosening his teeth, during the arrest.

Monerville, together with Peter Tho-

mas, aged 24, of Brion Place, Poplar and Paul Rolle, aged 20, of Evering Road, Stoke Newington, all deny attempting to rob Mr Long and wounding him and his two friends.

Monerville also denies assaulting Pc David Jenkins, causing him actual bodily harm. Thomas, who was said to have punched a policeman, denies assault with intent to resist arrest.

Dr Richard Barker, said to have suffered numerous deep cuts and bruises in the attack, described blows raining down on his head from what he believed to be a cosh.

Dr Barker said: "I was hit once on the head and I bent down. Then more blows rained down, it seemed to be coming from a blunt object, harder than wood."

But defence counsel Vera Baird suggested that it was Dr Barker who had run up and jumped one of the accused from behind and the doctor's injuries were caused by a large ring one of the three was wearing.

The trial continues.

Meet the people plan over better policing

THE police have invited local groups for face-to-face talks as the next stage of Hackney Council's blueprint aimed at improving policing in the borough.

This move comes after the launch of Hackney's Charter for Better Policing - its primary objective being to reflect the demands of local people which were expressed to the council during a round of six public meetings staged last autumn.

Now Hackney Council wants to set up meetings between the police and tenants' groups and black and ethnic minority associations to try to achieve many of the demands outlined in the Charter.

Chair of the Police Com-

mittee, Adrienne Morgan, said: "We intend to use all the resources and powers at our disposal to ensure that the local police are made aware of and respond effectively to community concerns - through whatever liaison structures that can be developed on the basis of an equal partnership."

She went on to point out that this would be a far more productive form of liaison and accountability which would bring about "genuine and lasting improvement" in police/community relations than schemes based on an "unequal partnership" between the police, local authority and the community.

HC 5-8-88

Victory for Monerville campaigners

THE Monerville family was released from nine months of torture last week when Trevor Monerville was acquitted of charges arising from a street affray last November.

Twenty-year-old Trevor's family is preparing a civil action against the police for injuries incurred while he was held in Stoke Newington police station in January 1986.

Trevor's father, John Monerville, found him in a distressed condition in Brixton Prison. He was taken from there to undergo an emergency operation to remove a blood clot from his brain. Stoke Newington police subsequently dropped all charges relating to the supposed illegal entry of an automobile.

Trevor has since been singled out for the attentions of east London based police officers on various allegations related to traffic and public order offences.

No charges were ever pressed until Trevor, 24-year-old play centre supervisor Peter Thomas and 20-year-old musician Paul Rolle, were arrested and charged with 32 offences related to a street affray in Hackney, east London, last November.

Supporters

The supporters of the Trevor Monerville Defence Campaign allege that Trevor's involvement in the incident ensured that the Stoke Newington police officers involved in

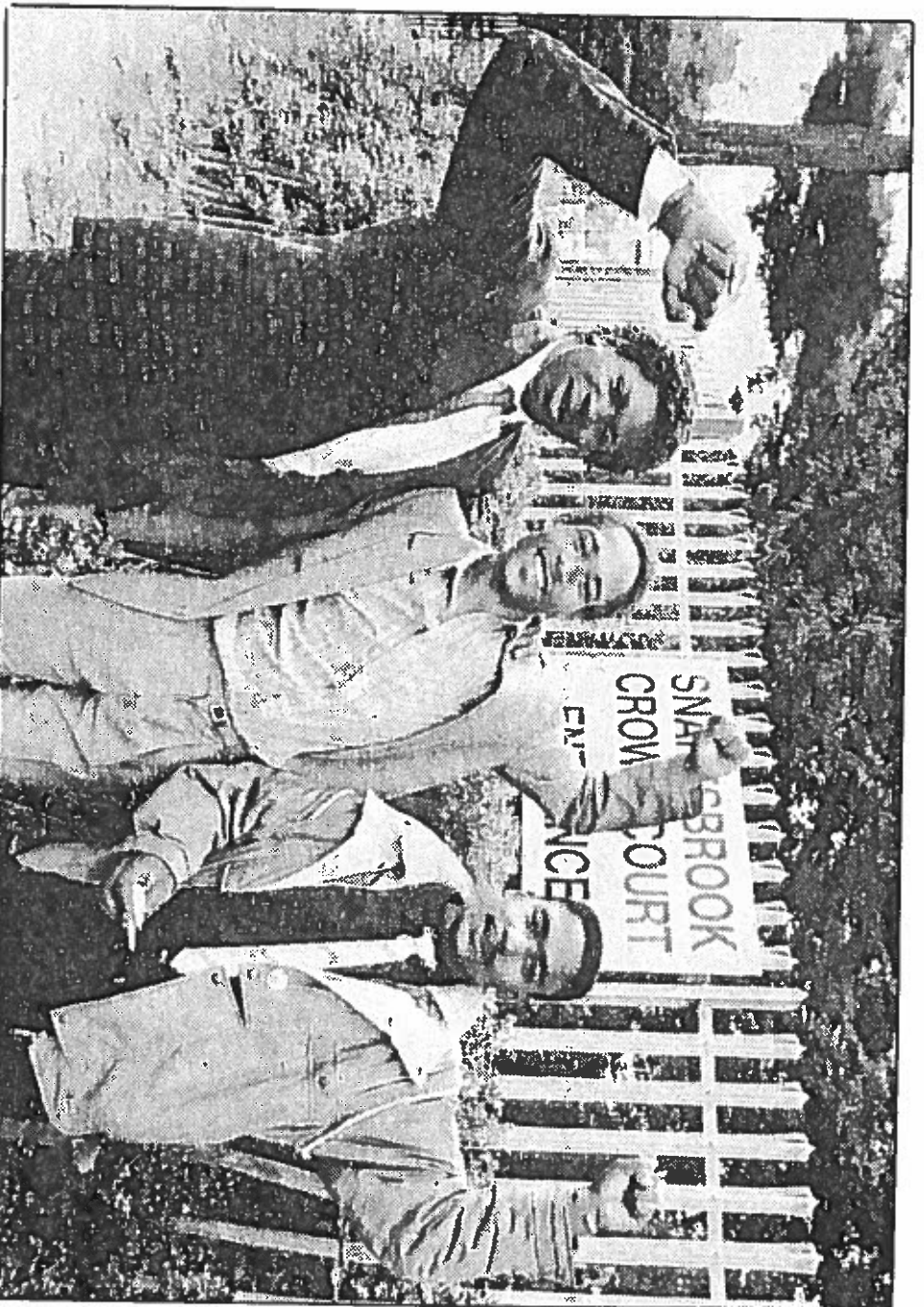
his arrest became especially eager to secure convictions.

A special officer was despatched from New Scotland Yard to assist Hackney and Stoke Newington police in the preparation of their indictment.

The incident arose from an argument between a man and a woman in Hackney which was witnessed by Monerville, Thomas and Rolle.

Words were exchanged as the men passed close to the couple and the man and two of his friends subsequently pursued Monerville, Thomas and Rolle.

A fight took place and the police officers called to the scene helped fabricate a story of a supposed bungled street robbery



Peter Thomas, Trevor Monerville and Paul Rolle victorious outside the court

and a violent response to a 'citizen's arrest' by three rugby-playing doctors.

Out of eleven charges brought against Trevor, three were dropped by the prosecution before the jurors were sworn in, while a further six were thrown out by the

judge following the prosecution's presentation. This left only two.

Victims

One of the 'victims' of the so-called assault, Dr Richard Barker, returned from his practice in Johann-

esburg to testify against the three young defendants before Judge Beddard in Snarebrook Crown Court.

The three defendants were cleared on charges related to attempted robbery, assault occasioning bodily harm and an assault on PC David

Judged

Thomas and Rolle were also judged not to have used excessive force in the course of self-defence. Commenting on the

Jenkins while resisting arrest on a unanimous verdict.

outcome of the trial - dubbed "a political trial from start to finish" by a spokesperson from the Community Defence Campaign - Mr John Monerville stated: "I hope the police will now allow my son to get on with his life."

88-8-b1 10 36

'Victim of police attack' is cleared of mugging

David Pallister

MR TREVOR Monerville, a young east Londoner preparing a civil action against the Metropolitan Police Commissioner for serious assault and brain damage while in police custody, was acquitted at Snaresbrook crown court yesterday of attempted robbery and causing actual bodily harm to a police officer.

Nine other charges against him were either dropped by the prosecution or dismissed by the judge for lack of evidence.

Mr Monerville's half brother, Mr Peter Thomas, and a friend, Mr Paul Rolle, who were charged with six wounding offences, were found not guilty of three. The jury was unable to reach a verdict on the other three and the prosecution agreed to drop them.

The charges arose out of an incident in Hackney last November. A man and a woman claimed that a group of youths had tried to rob them. The man and two male friends then

toured the area looking for the muggers. They came across Mr Monerville and his companions and a fight took place.

Mr Monerville claimed that his group were not the muggers, but were attacked and acted in self defence. One of the men, a Johannesburg doctor who was flown in to give evidence, had a wound needing 20 stitches. During the trial, which began last week, there was no evidence of identification.

Afterwards, Mr Monerville's father, John, said he hoped the police would now leave his son to get on with his life.

The Monerville family has claimed that the police in Hackney have consistently harassed Trevor since he signalled his intention of suing them. In January last year he disappeared for nearly a week after being arrested and taken to Stoke Newington police station.

By the time his father tracked him down to Brixton prison's hospital wing he was seriously ill and had been badly beaten up. He had to undergo brain surgery which has left him with

memory loss, poor vision, and fits.

A Trevor Monerville Campaign has been working since then to highlight police methods in Hackney, following many allegations of brutality, particularly against black people. Trevor Monerville and his companions are black. The campaign has recently joined other community groups in the area to form the Community Defence Association "to challenge the many instances of racist/fascist attacks and police malpractice".

A spokesman for the campaign said yesterday: "The jury's verdict shows that the police were unjustified in bringing these charges and confirms our view that they wanted to criminalise Trevor and discredit our campaign."

In the civil action, Mr Monerville's solicitor has issued summonses against the police and the Home Office for the release of documents relating to his detention in January last year. The authorities have refused to hand them over.

Father's 'leave my son alone' plea

THE FATHER of Trevor Monerville — the youth at the centre of a storm over alleged police brutality — issued a heartfelt plea to them to leave his son alone after a court acquitted him of attempted robbery and assault.

Since the family lodged complaints about police treatment of Trevor during his arrest in January 1987 the Met "have been harassing him at his workplace, at his home, at his grandparents' and his father's addresses and at his father's shop," John Monerville said after the trial at Snaresbrook Crown Court.

Trevor hit the headlines last year when he was rushed to King's College Hospital to undergo an emergency operation to remove a blood clot from his brain four days after his arrest.

His family have demanded a satisfactory account from the police of how he came to be injured, and their call has been backed by Hackney South MP Brian Sedgemore.

Last month John Monerville served papers on the Secretary of State and the Met Police ordering them to produce documents relating to Trevor's arrest in January of 1987 and the circumstances which gave rise to his injuries.

In this week's case, Trevor, of Richmond Road, Dalston, along with Peter Thomas, of Brion Place, Poplar, and Paul Rolle, of Evering Road, Stoke Newington, were acquitted of charges of attempted robbery and actual bodily harm on police and of assault with intent to resist arrest.

The prosecution claimed that dentist Christopher Long and his girlfriend were approached by the defendants in Richmond Road as they left a Halloween party and the trio demanded money.

Mr Long subsequently met up with two other friends, Dr Richard Barker and fellow dentist Christopher Roome, and decided to give chase to the would-be muggers.

The two dentists and the doctor went off in search of the defendant, found them and set upon them, but came off worse in the course of the fight.

They then called the police and the defendants were arrested nearby.

Three charges were dropped by police before the case was opened.

The jury were directed to find Monerville not guilty on charges of wounding Dr Long, Mr Roome and Dr Barker with intent. They were also directed to find Thomas not guilty of wounding Long and Roome with intent, and to find Rolle not guilty of wounding Dr Barker with intent.

Not guilty verdicts mean the youths were acquitted of all charges.

Police files closed

AFTER the trial, Supt Dave Dugmore of Hackney Police said: "Providing Mr Monerville refrains from criminal activity and leads a law-abiding life, the police will not approach him or interfere with his activities."

"The police arrested Mr Monerville as a result of serious allegations made by a doctor, two dentists and a nurse. The decision to implement criminal proceedings was taken by the Crown Prosecution Service after examining all the evidence."

"During the trial, no allegations were made that Mr Monerville had been assaulted by police in any way or at any time in connection with this incident. While I am unable to comment on the jury decision, the police are satisfied there are no other suspects in the case and our investigation is now closed."



● John Monerville

Police to be sued for alleged assault

TREVOR Monerville is to sue the police for alleged assault. His supporters made the announcement shortly after the verdict at Snaresbrook Crown Court clearing him of 11 charges, including robbery and assault.

Graham Smith, of the Trevor Monerville Campaign, said: "Trevor will be taking out a civil action for assault because of the events surrounding his arrest in November. The crown court verdict shows the police were completely unjustified in bringing charges against Trevor."

"We believe they were attempting to criminalise Trevor and discredit the Trevor Monerville campaign."

Police and public face to face meeting

CRIMEFIGHTERS put themselves in the firing line with a series of frank face to face meetings with the public next month.

Another round of area liaison panel meetings is being held by Stoke Newington and Dalston police so residents' and tenants' organisations, community groups, churches and representatives of local businesses can have a say in the policing of their neighbourhoods.

The meetings are held three times a year and have been running successfully since 1983.

They are not to be confused with the meetings being staged by Hackney Council inviting local groups to give their views on its recently launched charter to improve policing.

There are four police area liaison meetings being held next month and each will be attended by the inspector responsible for the area as well as the local home beat officers and Dalston's top cop Chief Supt, Peter Twist.

"The meetings are by invitation and we welcome any other groups interested in attending," said police community involvement officer, Pc Steve Longthorn.

"They are informal meetings held in the canteen of Stoke Newington police sta-

tion and many wide-ranging issues are discussed, from abandoned cars on estates to muggings."

All four meetings next month will get a chance to hear about the workings of the police domestic violence unit which has recently been introduced at Stoke Newington.

The unit, which is run by two women police constables, deals with cases of wife battering and attacks on women in the home by boyfriends or common law husbands.

They give counselling and aftercare to victims, have specialised legal expertise in gaining injunctions and writs preventing husbands or boyfriends harming them, and also provide referrals to battered wives hostels.

Chief Supt Peter Twist added: "We welcome Hackney Council's initiative in talking to TAs and public groups and I can only give them encouragement because we have been doing it for five years."

"Every meeting of the police consultative group gives members of the public an opportunity to address the meeting and raise matters of local importance regarding policing."

Liaison meetings should contact Pc Steve Longthorn on 488 7219 or the home beat office on 488 7178.

HC 12.8.88

Council support Monerville in new row

HACKNEY Council has waded into the latest row between the police and the family of Trevor Monerville, acquitted on 11 criminal charges last week at Snaresbrook Crown Court.

Trevor's father, John, says police have persistently tried to provoke his son in recent months.

And this week he won support from council police committee chair Adrienne Morgan.

She said: "Trevor has been arrested three times since January last year, and has been acquitted or released without charge each time.

"We are angry at the way the police are criminalising the family."

Her remarks followed detailed complaints by Mr Monerville alleging police harassment of Trevor.

He says the most recent incident was on August 4 outside Trevor's girlfriend's flat at Bannister House in Homerton High Street.

And he also claims plain-clothes policemen have tried to goad Trevor in Mr Monerville's

TV repair shop in Brooksby's Walk.

Mr Monerville's complaint follows remarks made last week by Supt Dave Dugmore of Hackney police, who said: "Providing Trevor Monerville refrains from criminal activity and leads a law-abiding life, the police will not approach him or interfere with his activities."

Mr Monerville said: "There's no doubt about it, the police have tried to provoke Trevor." I tell him to stay out of their way and not get into any trouble.

But, in response to Mr Monerville's allegations, Supt Dugmore said this week: "I'm unaware of any such activities on the part of the police. I would find it difficult to believe that what was said was correct."

The Trevor Monerville Campaign began in January last year when Trevor, then 19, needed brain surgery following his arrest by Stoke Newington police. The campaigners are currently taking legal action to obtain police documents connected with the arrest.

HC 19.8.88

High Court battle over alleged police attack

THE Hoxton man who claims he was savagely beaten up in a pub by off-duty police is to sue for damages.

Gary Stretch, 24, was left with his ear hanging off and cracked bones following an incident in The Limes pub in Hackney Road last November.

Seven policemen were suspended as the Independent watchdog group, the Police Complaints Authority, launched an investigation.

Their report, which includes 69 statements and 63 other documents, is with the Director Of Public Prosecutions. He must decide whether or not to take criminal action.

But next week Mr Stretch goes to the High Court to take out a civil action against the police for civil damages. He has already been granted legal aid to pursue his claim.

His father, 52-year-old Eddie Stretch, said this week at the family

by MAX VELODY

home on the Cranston Estate in Hoxton: "We've been waiting for months to hear if charges will be brought against the men who hurt my son. I think the delay is disgusting."

"Now we're fed up with waiting. We're taking our own action."

He revealed his son still received regular medical treatment for back injuries sustained during the alleged attack.

Gary Stretch's solicitor, Cathy Murphy, said this week: "We shall be suing regardless of whether or not there is a criminal action."

They may also claim damages for wrongful arrest and false imprisonment.



● Gary Stretch.

HC 26.8.88

We must monitor the police



● Supt Dave Dugmore.

YOUR paper recently reported the good news of Trevor Monerville's acquittal on a number of charges. In this article a senior police officer was quoted as saying that "as long as Mr Monerville leads a law-abiding life, the police will not interfere with his activities".

We would be pleased to hear this if we could only believe it! His recent acquittal once again attested to the man's innocence and yet Supt Dugmore still talks of "Trevor Monerville refraining from criminal activity"!

It is Supt Dugmore and his fellow police officers who should refrain from arresting innocent people, portraying them as criminals and, when they fail to convince the courts, using the media to imply criminal activity where it does not exist. Attempts to criminalise individuals like Trevor Monerville should not just be seen as isolated cases, but as part of the systematic criminalisation of whole sections of our community. Black youths in this country are constant victims of this approach.

Such events show very clearly the need for a Community Defence Association, to provide support and advice to victims of police malpractice and to monitor the depressing frequency with which it occurs. — HELEN PURCHAS, HACKNEY COMMUNITY DEFENCE ASSOCIATION, KINGSLAND ROAD, DALSTON.

National Front man fined over demo

NATIONAL Front supporter Matthew Ballard, from Stoke Newington, who admitted having an offensive weapon at the Irish Liberation Demonstration on August 6, was told that it had to be forfeited when he appeared at Highbury Magistrate's Court.

Magistrate Mrs J. B. Kemble said: "We are going to have to take your stone away from you," Ballard appeared unconcerned.

Crown Prosecutor John Woolard said Ballard, of Evering Road, had been taken from a crowd of NF members after police heard him say: "Hang the IRA scum."

But Ballard denied saying that and added: "I was pulled from the crowd when I was singing the national anthem."

Ballard, 20, unemployed, was fined £100 for the offensive weapon and £50 for disorderly behaviour in Upper Street, Islington.

HC 2.9.88

Police move to stop warehouse parties

POLICE are determined to stamp out a wave of warehouse parties they claim are dangerous drug dens.

Fourteen arrests were made at party attended by about 1,000 people in Spitalfields on Friday night.

And several more people were taken into custody the following night when police broke up another party before it could get started.

Police say the "acid parties" follow the cult of the new designer-drug Ecstasy, which gives a "high" like LSD and is supposed to be an aphrodisiac.

Cards advertising the all-night parties are handed round days in advance, telling punters to meet at a venue like Bethnal Green Tube station.

Admission is often £5 or £10, and £1 or £2 is charged for a can of beer.

"We are worried most about the safety aspect," said Chief Insp Peter Dowse, "about what would happen if there was fire or the roof should fall in."

But holding parties without permission in empty warehouses - without a licence for drink or dancing - is illegal, he said.

On Friday police were unable to stop the party, in Commercial Street, until

dawn provided enough light for them to find switches to cut the power supply.

Beer cans were thrown at police vans and officers were spat on as they moved in. Four of the arrests were for alleged drug offences, the rest for threatening behaviour and public order charges.

More arrests were made on Saturday night in Old Nichol Street when officers swooped on a party when less than 30 people had arrived.

Police believe they have identified one of the organisers. "We are really concerned that if something did go wrong at one of these parties a lot of people could be hurt," said Mr Dowse.

Stop pub harassment say squatters

SQUATTERS who say they're being victimised by the police in their favourite Stoke Newington pub are threatening to picket the police station.

They claim that in three raids in two months, at the Cricketers in Northwold Road, they've been prodded into "resisting arrest" by police who they say just want to pick on them.

The police completely deny the accusations - and no threats will stop them doing their duty, they say.

"The police didn't suspect any crimes had been committed - they were just there to harass the young and poor people of Hackney," said David Hughes, spokesperson for the squatters' group Hackney Housing Action.

A resolution passed by the group on Monday said: "We have to warn the police that their brutal intimidation will not be tolerated."

But Chief Inspector John Tippet said the only reason police called at the

pub was that there were still large groups of people outside on the pavement at 11.30 pm.

"They don't come looking for criminals or searching for drugs - just to intimidate us," said Mr Hughes.

But Chief Insp Tippet said: "Our police action was 100 per cent correct and the same as we would do at any other pub."

A spokesman for the pub declined to comment.

Trevor Monerville in court on assault charge

TREVOR Monerville - the Hackney youth at the centre of a controversy over alleged police brutality - was arrested on Friday night.

The unemployed 20-year-old of Bannister House, Homerton High Street, appeared before Old Street magistrates on Saturday charged with assaulting a woman and a two-year-old girl. The case was adjourned until September 26 and Monerville was allowed bail.

Another man, 27-year-old carpenter John Baptiste, of Oliver Close, Leyton, has been charged with assaulting Trevor Monerville and is due to appear at court on September 30. Family and friends staged a demonstration outside Hackney police station on Saturday night. No arrests were made.

● The family lodged complaints about police treatment of Trevor Monerville when he was arrested in January 1987. He underwent an emergency operation to remove a blood clot from his brain four days after his arrest.

HC 16-9-88

Monerville in court over bail condition

TREVOR Monerville was back in court on Tuesday accused of breaking a bail condition.

The 20-year-old Stoke Newington mechanic – who is at the centre of a controversy over alleged police brutality – is charged with assaulting a woman and her two-year-old daughter.

Forbidden by Old Street magistrates from contacting the woman, he appeared in court on Tuesday accused of visiting, on Monday night, the block of flats where she lived.

He denied making the visit, and the prosecution dropped the accusation.

His bail was changed to an order not to go within a quarter of a mile of the block in Homerton High Street.

He was already remanded on condition that he lives at Durley Road, Stoke Newington, and provides £1,000 surety.

He is set to return to Old Street on September 26.

HC 23-9-88

Police complaints system slammed from all points of view

THE official police watchdog body should be scrapped.

So says Margaret Hodge, leader of Islington Council.

She spoke out following an independent report out this week which says the complaints system is regarded as unsatisfactory by almost everyone who comes into contact with it.

According to the report, which was commissioned by the police, "The poor complaints system - poor on speed, poor in feedback, poor in giving real satisfaction, poor from both a public and a police point of view - acts as a major focus of dissatisfaction."

"The public believe it is biased and sometimes protects officers, while police officers find the whole process a deeply stressful experience."

The hard-hitting report, based on six months research and 230 interviews, also criticises the police for their refusal to admit mistakes and for their attitude to the public, and also calls for better training of officers.

It says: "A major problem for the Met in its relations with the public is that there are a minority of police officers who are too free with their language and who adopt an aggressive attitude in their relationship with people on the street."

"This minority, who are rude or insensitive, create an atmosphere for the whole of the Met which deeply embarrases the majority."

Following the report Mrs Hodge, who

Public believes it's too biased

chairs the Labour Association of London Authorities, called for the Police Complaints Authority to be scrapped and replaced by a genuinely independent body with its own investigators and wider powers.

She said: "The report recognises many of the problems we have highlighted in the past - an unclear idea of its mission, insularity and over-defensiveness, poor service-delivery, lack of openness, poor communication both internally and externally, and a complaints system that satisfies absolutely nobody."

"At a cost of £1bn a year, it simply isn't good enough."

She called for the setting up of a London-wide elected police authority.

David Fitzpatrick, who is on the steering

committee of the Hackney Police Consultative Group, has been an outspoken critic of the police's refusal to divulge information about complaints.

He said: "The report hits on fundamental problems of attitudes and training."

"There is a patronising we know best attitude that tends to come across in the higher police echelons."

He was critical of the police refusal to give any information on the progress of the investigation of off-duty seven police officers suspended last November for allegedly beating up Hoxton man Gary Stretch in The Limes pub in Hackney Road.

He said: "Our group has taken this issue on board without effect. We have failed to get an answer beyond platitudes every time we ask questions."

"At the last PCG meeting, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Wyn Jones said discussion of complaints against police officers was none of our business."

"My hope now is that this report is acted on and its findings are not brushed under the carpet."

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Peter Imbert welcomed the report. He said: "We shall study very carefully the recommendations, which, we hope, will help us develop our style of policing and improve our communication both internally and externally."

The police will study the report before deciding whether to act on its recommendations.



© Margaret Hodge - "complaints system satisfies no-one."



© David Fitzpatrick - critic of "patronising" police

Trevor Monerville case dismissed

TREVOR Monerville walked free from court this week after assault and wounding charges against him were dismissed.

It's the fourth time in a year that the 21-year-old has been arrested and charged only for the case against him to collapse.

Now his supporters claim the police have been conducting a sustained campaign to discredit Trevor.

Graham Smith, of the Trevor Monerville campaign, said: "The police know Trevor is pursuing a civil action against them because of injustice suffered following his arrest last year."

Daily visits

"In the interim they are trying to portray Trevor, his family, and the Trevor Monerville campaign as criminals, liars, and anti-police."

He claimed Trevor had been stopped and searched on several occasions, and that, until recently, officers had made daily visits to his father John's electrical shop where Trevor regularly helps out.

This year Trevor has appeared in court on two charges of breaking his bail conditions, and on 11 charges of robbery and assault. He was cleared of every charge.

On Monday Monerville, of Barnier House in Hoxton High Street, appeared at Old Street Court charged with at-

tacking his girlfriend Sonia Smith and their two-year-old child.

But the case was thrown out after the prosecution decided not to pursue the charges. The court heard that Miss Smith, who had originally made the complaint, had appeared in court three times since then in an effort to get the charge withdrawn.

The prosecution asked for the case to be adjourned for Miss Smith to be given the opportunity of re-examining her statement. But the magistrate Daniel Miers refused, and dismissed the case.

Denial

Trevor, who was not allowed to contact his girlfriend as part of his bail conditions, said he was now trying to get back together with her.

Supt Dave Dugmore, in charge of community relations in Hackney, denied that the police had been out to discredit Monerville.

"I would refute the claim that he has been the subject of a systematic campaign of intimidation by the police."

"And I would question the accuracy of the claim that he has been continually stopped and questioned by the police."

He added that the decision to continue with the latest prosecution had not been taken by the police, but by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Police put a stop to warehouse party

POLICE put a stop to a warehouse party before it got started on Friday night.

They moved in before revellers started arriving at a warehouse in Pelican Passage, Cambridge Heath Road, thanks to a tip-off from a neighbour.

The officers found people with disco equipment, apparently preparing for the party.

A Hackney man was arrested on suspicion of burglary but he was later released without charge.

Police are appealing for neighbours to let them know if they think partygoers are about to take over a warehouse - often in Bethnal Green or Spitalfields - for one of the new craze of parties.

Organisers charge £5 or more for admission and around £2 for a can of beer.

"We are very concerned that with up to 2,000 people going to these parties, they would be in great danger if there was a fire or another emergency," said Inspector Gerald Shamra.

HC 30.9.88

'Psychological war'

BRAIN surgery victim Trevor Monerville has won yet another round in his "psychological war" with the Metropolitan Police.

Trevor was forced to put the lie to police charges against him once again last week when Old Street Magistrates Court acquitted him of an alleged unlawful wounding on a two-year-old child and actual bodily harm.

Twenty-one-year old Trevor has now been before five different courts and spent over 200 hours in police custody since his legal representatives announced that Trevor would be proceeding with a civil action against the police.

This action relates to his detention in Stoke Newington police station and subsequent injuries which led to brain surgery.

The case heard last week referred to Tre-



Trevor Monnerville (centre) outside Snaresbrook Court earlier this year when he was cleared of an assault charge

vor's arrest on September 9, 1988, only weeks after a jury had acquitted him and two companions of a charge of mugging.

The latest case was thrown out of court when the police asked for more time to prepare a case. They said that the original com-

plaint against Trevor had been withdrawn.

The regularity with which Trevor is harassed by the police – at home, on the street, at work – has led to his family and friends discussing the feasibility of sending him out of Britain until his civil action is ready to be

heard.

Trevor's family and friends believe the police are trying to imprison Trevor in order to undermine his civil action.

They fear the police are also trying to discredit him as a witness by allowing him no time to convalesce

from the surgery he received 21 months ago.

"There seems to be no point in appealing to the humanity in these people. Where Trevor is concerned they don't seem to have any," said one close friend of the family.

CT 7.10.88

Community organises self-defence

"Where there is oppression there is resistance" was the slogan raised in the Six Counties 20 years ago when the nationalist people declared their intention to defend themselves.

armed struggle.

Any realistic analysis of the balance of political forces in Britain shows the right consolidating its power with unbounded confidence. On the other hand, the left is in disarray.

**By Graham Smith
Hackney
Community
Defence
Association**

While the left has involved itself with the dissemination of ideas, working class resistance has centred on practical work solidly based on our communities' opposition to the forces of repression.

Black working class communities have had to look to their own resources. In defending their interests, they have had to confront state racism and the criminalisation of the inner city communities.

In recent years three people have died in Stoke

Newington police station — Aseta Simms, Michael Ferreira and Colin Roach. Within days of the station's demolition in 1987 Tunay Hassan died at Dalston police station where Stoke Newington police had been transferred.

Earlier, Trevor Monerville had had brain surgery after being held in Stoke Newington police station. But the Hackney and Stoke Newington communities have fought back.

Injured

Following a successful torchlit march remembering the dead and injured in January of this year the Trevor Monerville Campaign and Hackney Anti-Fascist Action began building the Hackney Community

Defence Association.

With support from established groups, including the Newham Monitoring Project and East London's Community Alliance for Police Accountability, the HCDA has been established as a federation.

Malpractice

The bases of the HCDA's work are the many instances of racist/fascist attacks and police malpractice.

The importance of campaigns is evident. The recent acquittal of Trevor Monerville and others of 32 serious criminal charges was largely due to the efforts of the Trevor Monerville Campaign.

Most such cases result in convictions and lengthy prison sentences. Yet the

Trevor Monerville Campaign, by working with chosen solicitors and barristers, ensured justice prevailed against a police fabricated case.

Where justice is not gained in the courts campaigns play a central part in informing the community of the truth.

For example, the inquest into Colin Roach's death after he was shot in the foyer of Stoke Newington Police Station in 1983 reached a verdict of suicide. The Roach Family Support committee established beyond doubt that Colin Roach could not have shot himself.

Police

The police version of events, backed up by the Inquest, is no longer believed.

To the majority of Hackney and Stoke Newington people Colin Roach was murdered. We need to remember those who have suffered and died in police custody. The HCDA will organise annual commemorations every January.

Armoured

We are also preparing for the future. Armoured Landrovers, used extensively in the Six Counties, now patrol London's streets. The new Stoke Newington police station is due for completion in 1989.

The police have turned their backs on community demands for accountability by building a fortress in our midst complete with 200 cells.

Resistance can take many forms — survival, public demonstrations, uprisings, organised defence, and, ultimately,

LABOUR BRIEFING

13.10.88

Race hate slogans daubed

A SPATE of race-hate attacks have been carried out on the homes of Orthodox Jewish families.

Nazi swastikas and the initials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation were daubed on the front doors and front walls of four houses in Leweston Place, Stamford Hill, during the early hours of Monday.

Dalston police are investigating the incident which followed a spate of attacks earlier this year when cars were vandalised in nearby roads where there is a large Orthodox Jewish community.

HC 14.10.88

Family's three-year race hate attack anguish

IT'S 11pm on a Saturday night in the heart of Hackney and Sarath's family are huddled in fear in the sitting room.

For three years the family of six have been subjected to a spate of violent racial attacks which have made them fearful for their lives.

Now friends and volunteers spend evenings with the family to protect them from mob violence.

Just last month a gang of 20 youths wielding sledgehammers and carrying a horrifying armoury of knives laid siege to the home in London Fields where Sarath lives with his 70-year-old dad, his 48-year-old mum, and his three brothers aged 14, 11, and seven.

Since then gangs of youths have frequently gathered late at night outside the house.

The nightmare began three years ago when Sarath, 20, was beaten up after refusing to hand over 10p to a gang of boys.

Since then he has been:

- punched and kicked at a bus stop
- had his car vandalised twice

● and needed hospital treatment following a street attack.

On one occasion Sarath was walking near his home with his mother and brothers when he was attacked with by a gang wielding a dog chain. He ended up in Homerton Hospital needing treatment for gashes and swelling.

On another, his 11-year-old brother was attacked outside a shop and had a knife held to his throat.

On a third occasion, his mum had to flee into a shop to take shelter from a knife-wielding gang.

The family, whose full name and address we are not revealing for reasons of safety, are living in a state of siege. Says Sarath, a service engineer: "When we go out, we all have to go together. Our normal family life has been destroyed."

"We live in fear of our lives. We have received death threats, obscene phone calls, and been attacked repeatedly."

"My father had lived here happily since 1943. But now we are prisoners in our own homes."

"All we want now is to get out of here and start our lives somewhere new."



● Sarath's identity has not been revealed for reasons of safety: "Our normal family life has been destroyed."

Support group aim to kick racists out



● John Schofield

A CAMPAIGN has been formed to help a family who have suffered three years of racial attacks.

Five hundred people have signed a petition calling on Hackney Council to rehouse the family.

And the family's supporters also want the council to prosecute council tenants known to be involved in the attacks.

Hackney Community Defence Campaign has played a big part in helping the family, whose nightmare experiences - including a mob attack on their home - are listed above.

John Schofield, a campaign member, is one of those who has spent several evenings at the family home to protect them should the mob return.

He said: "We know this is just one of the numerous senseless attacks that occur in the borough. It's up to the council to take action and kick the ra-

cists out."

Teachers from local schools have been helping the family. One school has organised a rota to make sure Sarath's brother gets home safely.

And the campaigners have been to see Hackney South MP Brian Sedgemoore to ask for help.

A spokesperson for Hackney Council said: "We are trying to find alternative accommodation for the family as a matter of urgency. But unfortunately it is not easy to find the sort of four-bedroom property they require."

"Regrettably, there are 40 or 50 other cases where families are due to be moved because of threats of violence, many of them racially motivated."

● Anyone who would like to join the family's defence campaign can contact it c/o Hackney Trade Union Support Unit, 489 Kingsland Road.

Crackdown on drug parties

POLICE are cracking down on the drugs-related dance craze Acid House. A task force of investigators are working all-out to break a suspected ring of drug-pushers they believe are organising the illegal parties in Hackney.

In the last few weeks there has been a surge of Acid House parties in the borough, many held in empty warehouses, without licences for

entertainment or drink. Police officers are currently checking out a possible link with drug pushers, who sell hallucinogenic pills like LSD (Acid) and Ecstasy at the parties.

Chief Supt Peter Kruger, based at City Road, who is co-ordinating the probe, said: "There is a lot of money going around at these parties with 2,000 people paying a £5 entrance fee and then buy-

ing drugs."

Police have received complaints from residents throughout the borough about noise disturbances usually at 2 or 3am.

● On Saturday, police at Bethnal Green stepped in to stop an illegal Acid House party at a gym in Cambridge Heath Road. Fire and police chiefs decided the building was an unsafe venue for a party.

HQ 21.10.88

Watchdog moves to silence

knockers We're not police puppets they say

INDISPUTABLE evidence that Hackney's police community consultative group has played a major role in helping to combat crime and improve the way the borough is policed was produced at its AGM.

The packed gathering of police and community representatives were given an account of its achievements over the past 12 months.

And those accomplishments it believes should go some way to silencing the "knockers" and critics who dismissed the group as little more than a "talking shop" and a "puppet of the police."

In his report, secretary Ted Oakham, catalogued those achievements.

Viable proof of one of its major contributions to combating crime can be seen by the extra manpower on the borough's streets.

A report drawn up by the consultative group calling for additional police personnel was sent to the Home Secretary and the Police Commissioner earlier in the year.

As a result extra manpower was provided as recognition of the special policing problems of the borough.

Chief Superintendent Niall Mulvihill, the top cop at Hackney and City Road police stations, told the meeting: "The exact number of extra men varies from week to week, but it is in double figures and can be anything up to 20 officers."

The group had also been critical of the police in its treatment of victims of burglary and robbery.

It felt officers were unsympathetic and often didn't follow up their original phone call with a visit.

This led to senior police officers issuing a memorandum to their men reminding them of the need for more sensitivity when dealing with a victim of crime.

Dalston's top cop, Chief Supt Peter Twist, told the meeting new procedures in dealing with burglaries had been introduced this year where all victims would receive a personal visit from an officer.

He believed this approach had been one reason why the borough's burglary figures had diminished.

The group had also taken a keen interest in the case of Trevor Monerville, although chairperson, Betty Blomfield, said no reply had been received to the invitation sent to his father to come and address the group.

One highlight of the year was the visit of Sir Cecil Clothier, chairperson of the Police Complaints Authority, who attended a meeting earlier in the year to explain the practices and procedures of the Police Complaints Authority.

The group had also discussed with police the need for more officers from the black and ethnic minorities and recommended they made this a priority when the Met mounted a recruitment campaign in the borough in the summer.

It also wrote to the Director of Public Prosecutions urging it to prosecute the publishers of the racist "Holocaust News" newspaper which was circulated in the borough.

But the biggest achievement, said secretary Ted Oakham, was that ordinary folk could come and discuss their problems and concerns face to face with senior ranking police officers.

Pressure group gets cells smartened up

THE conditions of police cells and the treatment of prisoners in Hackney's police stations has improved considerably.

That's the verdict of the public watchdogs who monitor them as part of the Home Office's lay visitors scheme.

The borough has 26 voluntary unpaid lay visitors—ordinary citizens who visit police cells unannounced and without any prior warning to inspect them and talk to detainees.

The report to the consultative group by the Lay Visitors Panel said on the whole, Hackney's police were to be congratulated.

But Charles Walford, chairperson of the Lay Visitors' Panel, said there were still some concerns over why detainees were not allowed sheets and a pillow in their cells and only provided with a blanket.

"It seems Home Office policy is not to provide them for prisoners in police detention," he told the meeting.

He said there had been no recent complaints of ill-treatment reported to them by prisoners, although he pointed out that the Police Complaints Authority had received a few, referred to them by other agencies.

The lay visitors also chided up a success by getting the police cells at Hackney and Dalston police stations re-decorated this year.

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill admitted it was their pressure which got the cells smartened up.

But he said because of the volume of prisoner traffic they deteriorated more rapidly than police cells in other boroughs.

He said he shared the concern of the police consultative group that they were not appropriate for detaining long-term prisoners on remand because of prison overcrowding.

Charles Walford said it was gratifying that the police themselves should invite lay visitors to be present with a prisoner as somebody independent of them got to see a particular detainee.

On one or two occasions this had happened, he said, with a prisoner who had a



● Niall Mulvihill
four record and a high public profile.

"Lay visitors are not only protection for the public, but protection for the police against totally unfounded allegations," he said. "Fair play runs both ways."

The number of unannounced visits to cells totalled an average of 50 to 60 per police station each year, the meeting was told.

And an appeal was made for new volunteers to become lay visitors to replace two who had recently resigned because of changes in their personal circumstances.

Come and join us plea

RENEWED calls for Hackney Council to be represented on the police community consultative group were made at the AGM.

The council has its own police committee and has consistently snubbed the consultative group saying it is undemocratic, unrepresentative and nothing more than a "talking shop."

Eddie Ginty, representing Hackney and Tower Hamlets Chamber of Commerce, said the group should recognise the existence of the council's police committee.

He recommended writing again to the council inviting councillors to take up the three seats reserved for them under the Home Office guidelines.

And he suggested sending representatives from the police consultative group to sit on the council's police committee.

Consultative group vice chair person, Charles Cable, a former Hackney councillor, said it was essential elected representatives should be on the consultative group for constructive consultation and dialogue with the police.

Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill said there were no routine meetings held between the police and the council's police committee.

"We only discuss matters with the council over which we have mutual responsibility," he said.

"I have consistently asked them to reconsider their stance towards the consultative group."

Chairperson Betty Blomfield told the meeting that the three nomination cards had been sent to the council, but had not been returned.

"What more can we do," she said, "they refuse to join us."

Crackdown on street crime



● Peter Twist

POLICE are to launch a crime crackdown on street robberies and muggings next month.

It is timed to co-incide with night getting darker earlier and the run up to Christmas when shoppers are a target for thieves.

Dalston's top cop, Chief Supt Peter Twist, told the police community consultative group that the new initiative was devoted to reducing street crime.

"A similar scheme was tried out earlier in the summer in Dalston's Ridley Road market," he said.

"As a result the figures for robbery and theft from person were remarkably diminished."

TV star to launch junior crime panel

POLICE Five presenter Shaw Taylor will launch a teenage version of Hackney's Crime Prevention panel next month.

School fifth and sixth formers as well as youths clubs are being urged to join the junior crime prevention panel.

It's aimed at attracting youngsters aged between 16-19 and will hold its inaugural meeting at Roots Pool Community Centre in Dalston on Tuesday, November 22.

Teaching young adults and children about crime prevention has been a big part of the work undertaken by the Crime Prevention Panel this year the police community consultative group was told.

Twenty of the borough's primary schools recently took part in a junior experience scheme aimed at teaching pupils safety know-how.

Police in partnership with youth and community associations, the emergency services and the LEB and gas board held a series of actively role playing sessions where mock disasters and dangerous situations were recreated in a Hackney Wick warehouse.

Pupils were given tips and advice on how to cope with different situations such as finding someone unconscious in a burning flat.

Rashid Tladia, chairperson of the panel, said there was a need for more organised teach-ins of this kind.

He said he had been alarmed that 25 per cent of the children who participated went and sat in a car with a stranger when they were invited to as part of a mock situation.

The panel had also carried out sterling work in getting their message about crime prevention across to the public, he said, when they manned a special stall in Dalston's busy Ridley Road market.

As
you
were!

AS you were! The serving officers of the police community consultative group were all re-elected unopposed at the AGM.

They are chairperson: Betty Blomfield; vice-chairperson, Charles Cable, treasurer, Kari Stern; Secretary, Ted Oakham, chairperson of Lay Visitors Panel; Charles Walford; Chairperson of Crime Prevention Panel; Rashid Tladia.

HQ 28.10.88

Estates Of Mind



Residents of Clapton Park Estate believe the police see it as another Broadwater Farm. But does it justify the heavy-handed raids on community leaders?

Hackney Council is seeking a meeting with the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Peter Imbert, in a bid to defuse tension on the Clapton Park Estate in East London.

Clapton Park Estate, a sprawling development of medium-rise buildings and modern tower blocks housing 7,000 multi-ethnic residents, has a history of difficult relations with the police, who placed it high on their notorious 'hit list' of potentially riot-prone estates in the mid-1980s. Residents have long believed that the police see Clapton Park as 'another Broadwater Farm', justifying the use of unnecessarily heavy-handed tactics.

Eye-witnesses claim that in August up to 200 police, some dressed in riot gear, sealed off the estate during a raid on the home of a prominent community leader, Mrs Violet Anderson. Over 20 officers, accompanied by dogs, burst into her home searching for five kilos of heroin. Chief Superintendent Mulvihill of Hackney Police Station later told councillors the raid was 'a police error based on deliberate misinformation' from an anonymous



Clapton Park's youth club — are police seeking a showdown?

source and a local officer called personally on Mrs Anderson to apologise.

A fortnight earlier, the home of another community leader, Mrs Precious Whittington, was also raided. Mrs Whittington alleges that officers told her 'we don't need a search warrant' and pushed their way in. In addition, youths on the estate claim that they have been strip-searched in police transit vans and abused and insulted by some officers.

Mrs Anderson and Mrs Whittington, both black women, are leading members of Hackney Youth in Action, an umbrella organisation founded in 1983 to coordinate community projects on the estate. Hackney Youth in Action was responsible until recently for running the Launderette, a youth centre which many residents allege became a focus for drug-dealing on the estate. Mrs Anderson and Mrs Whi-

tington were both known for their determination to stamp out drugs there and believe the police misinformation may have come from a dealer.

In response to the drugs problem, Hackney Youth in Action decided to close the Launderette and hand over control to the Council. Councillors and residents are anxious to resolve tensions with the police before the Launderette reopens in a few weeks' time. The massive police presence during the raid on Mrs Anderson's flat has sparked rumours amongst local youths that officers are actively seeking a showdown.

After what council sources describe as a 'difficult' meeting last month with Chief Superintendent Mulvihill, Hackney Council has opted to bypass east London police chief Wyr Jones, with whom relations have frequently been strained, and meet instead with Metropolitan Police Commissioner Peter Imbert. 'We didn't get an assurance from Mulvihill that there would be more sensitive policing in future,' says Adrienne Morgan, Chairwoman of Hackney's Police Committee. 'We're going to Peter Imbert because of the seriousness of the situation. The raid on Mrs Anderson was one of the worst incidents in Hackney for a long time, and could have triggered off a riot on the estate.'

The Council is also consulting lawyers and the National Council of Civil Liberties with a view to mounting a legal submission to the European Court of Human Rights over the issue of magistrates' warrants and the police's right to seal off an estate, preventing residents' freedom of movement during a raid on a single home.

To 2.11.88

Monerville's father denies offer to speak to police watchdog group

'I was never invited'

THE father of Trevor Monerville – the youth at the centre of alleged police brutality – has strongly denied ever being invited to address Hackney's police community consultative group.

It follows remarks made by the committee's chairperson, Betty Blomfield, at the group's AGM last week in which she said no reply had been received from him after he was invited to speak at a meeting about his son's case.

Trevor has been at the centre of complaints about police treatment over the circumstances which led to him suffering serious injuries when he was arrested in January 1987. Four days after his arrest he underwent an emergency operation to remove a blood clot from his brain.

The Monerville family and campaign say they have twice attended meetings of the group – once when the Monerville case was

on the agenda and once when TV's *Bandung File* programme were filming.

But Mr Monerville strongly denies ever receiving an invitation to come and speak.

"At the first meeting the assembled officers seemed to display a total lack of interest and District Assistant Commissioner Wyn Jones left the meeting before the issue had been raised," he said.

"The second meeting was far from fruitful also."

Graham Smith, of the Trevor Monerville Campaign, backed Mr Monerville's claim.

"The police consultative group had backed police in condemning the family for not co-operating with the Police Complaints Authority over their inquiry," he said.

"But then they were left in an embarrassing position when a statement issued by Sir Cecil Clothier, chairperson of the PCA, said the suggestion we were obstructing

them was not true and that we were entirely within our rights if we didn't assist them."



● John Monerville

HG 4.11.88

Group charged with abducting man from house

FOUR men and four women accused of drugging and kidnapping another man are due to appear at Old Street Magistrates' Court next Thursday.

The eight are said to have forcibly abducted and carried away the man from his home in Graham Road, Dalston, on October 18.

They are also charged with unlawfully and maliciously administering a poison or noxious substance.

The accused are: David Thomas, 21, unemployed, of West Bank, Stamford Hill; Alan Hiron, 21, unemployed, of Oxted Court, Holmleigh Road Estate, Stoke Newington; Gregory Toubkin, 35, unemployed, also of Oxted Court; Jonathan Blair, 25, a student, also of Oxted Court; Elizabeth Henton, 40, a teacher, of Mayola Road, Lower Clapton; Anne Hickling, 22, unemployed, of Farnham Court, Holmleigh Road Estate; Judith Sayer, 24, a courier, of Graham Road, Dalston; and Helen Steel, 23, of Linden Road, South Tottenham.

All were granted bail with £500 sureties and with conditions of residence. They are not to contact the victim.

Reggae star Yardie boss deported to face murder trial

YARDIE "godfather" Errol Codling was deported to Jamaica on Tuesday where he is to stand trial for an alleged cop-killing.

Two Scotland Yard officers took Hackney-based Codling, pictured right, in handcuffs, onto the midday British Airways' flight to his home country.

When the plane touched down late that night, Jamaican police were waiting to arrest the 32-year-old black mafia boss.

Codling, who is believed to have lived at various addresses in Stoke Newington, Stamford Hill and Dalston, is charged with the attempted murder of a police officer in a shoot-out.

He was among 20 people arrested by drug squad officers at an illegal party in Clapton Way, Lower Clapton, in April.

Dalston's top cop Chief Supt Peter Twist, who launched the raid together with Scotland Yard's "Yardie" squad, welcomed Codling's deportation.

Chief Supt Twist said: "These men are not welcome in Hackney and I am pleased that the processes of law succeeded in excluding from our community, a person who has been involved in serious offences.

"People involved in organised crime are not welcome in the borough and we are maintaining our efforts to arrest them for serious crimes when they occur."

He added that Dalston police were continuing to liaise with Scotland Yard in the fight against the Yardies.

Described by Scotland Yard as one of the "most dangerous foreign nationals in Britain,"



Codling had been on Scotland Yard's wanted list for months.

After his arrest he was released on bail and was due to appear at Snaresbrook Crown Court on Monday.

He was charged with possession and intent to supply cocaine and marijuana, but the hearing didn't come to court and Codling was deported the next day.

In 1980, as 'Rankin Dread,' Codling had a top ten hit in the pop charts with a recording of Hey Fatty Boom Boom.

Drugs seized as revellers on . . .

Acid House coach party face police swoop

DOZENS of cops swooped on Acid House revellers as they waited for coaches to ferry them to an all-night drugs party.

Officers got a tip-off that there was a pick-up point at the National Car Park in Wheeler Street, off Bethnal Green Road to take the music cult fans to a party on two pleasure cruisers on Greenwich Pier - where a raid by undercover police resulted in 18 arrests and a quantity of drugs being seized for examination.

Drug pushers have found a lucrative market among Acid House followers for Ecstasy and LSD.

by CAROL DYCE

But around 150 people, mostly in their mid 20s, didn't get to go to the party on Saturday night, for around 30 officers from Bethnal Green police station and its territorial support group asked the three coach drivers to go away which they agreed to do.

Undeterred, the youngsters started having their own party under the car park's arches and at its height there were around 300 revellers, but police managed to disperse them and shut the party down.

Officers checked on the car park a couple of hours later to find that about 40 people had returned to carry on and again halted the shindig. No arrests were made.

The Acid House craze, with its devotees adopting a uniform of Smiley t-shirts and bandannas, is rapidly spreading throughout London, especially the East End.

Chief Inspector Peter Dowse of Bethnal Green police said: "We are getting more than our fair share of acid parties in the East End. And our special set-up at area HQ, is collating information on the craze from all over the East End."

HG

11-11-88

Police pump cash into defeating muggers



© Chief Supt Peter Twist (left) and Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill (right) with one of the posters at the launch of the street crime crackdown campaign.

HACKNEY police this week announced their biggest-ever crackdown on muggers.

Extra foot patrols, mounted police, and dog handlers will take to the streets as part of a six-week campaign against street crime.

And officers from the crack Territorial Support Group will be brought into the borough to help catch muggers.

Police in the borough have been given an extra £30,000 to spend to put more police on the streets.

The crackdown will be backed by a £400,000 poster, leaflet and advertising campaign masterminded by advertising moguls Saatchi and Saatchi.

The initiative was launched on Monday by Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill of Hackney police, and Chief Supt Peter Twist of Dalston police.

Mr Mulvihill said: "We want to make it absolutely clear to those who seek to commit this type of crime that our objective is to arrest

More officers on the beat to clean up street crime

them, charge them, and to place them in front of the courts for appropriate penalties.

"We are being given resources to combat what is our principal offence."

A leaflet containing practical advice on safety will be distributed to every home in the borough, and police are especially urging people to phone 999 if they see or hear anything suspicious.

But police watchdog Betty Blomfield, while welcoming the campaign, said: "It is regrettable that these extra resources are only temporary and not permanent."

"What we need in Hackney is an extra 300 officers," said Mrs Blomfield, who chairs the Hackney Police Consultative Committee.

Race attacks spark demo



A DEMO was staged outside Hackney Town Hall on Monday in protest at the council's failure to rehouse an Asian family who have suffered persistent racial attacks.

The six members of the Ali family, who live in London Fields, have been threatened with knives, sledgehammers and sticks in a spate of attacks over the last three years, and their eldest son has twice needed hospital treatment. Their 80 supporters want them rehoused and to evict those responsible. Until Monday, the council said it could not find the sort of house the family need. But at the meeting, housing chair Brynley Heaves decided to set up a panel to examine the case.

Estate raids provoke strong response

Police watchdog aims for talks with top cop

THE council's police watchdog has called for talks with Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Peter Imbert, about police tactics following raids on the homes of two community leaders on the Clapton Park Estate.

Hackney Council's police committee have written to the top cop asking for a meeting with him because they feel the force's approach to policing council estates is insensitive.

It follows a raid in July, when local police burst into the flat of Mrs Precious Whittington. They said they were search-

ing for heroin and claimed they needed no search warrant. No drugs were found.

A fortnight later up to 200 police it is claimed sealed off the estate as 20 officers raided Mrs Violet Anderson's home for drugs.

Police have since apologised to Mrs Anderson, claiming that the raid was in response to "deliberate misinformation" from an anonymous tip-off.

But Adrienne Morgan, chairwoman of Hackney's Police Committee, said: "After a raid last year we had a similar response from the local police."

"But then the same thing happened again. This is a style of policing that we are strongly opposed to."

"If the police want to prevent trouble then they need to change their tactics on policing of council estates, which seem to be treated in a much less sensitive manner than other housing areas."

Hackney Chief Superintendent Niall Mulvihill said: "While everybody has a right to write to the commissioner, these matters can generally be resolved locally."

He added: "Council estates are given exactly the same sensitive police response as is given to private and commercial property."

"The duty of the police is to serve the public to the best of their ability and I am satisfied my officers are doing just that."

HC 18-11-88

Probe into wrong arrests

SEVEN police officers are under investigation following a £20,000 out of court settlement to a man wrongly arrested five times.

Ace Kelly claimed he was assaulted, wrongly arrested, and falsely imprisoned five times during 1983 and 1984. He was cleared every time.

Two of the arrests took place in Kingsland High Street, and a third happened in Old Street.

Mr Kelly, who is secretary of Hackney Youth In Progress, was heavily involved in the campaign for an independent inquiry into the death of Colin Roach in 1983 at Stoke Newington police station. He claims his involvement in the campaign led to him being victimised by the police.

This week he called on the independent police watchdog, the Police Complaints Authority, to investigate his allegations.

It's exactly one year since an inquiry began into allegations that seven police officers from City Road beat up Gary Stretch in a Hackney Road pub. The officers have been suspended from duty for 12 months - and still don't know what the outcome will be. Full report page 5.

Acid House drug party fears spiral

Chip shop puts up notice to fend off junkies

ALARM about a growing drugs menace sweeping Hackney from the latest "Acid House" party craze was expressed at the meeting.

But a drug squad officer explained there had been no large scale seizures in the borough of the LSD-type hallucinatory drug known as "Ecstasy."

And he described as "hype" newspaper stories warning that another deadly drug called "crack" had reached the East End from America.

Sgt Clive Wilkison, who leads Stoke Newington police station's nine-man drugs squad, said he had recently visited the Metropolitan Police laboratories where they test substances and was told hardly any quantities of the drug had been found in London.

The meeting also heard that City Road police had smashed a major drugs racket where pushers were dealing openly on the streets of Haggerston.

Over 52 people - a dozen of them heroin dealers - were arrested in and around Haggerston Road after swoops by drugs squad officers last month following complaints from local residents.

One local resident told the meeting the problem had become so bad that the local fish and chip shop had even had to place a notice in the window telling junkies it did not sell drugs.

But he said since the police ceased mounting their operation some pushers had returned to a nearby side street to deal in drugs.

Chief Supt. Niall Mulvihill, promised action would be taken to tackle the recurring drug problem

but said he the original operation could not be continued because of limited resources and manpower.

"Nevertheless, significant in-roads have been made into the drugs problem in Haggerston," he said.

Consultative committee member, John Light, headmaster of Hackney Free and Parochial School, pointed out that the level of solvent abuse among the young was even more widespread than the drug problem and that the law needed changing because it was not a criminal act to snuff glue.

"We have already had one death of a schoolboy in the manner," he said. Chief Supt. Mulvihill, agreed. "There is no effective legislation," he said. "Those who indulge in glue sniffing are not committing a crime because it is not an offence."

Concern over rising tide of violence but . .

	Offences		Arrests		Clear-ups	
	'87	'88	'87	'88	'87	'88
Violence	641	831	304	416	324	453
Sex offences	157	152	70	72	108	74
Robbery	2301	1904	145	190	128	202
Burglary	5404	5128	381	417	450	452
Autocrime	6959	6412	469	419	626	413

Overall crime is down and arrests are up

HACKNEY is becoming a more violent place to live, according to latest police statistics provided to the police consultative group.

Drunken punch-ups, violence in the home, neighbours' disputes and rows between motorists have meant offences of violence against the person have increased as the chart above shows.

But all other categories of crime - including muggings - have shown a decrease over the past nine months.

Police are concerned about the

rising trend in violent assaults. They have risen by 29 per cent compared to figures for the same period last year leaping from 641 recorded offences in 1987 to 831 offences up to September of this year.

"We cannot control the public and it is up to the people of the borough to help reverse this trend," said Chief Supt Niall Mulvihill, the top cop at Hackney and City Road police station.

He added that positive steps in dealing with assaults within the family have been taken and there is more inclination to respond to cases

of domestic violence.

But he said he was heartened by the figures for robbery, burglary, sexual offences and autocrime which showed an overall reduction in cases of two per cent compared to last year.

Crime clear-up rates have improved and more offenders are being arrested and for the third consecutive year burglaries are down.

Even autocrime, which Chief Supt Mulvihill described as "endemic" in Hackney had shown a downward trend, although there

were fewer arrests and a poorer clear-up rate compared to last year.

Clear-up rates for sexual offences were also down on the corresponding period last year. But he explained that these statistics had been artificially inflated by the smothering of a child sex ring in the south of the borough.

"I'm optimistic and encouraged by the latest figures," he said. "In overall terms crime is down, arrests are very definitely up and so is the clear-up rate and I don't think every borough in London can report that."

HOUSEHOLDS TO GET GUIDELINES ON STOPPING RACIST ATTACKS

Police campaign will 'nip racism in the bud'

HACKNEY police are launching a new campaign aimed at making people more aware of racial harassment.

The two-month campaign will kick off in February and a steering group of police and community groups based in Stoke Newington are currently planning the way forward.

Police intend to use softly softly tactics in the war against racial attacks by nipping potentially explosive situations in the bud. In the first

by JEAN SEAGER

initiative of its kind in Hackney, every home will be issued with an "action guide" outlining both in English and other languages how to deal with racial incidents.

People will be given information on how to report a racial incident and how to prevent one - and what other organisations can come to their aid.

"Our intention is to provide local people with a basis for greater knowledge," says superintendent Dave Dugmore, community liaison officer in

charge of the initiative.

"We want them to be more aware of what racial harassment is so that they will have more confidence in reporting incidents to the police."

The police action follows a successful campaign in Tower Hamlets earlier this year. But Supt Dugmore says Hackney has a low rate of racial violence - despite more than half the population being of ethnic origin.

"However this is an issue that can cause considerable upset for those who encounter it," he says.

The booklets will be in five Asian languages and Turkish, Greek, Chinese and Vietnamese.



© Supt Dave Dugmore

HC 25.11.88

IT'S exactly a year since seven constables from City Road station were suspended from duty because of allegations that they beat up a man in a Hackney Road pub. This week another seven officers are under investigation because of allegations of assault and wrongful arrest. Today the Gazette examines both cases – and finds widespread dissatisfaction with the police complaints system.



● The 1983 Colin Roach demo where Ace Kelly was arrested

Police make cash payout

SEVEN Hackney policemen are under investigation following allegations that they carried out a number of assaults and wrongful arrests against a young black man.

This week the police paid Ace Kelly £19,000 and his daughter Simone £1,000 in an out-of-court settlement before the case came to trial.

Mr Kelly claims that between 1983 and 1984 he was wrongly arrested and falsely charged on five occasions – three of them in Hackney. He

was cleared on every occasion.

At that time he was heavily involved in the campaign for an independent inquiry into the death of Colin Roach, the 21-year-old found dead in Stoke Newington police station in 1983.

ARREST NUMBER ONE was in 1983 on Kingsland High Street during a Colin Roach demo. Police said Mr Kelly had thrown a garage sign at them. When it was produced in court, it was found to have a solid base, weigh 50lbs, and impossible to throw.

ARREST NUMBER TWO was two months later. Mr Kelly was arrested for allegedly obstructing the arrest of another man. But evidence from four different photographers showed he was nowhere near the incident.

ARREST NUMBER THREE came the same month and followed a demo outside Old Street Magistrates' Court. Mr Kelly was cleared on charges of obstruction, and of possessing cannabis.

He was arrested the following year in Bethnal Green, and again on the South Bank. On that occasion, he was suspected of abducting a little girl who was, in fact, his own daughter Simone.

Scotland Yard this week

confirmed that detectives were investigating Mr Kelly's complaints, but would not say how many officers were under investigation. Mr Kelly's lawyers estimates that seven were involved in the three incidents relating to Hackney. Police would not confirm whether the officers under investigation are still based in the borough.

Mr Kelly was sceptical of the effectiveness of the investigation currently being carried out by the police. He said: "It's the Metropolitan Police investigating themselves."

"How can I have any confidence in them after what they did to me and other members of the black community?"

He has called for his complaints to be investigated by the independent police watchdog group, the Police Complaints Authority.

"This case was not just about what happened to me. It was about all young black people who come up against the police. It is about what happens to young blacks who look them in the eye and answer their abuse."

Mr Kelly was annoyed that the case had been settled out of court. "I wanted this to go before a judge so that the injustices I have suffered could be made public."

Scotland Yard said this week that the £20,000 payout did not mean that the police admitted liability.

Stretch family slam police probe delays

IT'S exactly a year since seven police constables from City Road were suspended from duty.

It followed allegations that they had beaten up Hutton man Gary Stretch outside the Limes Pub in Hackney Road.

Twelve months later they are still suspended – and waiting to hear their fate.

The delay in dealing with their case this week brought angry reactions from all those involved.

Mr Stretch, then 24, was left with half his ear hanging off following the incident.

His father Eddie, 53, speaking at the family home on the Cranston Estate, said: "The delay in dealing with this case is absolutely disgusting."

"After we had made our complaints, we heard nothing for months. While this is unresolved, it puts a lot of stress on us all."

A similar view was echoed by Supt Dave Dugmore, the senior police community relations officer for Hackney.

He said: "I don't wish to comment on this particular case."

"However, I am sure the police service shares my view that lengthy delays in the outcome of investigations against officers who are suspended is undesirable, not only from

the viewpoint of the complainants, but also from the officers themselves.

"Such long periods of delay invariably create stress and anxiety to them and their families."

Also critical was David Fitzpatrick, who is a member of the Hackney Police Consultative Group.

He told the Gazette: "Any inquiry that drags on for this long is no good to anybody, and harms relations between the police and the community. We appear to be no further forward."

The investigation into the allegations against the police was carried out by the independent police watchdog, the Police Complaints Authority.

Their inquiries finished in the summer, and their report is now in the hands of the Director of Public Prosecutions. He must decide whether or not to take criminal action.

Gary Stretch is also suing the police for civil damages. According to his solicitor, Kathy Murphy, a writ for damages was served on the police two weeks ago.

However, the civil case cannot go forward until the DPP makes up his mind on whether there will be a criminal case.



● Ace Kelly – got £19,000 from police.

Gazette Special Report by Max Velody

HQ 25.11.88

Fight racism

FIGHTING racist attacks is the theme of a meeting taking place on Monday at Hackney Town Hall at 7.30pm.

Organised by Hackney Community Defence Association, speakers include Annette Monerville and members of the Ali Family Support Committee.



● Ace Kelly - received £20,000.

Police officers face arrest probe

THREE police officers still working in Hackney are under investigation because of incidents that took place five years ago.

They were among six Hackney officers alleged to have assaulted and wrongfully arrested Ace Kelly, secretary of Hackney Youth In Progress, who last week received £20,000 from the police in an out of court settlement.

This week Supt Dave Dugmore, Hackney's police community liaison chief, confirmed that six officers were under investigation.

Last week, on the basis of figures supplied by Mr Kelly's lawyers, the Gazette reported that seven were being investigated.

MPs back Blakelock trial campaign

HACKNEY MPs Diane Abbott and Brian Sedgemore have expressed concern at the result of the Pc Blakelock murder trial, which led to the conviction of three men.

They are among 16 London MPs and nine council leaders, or deputies, who have signed a motion which says there are issues surrounding the trial "which place considerable doubt over the findings of guilt obtained at the trials' conclusion."

Islington council leader Margaret Hodge and Hackney deputy leader John McCafferty have also signed the motion.

A campaign calling for the handling of the case to be reviewed was launched yesterday (Thursday) in the offices of the Association Of London Authorities.

Police training men replaced after pub rumpus

THREE officers responsible for training rookie cops at Stoke Newington station have been replaced.

One of them is under investigation following allegations about an off-duty incident in a pub involving five young constables.

Police refuse to say what happened in the pub, but one of the five young constables resigned shortly afterwards.

The other four all complained about the behaviour of the senior officer who was with them.

Supt Maurice Gunter, of Stoke Newington police, told the Gazette: "There were three members in the Street Duties Unit responsible for training young officers."

"As a result of the allegation against one of them, we have transferred all three to other duties."

"The allegation has implications for other officers on the unit."

Last week the police said the allegation was of "bolsterous behaviour which goes somewhat beyond the conduct expected of police officers."

Police halt noisy warehouse party

POLICE swooped to close an all-night warehouse party attended by 400 revellers in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Scores of officers were drafted in to ensure there was no outbreak of trouble from angry partygoers.

They swooped on a disused shoe factory in Alblon Road, Stoke Newington, which was used as the venue for the all-night shindig. It followed complaints from local residents about the noise and disturbance caused by loud music and car doors slamming.

Dalston police say no one was arrested and no drugs were seized.

"It was not an Acid House party," said Sgt Gerry Carroll at Dalston police station. "It ended peaceably with the minimal amount of disturbance."

HC 2.12.88

MPs throw their weight behind overseas convalescence idea

Monerville family in foreign trip appeal

FAMILY and friends of Trevor Monerville have launched an appeal to pay for him to convalesce abroad.

And Hackney's two MPs have joined the Homerton man's family in throwing their weight behind the appeal.

MPs Diane Abbott and Brian Sedgmore, along with Lord Gifford, are acting as trustees and launching the Trevor Monerville National Appeal on Wednesday.

A storm erupted in January 1987 when Trevor Monerville was found suffering severe head injuries after being arrested by Stoke Newington police.

He was found in a south London hospital five days after his father reported him missing to the police. He

by MARTIN TALBOT

later underwent surgery to remove a blood clot from his brain.

Graham Smith of the Trevor Monerville Campaign said: "Doctors say that it'll take two to five years to fully recover - we just want to give him that chance."

Pressure

"He just needs to get away from any pressure for between six months and a year to get himself together."

Trevor's father John Monerville said: "Since Trevor's unfortunate encounter with the police he hasn't had any peace."

The Campaign claim that police

have aimed a "systematic harassment" campaign at Trevor, of Churchill Walk, Homerton, delaying his recovery from the operation.

He has been arrested five times in the last 23 months and has spent 200 hours in custody since taking out a civil action against the police, they say.

Dalston police vehemently deny any campaign of harassment against Trevor Monerville.

John Monerville added that the appeal would be approaching charities for cash towards the appeal as well as holding fund-raising events next year.

They are also supporting a march to commemorate the second anniversary of Trevor's brain operation on January 8.



● John Monerville - Trevor has had no peace.

HG 9.12.88

Appeal is out of proportion

I HAVE got absolutely nothing against Trevor Monverville - indeed, I have every sympathy for him - but I couldn't believe my eyes when I read last week's Gazette story about his family and friends launching a national appeal to pay for him to convalesce abroad "for between six months and a year to get himself together."

Trevor Monverville may have a bad time of things for the last couple of years, but at least he has had family and friends for support. What about other local "victims" who aren't so lucky - the elderly who can't afford a decent Christmas, the young who aren't exactly getting the best start in life, and the many thousands of all ages who live in sub-standard conditions, many of them without jobs?

It would seem to me that these people, and others, are infinitely more deserving of a holiday (which is what we are talking about, after all) abroad.

So let's make sure that Trevor Monverville's admittedly well-intentioned supporters don't persuade the rest of us to get his situation out of proportion. If his family and friends want to pay for him to convalesce abroad, then all well and good; but I really cannot see the justification for the national appeal which has just been launched.-B. DAVIES (ADDRESS SUPPLIED).

HG 16.12.88

MONERVILLE APPEAL FUND

A NATIONAL appeal to help raise funds for a young man suing the Metropolitan Police is being launched by leading MPs and civil rights leaders.

The Trevor Monerville National Appeal aims to raise enough money for Trevor to leave the country and escape "constant police harassment" according to his supporters. They maintain that since he took out his civil action he has been arrested at least five times and been in police custody for more than 200 hours.

The appeal fund is being launched by Labour MPs Diane Abbott and Brian Sedgemore and Lord Gifford QC.

V 13.12.88

HOUNDED OUT

THE family and friends of Trevor Monerville, the teenager who suffered a blood clot in the brain after being held in police custody in January 1987, have launched a national appeal for funds to get him out of the country.

The trustees of the fund, MPs Diane Abbott and Brian Sedgemore and Lord Gifford QC, pledged their support for the initiative at the House of Commons last week.

Trevor, now 21, has suffered five arrests and some 200 hours in police custody since taking out civil action against the Metropolitan police, the Home Office and the Hack-

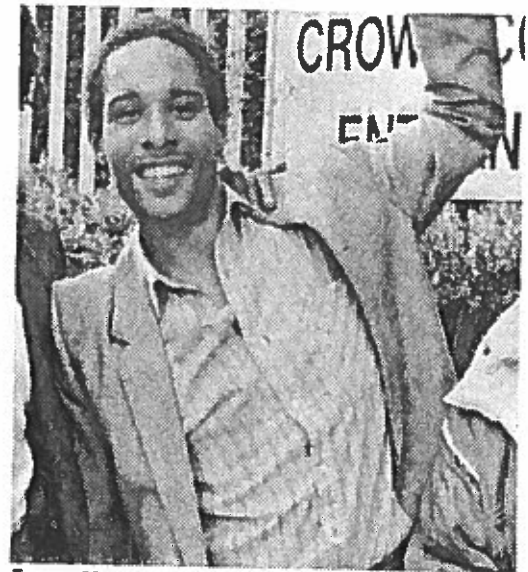
ney Area Health Authority for the injuries he allegedly received whilst in police custody.

Despite a catalogue of charges including street robbery, unlawful wounding and breach of bail conditions, Trevor has received but one conviction - a traffic violation he freely admitted to and for which he was fined.

Defence

The Monerville family argue that the police have exerted pressure on him to prevent him from recovering from his brain operation and also to dissuade him from proceeding with his civil action.

Annette Monerville, Trevor's aunt, said the family hoped a national appeal would help



Trevor Monerville

involve the community nationwide in the plight which has afflicted the Monerville family.

"We feel it is important that people understand why Trevor is being hounded out of Britain and that they be in touch with the

difficulty that the family is experiencing in trying to protect him" she said.

Donations should be forwarded to: Trevor Monerville National Appeal, The Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, London N16 7QY tel: 01 249 0193.

CT

23.12.88

Report spotlights police cells overcrowding

SOME prisoners in Hackney police stations are being forced to sleep on the floor because of severe overcrowding and shortage of cells.

They also have to put up with poor washing and lavatory facilities, dirty conditions and soiled blankets.

These are the findings of the first report from Hackney Lay Visitors Panel which was set up 10 months ago to investigate conditions in police cells at Hackney, Dalston and City Road stations.

Now the 26-strong panel are urging Home Secretary Douglas Hurd to pump extra cash into Hackney cells in a bid to make conditions more humane.

And they are inviting more members to join

them in time for the re-opening of the rebuilt Stoke Newington station in August next year.

But the panel had no criticisms to make of police treatment of people kept in cells and noted that police were abiding by rules regarding access to family, friends and legal advisers.

Inspector Paul Wotton of Stoke Newington police said there was a problem with overcrowding in cells but that new facilities at the rebuilt station would help eradicate these.

The new building - on the site of the old one demolished last year in the High Street - will have 12 cells and two charge rooms, twice as many as in the original station. There will be improved washing and lavatory facilities and the whole

centre will be more up to date.

"We realise it is not ideal to have more than one person in a cell," says Insp. Wotton, "there's the question of privacy for a start, but the conditions are forced upon us because of the large number of detainees coming through."

The report also focuses on the plight of remand prisoners awaiting trial or sentence. Many of them are forced to spend lengthy spells in police cells because remand centres are too full to deal with them. It says they should be given better washing facilities, and more exercise facilities.

● If you would like to join the panel contact Frank Matthews at 22 Plevna Crescent, Tottenham.

HG 23.12.88

The Monerville appeal is valid

THE letter from B. Davies (Gazette, December 16) shows that the person has no idea what it means to suffer police malpractice. By comparing Trevor Monerville's situation to those of pensioners and young people, who are Trevor's peers, this person is doing the utmost to confuse the issue.

Before Trevor's brain injury, he had developed skills in audio-electronics. His ability to retain information has been severely damaged following his brain operation, thus he has difficulty in remembering from one day to the next. He has been left without the means to financially support himself.

Neither Trevor nor his family have received any compensation for his injuries or loss of potential earnings. It could be another five years before his civil action reaches the courts. So there is no prospect of any compensation for many years to come.

The Trevor Monerville Campaign is a voluntary organisation. Every person involved has the same financial difficulties as any other working-class family.

The decision to send Trevor abroad has been an extremely difficult one but he has been denied any

opportunity to recover from his brain injury. In no way can his departure from Britain be described as a holiday - he is seeking peace and quiet to convalesce.

The Trustees of the National Appeal - Brian Sedgemore MP, Diane Abbott MP and Lord Gifford QC - have sole responsibility for spending the money raised. Their independence from the Monerville family and campaign guarantees the money raised will be used for only Trevor's convalescence.

In launching a national appeal, we are not diverting resources from any group of people in need. Any person who has experienced police brutality or harassment is aware of all the economic, social and psychological problems that arise. Trevor Monerville is alive. He did not suffer the same fate as Tunay Hassan, Colin Roach, Michael Ferreira and Aseta Simms, who died in police custody. We intend to do everything within our power to help him restore his health. - GRAHAM SMITH, TREVOR MONERVILLE CAMPAIGN, FAMILY CENTRE, RECTORY ROAD, STOKE NEWINGTON.

UG 30.12.88