Who are the *real* founders of *policing*?

At today's value, £27 million worth of goods are stolen each vear from West Indian ships by workers and thieves on the river. Workers view these goods as 'perks' of the job.

The West India Committee approaches Patrick Colquhoun (1) to devise a plan for policing, and are later joined by John Harriott (2). The Thames Police are established in July in Wapping and are very successful in preventing crime. Many river workers are unhappy of being deprived of their 'perks', leading to a riot at the Police Office in October, where Police Officer Gabriel Franks dies.

Robert Peel creates the Metropolitan Police based on the same ideals of preventative policing as the Thames Police.

Charles Dickens visits the **Thames Police** and writes about them.

The Princess Alice (3) disaster occurs, 600 die in minutes. The Thames Police recover the bodies of the dead.

1989

Every modern police force in the world can trace their roots back to the Thames Police.



1851

1878

2017

1839

nationalised.

1800

1811

The Thames Police join the Metropolitan Police and become Thames **Division.** They become known as 'Black Beetles' due to the colour of their first ever uniform.

The Marchioness disaster takes place, the worst since the Princess Alice disaster. The Thames Police arrive in minutes to help save 51 lives. They later help retrieve the Marchioness and the bodies of the dead.

The Thames Police are now called the Marine Policing Unit (4) and houses the Metropolitan Police's Dive and Climbing units. They are still based at the same site in Wapping as in 1798.

Due to their great success, the Thames Police are

Patrick Colquhoun (1) is a Magistrate in Westminster. He writes about a new idea of preventative policing in his influential work; 'A Treatise on the Police of the Metropolis.' Until now, policing has only reacted to crime, rather than trying to prevent it.

Two families are killed in the Ratcliffe Highway murders; the Marrs and the Williamsons. The Thames Police are the first on the scene and the murders leave the town in fear resulting in officers leaving the river to patrol the streets of Wapping. This shows that a preventative police force is also needed on land to protect people.







