



It's a fix-up

By **Ziyad Said-Wardell, 9, Sarra Said-Wardell, 12, Dowa Ojarike, 18, & Odaka Olugu, 14**

Loads of young people in London ride bikes – but do you know how to look after one? Teenagers in Stoke Newington have been getting some tips from the police.

St. Paul's Church on Stoke Newington High Street is

not the place you'd expect to find a group of four police officers and half a dozen young people with bikes.

Police from the station opposite run sessions with local young people, teaching them how to look after and safely ride their bikes.

The bikes used for the project are stolen ones which the police haven't been able to return to their owners. Usually they go to police auction, but some have been kept back to train young people about bike maintenance.

At the end of the project the participants get to keep the bike they have been repairing. The popular course is booked up for the next four months.

Jordan, 13 said, "I think it's quite interesting; and it's helpful to the borough; and helps us to be more

informed about our bikes." When asked about working with the police she said, "It's a bit nerve-racking, but it's quite interesting. You get to know what they get up to in their jobs and they get to know about us."

“It's been a good way to break barriers down and get to know them”

Iysha, 12, added the project was good because 'you learn how to fix your own problems'.

Sergeant Alex Henshaw, who runs the project, said: "It's just been a good way to break the barriers down with them and get to know them a bit better.

He added: "Cycling is a good way to keep fit, so if you keep your bike in good condition you'll use it more and get about more."

Georgios Piperidis, a trainee police officer, said he thought the project was good fun and 'teaches a personal responsibility and that if you show responsibility you get rewarded for it'.

HEADLINERS

MAKING NEWS CHANGING LIVES

This page has been compiled by Headliners – a youth journalism charity, that helps young people aged 8 to 19 to produce videos, radio, written news reports and podcasts. For more information: www.headliners.org

A demonstration from Sergeant Henshaw on changing tires (above); Semih proudly displays his reconditioned cycle (right) and Lysha gets to work (below right)

My opinion

Should our teens fear crime in London?

A SURVEY of young people by Ipsos MORI showed violent crime is the top fear for 37 per cent of young Londoners.

Global warming is the next biggest worry for 33 per cent; unemployment for 30 per cent; drug use for 24 per cent; debt and racial tension for 22 percent; and 12 per cent most fear obesity.

The fear of crime however, seems out of sync with the reality of Met Police figures for Hackney which show that, in the 12 months to March 2008, there were 1,081 fewer crimes overall in the borough than the previous year. While rape homicide, robbery, motor, domestic and homophobic crime were all down. Borough Commander Steve Dann (right) said: "Each year, Hackney residents are less likely to become a victim of crime. A recent



survey indicated that three-quarters of Hackney residents feel safe walking alone after dark, with this figure rising to 96 per cent for walking alone during the day." Here two Headliners journalists express their thoughts on the issue.

By **Nyasha McLean, 14**

CRIME seems to be getting petty and that's what is making me worry more; something so small could wind up in the loss of a life if you end up getting stabbed over it. I have seen it affect many people around me and it is one of my top fears. Unemployment or being

homeless is a rising fear for me also; I still see homeless people.

Global warming isn't a very big fear for me, although it should be because it's affecting the whole planet, including myself.

Even though I don't really see it being emphasised in the media it is still an important situation to think about because

we as people are contributing to global warming.

Drug use, binge drinking and debt aren't big fears because they don't seem to have an affect on me.

Racial tension is a slight worry for me, but I hope that the colour of my skin doesn't affect what I want to be when I am older, although it could be an issue for some people.

Overall, even though the media makes it seem like a huge problem, I think binge drinking affects young people in Hackney the least out of the concerns in this survey.

By **Mary McCarthy, 18**

LOOKING at the events of the past year, with 26 teenagers dying violently in the capital, it is not surprising young Londoners are afraid of violent crime. But should this be such a genuine concern? Crime has been overplayed in the national media, with Hackney gaining an undeserved reputation for youth violence, despite the fact crime often involves adults and drugs or guns. More over, most of the incidents in

the past year, did not occur in Hackney. Media coverage of violent crime in London has struck fear into many young people, partly because many of the perpetrators are also teenagers. Perhaps it is this which frightens youngsters – one of their friends or themselves could be a victim or culprit.

There have been many suggestions as to why such crimes happen and many suggest some sort of 'gang warfare' is to blame. Others cast blame on poor parenting. In my opinion Londoners of all ages should be far more concerned with the causes of this violence and engage with young people, rather than crossing to the other side of the street in fear of attack and ignoring the problem.

WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

Or what issue do you want to discuss? Let us know at: htnews@hackney.gov.uk For full figures see: www.met.police.uk/crimefigures

