

## Advice from the Safer Bromley Partnership

### Top tips to safeguard you and your family



**Remember:** always lock your UPVC doors from the inside to be completely secure. Burglars find ways to push the handle and enter your house if you don't take this precaution every time you close the door. You should close the door, pull the handle up and then use the key to lock the handle in place.

Don't forget to make sure you know where the key is should you need to leave the house in an emergency, but store them out of sight.

Our top tips to help beat the burglars:

- Mark or etch property with your postcode, house number or first three letters of your house name.
- Register items with a serial number at: [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)
- Don't leave car keys near doors, letterbox or windows
- Always check who's at the door, don't open it if you feel anxious
- Close and lock all doors and windows, even if you go out for a few minutes
- Keep your valuables out of sight
- Leave some lights on if it will be dark before you get home
- Install a visible burglar alarm
- Always keep sheds and outbuildings locked
- Cancel deliveries such as milk if you are away for any length of time.

### Who to contact – useful websites and numbers

#### Bromley Police

Find contact numbers for Bromley Police's Safer Neighbourhood Teams [www.met.police.uk/bromley](http://www.met.police.uk/bromley)



Bromley Community Engagement Forum holds the Partnership to account for community safety. Visit [www.bcef.org.uk](http://www.bcef.org.uk)

#### Bromley Council

You can now report, apply and pay for more online, visit [www.bromley.gov.uk](http://www.bromley.gov.uk)

Keep up with events, follow us on [twitter @LBofBromley](https://twitter.com/LBofBromley)

#### Bromley Fire Brigade Advice

Details of fire safety precautions and find out about fire safety visits [www.london-fire.gov.uk](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk)

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### Safe as houses

Have you been a victim of burglary or feel at risk of a break-in? Victim Support may be able to help. You could benefit from a visit by the Safer Bromley Van to survey your home and provide crime prevention advice.

The project is sponsored by the Safer Bromley Partnership and managed by Victim Support. The van can provide Bromley residents with advice on door and window security for their homes.

Please call **020 8776 7071** to find out more.



### Bromley Police now Tweeting

A new Twitter feed from Bromley Police can keep you in touch with policing of the borough with new information going out during the daytime.

Local borough Twitter accounts have been set up to inform the public of Metropolitan Police related news.

Topics covered will include: operational updates, appeals for information and advice on protecting yourself. But please do not try to report crime using Twitter.

Bromley Police [twitter- @MPSBromley](https://twitter.com/MPSBromley)

### Beat the rogue traders

If you see anything suspicious or are targeted yourself contact the Trading Standards team straight away.

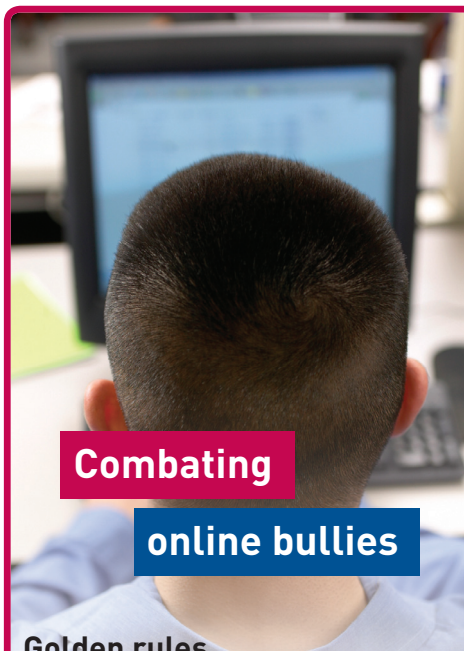
Trading Standards rapid response **07903 852090**

### Tried and trusted

The Trader Register was set up by the Safer Bromley Partnership to help you find a suitable local trader. Those registered have committed to offering excellent standards of work and customer service.



Visit [www.traderregister.org.uk](http://www.traderregister.org.uk)



### Golden rules

Don't give out personal information such as your address or phone number

Don't open emails or attachments from people you don't know

Don't become 'friends' on social media with people you don't know

Make sure you have appropriate privacy settings

Never arrange to meet in person someone who you've met online

If anything you see or read online worries you, report it.

Advice on internet safety is at [www.safe.met.police.uk](http://www.safe.met.police.uk)

### Neighbourhood Watch

Check out your local 'watch', or join the growing band of volunteers in your neighbourhood or simply discover what you can do in your area. Visit: [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)

# saferbromley news

News and information from the Safer Bromley Partnership

Summer 2012



## Champions boost community spirit

### Safer Bromley Community Champions are true local heroes, and we salute them!

They always go that extra mile, perhaps giving up valuable free time in order to make Bromley even safer and ever more special for the rest of us.

The people we're talking about may belong to a local residents group or sit on a safer neighbourhood panel, friends group, lead a scouts group, coach sport, or work for one of the key agencies that make up the Safer Bromley Partnership.

Whatever their role, they're often ordinary people doing extraordinary things that help make Bromley a really great place to live, relax and do business.

Once a year the Partnership thanks publicly these untiring volunteers through the Safer Bromley Awards. The Partnership values everyone's contribution. Get involved in your neighbourhood today ... and you could be a champion of tomorrow!

### Proud of the Partnership

At the end of an eventful year as Partnership Chairman I look back with pride at the many successes we have achieved – together.



We made good progress around the priorities I set a year ago. I introduced a campaign to help older people feel safer. We've cracked down on antisocial behaviour – noise, drugs and underage drinking. We're also helping young people make the right choices in life.

Looking ahead, I'm delighted to announce a programme of events for young people right through the summer. Watch out for the fun in a park near you!

**Cllr Tim Stevens**  
Chairman, Safer Bromley Partnership

The Safer Bromley Partnership includes Bromley Council, Police, Fire Service, Health, Probation and Housing Associations working together to keep Bromley safe

**Safer Bromley News** – if you'd like to receive our e-newsletter please email [community.safety@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:community.safety@bromley.gov.uk)

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Working together for a safer London





## Lock up to beat the burglars

Bromley is a very safe place to live and work and crime is generally low. However, from time to time a particular type of crime begins to escalate and right now it's burglary!



Bromley Police are cracking down on burglary. A dedicated Burglary Squad working with local Safer Neighbourhood teams, forensic squads, and rapid entry teams are investigating burglaries, monitoring the activities of known burglars to both prevent further occurrences and to catch perpetrators. This will involve increased policing patrols, especially in the areas that are experiencing high numbers of burglaries.

However, don't forget that many break-ins are opportunistic – an open window easily accessed or an unobserved side entrance are signs that you are not at home and, surprisingly, UPVC doors not correctly and securely locked. Taking a few simple precautions can help prevent your home becoming another burglary statistic. You'll find more help and advice on our back page.

**Remember:** UPVC doors can be easily opened from the outside if they are not locked with the key from the inside!

## Ma Kelly's doorstep wisdom

Older people in Bromley will perhaps feel a little safer as a result of an enjoyable afternoon spent at the Ma Kelly theatre production, courtesy of the Safer Bromley Partnership.

A dramatised production demonstrates how easy it could be to be conned by unscrupulous traders calling at your door. But wily old Ma Kelly is wise to the ways of the criminals and knows that honest people will not mind waiting, giving her time to check their credentials.

The production reached several audiences totalling more than 300 people in Bromley borough and more productions are planned.



Picture courtesy of ATTIC Theatre Company 020 8640 6800, email: info@attictheatrecompany.com or visit www.attictheatrecompany.com



## Help stop these wasters

Householders and businesses could inadvertently be at risk of prosecution and liable for fines of up to £5000, simply by choosing an illegal waste carrier or skip hire company to dispose of building rubble and other trade waste.

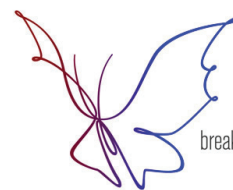
The advice from Bromley Council is to ask for a waste carrier registration and check it with the Environment Agency. If they don't produce it – don't use them.

- If you have information about this or fly tipping, report it online at [www.bromley.gov.uk](http://www.bromley.gov.uk)

## You are not alone

Domestic abuse is not just violence and can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or sexuality. Many survivors believe there is nowhere to turn, or are too ashamed to speak up, and some individuals experience up to 30 violent assaults before getting the help they need.

No-one should have to experience domestic abuse. Help is at hand through Bromley Council, the Police and specialist organisations. For advice call Victim Support on 020 8776 7071, text 07963 479 602 or contact Bromley Women's Aid on 020 8313 9303 or visit [www.bromley.gov.uk/domesticabuse](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/domesticabuse)



break free from domestic abuse



## Fired up for Life

Young people sometimes need help to make the right choices in life and that's the focus of an innovative programme run by Bromley Fire Brigade.

Students from local schools are put through their paces as trainee fire fighters in an intensive five-day 'Life programme' designed to give them life skills that will help them into adulthood.

Taking responsibility for the management and maintenance of a fire engine, fire fighting equipment, the fire station and their own personal protective equipment, the young people have the opportunity to work together and finally demonstrate their achievements to family and friends. As well as the hands-on experience of working as a team, they also take part in lively workshops on fire safety, first aid and the consequences of deliberately starting fires.

## Bully off

Bromley's Youth Council Chair listened intently during a lively debate on bullying with the emphasis on the 'new kid on the block' – cyber bullying.

More than a third of the young people present, who were chosen to represent their schools in recent youth elections, admitted to having been bullied in this way. Few report their experiences, citing not knowing who to turn to and fear of reprisals as the key reasons. It also emerged that young people are less aware of social media privacy settings than might be expected.

Bullying is the number one priority for the Youth Council and the main topic of discussion at this first event. The Youth Council plans to work up proposals on how to help tackle cyber bullying in the borough.

Turn to the back page for advice on online safety.

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Anyone can find themselves a victim of bogus callers and doorstep rogue traders, but many older and vulnerable adults are often easier prey for these criminals. Rogue traders and bogus callers demand large amounts of money for unnecessary repairs or shoddy workmanship. Isolated and pressured into paying, these victims are often driven to their bank or building society or post office to withdraw money or transfer it electronically. On some occasions this has led to them losing their life savings.

Bromley Trading Standards was one of the first teams in the UK to recognise the important role local banks play in protecting older and vulnerable adults from doorstep crime. For the past 10 years they have maintained relationships with all the banks and building societies in the borough through annual visits with training events and useful keepsakes detailing the rapid response service provided by the team. The protocol encourages bank staff to look out for signs of older customers who may be victims of scams or frauds, in particular when

they are seeking to withdraw large amounts of cash. Last year the banks' protocol was relaunched to remind all bank staff to call Trading Standards immediately if they suspect a customer is a victim of a fraud. In the past year alone, 18 referrals from banks have resulted in direct savings of £135,000 belonging to elderly residents and prison sentences for convicted perpetrators.

Trading Standards Rapid Response  
**07903 852090**

## Summertime ... and the living is easy

The long days of summer can seem a bit too long for some young people who have run out of things to do.

This year Bromley Youth Support Programme is working with the Safer Bromley Partnership to host nearly 60 different activities and sports spread across every single area of the borough. While not every event will be available in every location, there should be something to interest most people close to their homes. The fun

begins at the end of July and goes on right through to early September with activities ranging from sports to more unusual events involving space hoppers and BMX bikes. For those interested in arts and crafts, jewellery-making might appeal or a visit to the music bus.

Don't miss out. Details of times and locations are being finalised right now, so watch Bromley Council's website for more information.



## Licensed to be safe

Relaxing over a drink in one of Bromley's fully-licensed pubs, clubs or restaurants is a great way to spend an evening with family or friends.

Or you might pick up a bottle from an off-licence to share later on.

Sensible drinking helps everyone to enjoy themselves. However, alcohol can cause problems for drinkers themselves and others in the community, and that is why our licensing laws are in place. They promote proper management of premises and help protect everyone from alcohol related crime and disorder.

Bromley Council and Police regularly visit pubs, newsagents, off-licences and shops to ensure that licence conditions are met and alcohol is not sold to young people. They take a tough line on problem premises and antisocial behaviour. At the same time they check that other age restricted products such as knives and cigarettes are not crossing the counter into the wrong hands.

If you become aware of under-age sales call 020 8313 4785. Or if you suspect the terms of a licence are being broken, call 020 8464 3333 in confidence and ask for 'Licensing'.

## A friend indeed

**Mentoring for Bromley means befriending a young person who can profit from your knowledge and wisdom. Mentors themselves also gain from the experience.**

Jenny Wait has mentored for Bromley for more than 10 years.

You could talk to her for hours. However, her soothing voice and calm demeanour mask a steely determination to improve the life chances of young people.

A good conversationalist, Jenny is an even better listener. This, plus her ability to mete out 'tough love' when required, made her a perfect candidate for Bromley Council's team of volunteer mentors.

Like a proud parent Jenny talks of one lad she mentored for many years. "I stuck by him through thick and thin," she says. "Now he has left school and shown he can hold down a job, and with a steady girlfriend by his side things are looking up."

So what's the secret? "I never ask questions about family, but concentrate on what the young person can achieve," Jenny explains. "I convince them they can do well, and try to provide a cornerstone in lives that can sometimes be chaotic.

"I'm more a friend, not an official. I offer them potential, not punishment. I ask what they want out of life – a good job, nice car, to be healthy and safe. This is where I can really identify with them, recounting what I've been through myself."

Her main 'mentee' has now moved on, and Jenny is starting again with a new group of teenagers. They will be fortunate to number her among their friends!



Jenny Wait (seated) with Bromley's Mentoring Co-ordinator Jane Belding

## Want to mentor?

Jenny is among a growing band of volunteers who – with support from the Safer Bromley Partnership – have much to offer young people. Visit [www.bromleyebp.org.uk](http://www.bromleyebp.org.uk) for more information or email [ebp.admin@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:ebp.admin@bromley.gov.uk)

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