

**CRIME:** Many businesses have been plagued during the first half of the year by break-ins, which have been so numerous on the High St and Church St that some traders have been victims several times over. The suspect, a young man on probation, is currently back in jail, but will be out and about again in June - so businesses need to be on their guard. He generally accesses a property from the back, and has even been known to enter through the roof.

#### There is a new CRIME PREVENTION

officer for this part of Hackney - his name is Sean Whelan, and he is very keen to meet with local traders to discuss ways in which we can all keep ourselves and our premises safe from crime. Look out for details of a public meeting in June when Sean Whelan, plus the Safer Neighbourhood Police teams, will be addressing the specific problems of security for local businesses.

Have you discovered **WEDGE** yet? This is a loyalty card scheme aimed at independent shops and shoppers, set up by Big Issue magazine founder John Bird. It has only been in operation since December 06 and is already taking London by storm - find out more from their website

and see for yourself. Twenty-three Stoke

Newington businesses were signed up when this newsletter went to press: Askev Eyewear, Blue legume, Bored on Board, Born, Casino, Earlybird, Flowers N16, Frere Jacques, GK Locksmith, Hub, Kontakt, Lemon Grass, Metal

#### FAIRTRADE BREAKFAST



All SNBA members were invited to attend the Fairtrade Breakfast hosted by George Alagiah on Friday 11 May at Yum Yums. Invites were sent out by email, so if you didn't receive one it's because we don't have a correct email address for you - please keep us updated!

There was a good turn-out by local traders and other interested parties, and a useful discussion took place about how even the smallest business can help to influence fair trade. For further info, contact Clare Lissaman at Fairtrade website [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

The great thing is that if you as a business sell Wedge cards to your customers, you can nominate a local charity to receive £5 from every £20 card sold - so not only are you encouraging people to shop locally, but you are also helping local charities. If you want more info, speak to any of the businesses listed above, or simply log on to the WEDGE website.

**STREETSMART** is a scheme set up to raise money for London's homeless. It operates during the two months preceding Christmas, and involves restaurants and clubs all over London, including such prestigious establish-