

The Brigstow Herald

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Street drinkers targeted

Westland Police carried out a series of operations across central Brigstow today against street drinkers. As the police dispersed groups, council workers moved in to clear up the rubbish they had left behind.

Church Park is a favorite haunt as city workers, enjoying an outdoor lunch amongst the ruined churches destroyed in the blitz make an easy target for begging. Drinkers were directed to a drop in 'wet clinic' in Trinidad Road, St Peters as they were moved on.

Increasing complaints of begging, violence and abusive language lay behind today's police action. Sgt Brian Walker said 'Today's operation was part of our campaign to...*Contd. P6*

Church Pk. drinks litter



Prison staff walkout over attacks at Fulton

Over 100 prison staff walked out of Fulton Prison today to hold a protest meeting about a series of attacks by prisoners which has seen 8 officers injured in the last 4 weeks.

Police are investigating 5 of the attacks while the POA (Prison Officers Association) is demanding action to prevent further assaults.

Joe Spooner from the POA described how one officer was beaten almost unconscious while another needed 14 stitches in a scalp wound after being hit with a chair leg. 'It's not just about the safety of our members, it's also about the safety of other prisoners who want no part of this culture of violence and intimidation that is

developing. It's time senior management took urgent action to regain control of the prison' he said.

Prison Governor, Mr Fletcher, stated that the prison has a zero tolerance policy towards violence and all assaults were taken very seriously.

That wasn't good enough for the POA however who hit back that stress levels in their members were reaching unacceptable levels.

Earlier this year POA members at Frankland Prison, Durham, demanded that staff be issued with stab proof vests and pepper spray for self protection. This was rejected by management who felt it would



Fulton Prison: safe behind bars?

only increase the likelihood of violent attacks against officers.

The issue is further clouded by the widespread use of drugs in prisons with up to 30% of prisoners failing random drug tests.*Contd p.2*

Big Lottery £450k grant for single parent and homeless charities

Amongst charities to benefit from a £450k Big Lottery grant are the Westlands Overnight Charity. They have been granted £215k to train volunteers who take homeless young people into their homes. Volunteers are carefully vetted

and supervised so they can offer temporary accommodation to 16-25 year olds.

Brigstow single parent action network has also received £235k from the Big Lottery. Concern has been expressed about

older people who find themselves homeless in the current economic recession.

Revd. Jim Pate said 'While of course we should support youngsters, let us not forget more mature ...*Contd.p5*