

# BROMLEY BOROUGH COMMANDER'S NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2012

## Welcome to December's newsletter.

Whilst 2012 has seen reductions in crime and disorder across Bromley – some of them quite large reductions - residential burglary is unfortunately still showing an increase.

Although we have a significant amount of our, and indeed the Metropolitan Police Service's, resources are dedicated to tackling this problem I continue to appeal for householders and car users to be vigilant. Lock doors and windows, and please do not leave your car keys by the front door. Do not leave valuables in your car either. These two simple things would help to reduce crime in Bromley. Car crime and burglary account for almost 30% of our total crime. Your vigilance can make a difference!

The start of the month sees us begin our Christmas drink drive campaign. In 2011, 280 people were killed as a result of drink driving - did you know last year more people failed breath tests between 6am-11am than between 11pm-1am during the Christmas period?

Make sure that's not you, please don't drive impaired, don't take the chance. Plan your evenings out properly, use public transport or have a designated non-drinking driver. Please remember that alcohol affects everyone differently and can still be in your system many hours after you have drunk.

As we enter the festive season it is important that whilst celebrating we remain vigilant. The thieves take advantage of this time of year. Shopping for presents in the run up to Christmas is ideal opportunity for criminals to target cars and shoppers, so there is motor vehicle and pick-pocketing crime prevention advice included in this month's newsletter.

I encourage everyone to think of their own personal safety, to look after their family and friends, and to be a good neighbour. I wish everyone a safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



**Steph Roberts**  
Borough Commander

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## Operation Hawk success continues in Bromley

Our offensive against drug-related crime is continuing to be successful, with at least one drugs warrant being executed every day across the borough.

Operation Hawk, which was relaunched to target drug dealing in September, continues to target cannabis farms, crack houses and suspected drug dealers across the borough and has now notched up in excess of 65 raids with 38 people being arrested for drug related offences. A number of those arrested have also been further arrested for additional offences such as burglary, money laundering, handling stolen goods, theft, possession of a prohibited weapon and offences under the dangerous dogs act.

Operation Hawk, which is being led by local Safer Neighbourhoods officers, follows a renewed call to residents to encourage them to come forward with information about who may be selling or cultivating drugs in their area.

While activity to tackle drugs dealing has always been a high priority for us, with major operations carried out with partners against high-level dealers on a regular basis, Operation Hawk has been refocused to increase operational activity on drug dealing at the street level.

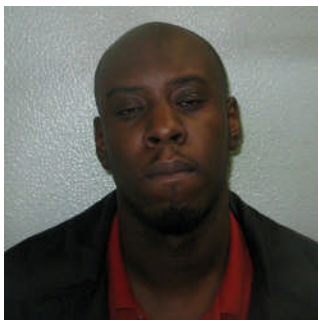
Drug dealing damages communities, generating crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. We are determined to tackle this issue head on by bringing together our resources to reclaim and help repair areas affected by drug dealing.

Community intelligence passed to us will be dealt with as quickly as possible and carefully assessed before any action taken. With your help we can make your local neighbourhood safer. You make the call, we'll make it stop.

## Three years for Bromley drug offender

A Bromley man has been jailed for three years after a large quantity of cocaine, MDMA and cannabis were found secreted around his house.

Byron Campbell, age 33, of Homefield Road, Bromley was jailed for three years after pleading guilty to possession with intent to supply Class A drugs (cocaine), possession of a Class A drug (MDMA) and possession of a Class B drug (cannabis) at Croydon Crown Court.



Officers from our Crime Squad executed a search warrant at Campbell's home address on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012. A systematic search of all the rooms revealed a large quantity of drugs hidden in two bedrooms, the kitchen and the lounge. Campbell was arrested at the scene.

A large safe was found hidden in a landing cupboard, which Campbell found he did not have a key for or know what was inside it. When it was forced open at Bromley Police station it was found to contain a large quantity of drugs, both powder and compressed blocks.

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## **Catford drug offender jailed for two years and four months**

A Catford man has been jailed after being caught in possession of crack cocaine in Beckenham.

James Heneghan, age 39, of Montacute Road, Catford was jailed for two years and four months after pleading guilty to possession with intent to supply crack cocaine at Croydon Crown Court.



Officers were on routine patrol in Beckenham when they saw a Vauxhall Corsa acting suspiciously in Calverley Close. Police followed the vehicle and stopped it in Beckenham Hill. Upon searching the vehicle officers found 27 wraps of crack cocaine, a number of mobile phones, other drug related paraphernalia, along with a quantity of cash.

Heneghan was arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply drugs and his vehicle – which was uninsured – was also seized.

Convictions such as these show that we here at Bromley Police are committed to tackling those people involved in the supply of illegal drugs and will continue to target offenders and proactively seek to disrupt their criminality. Our message continues to be 'If you deal drugs in Bromley, prepare to be arrested at any time'.

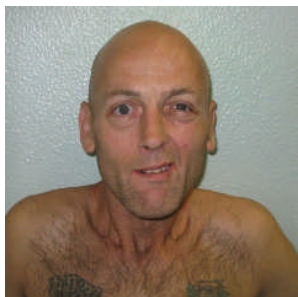
## **Burglar jailed for four years**

A Carshalton man has been jailed for a four years for an Orpington burglary.

James Cotman, aged 45, of Park Hill, Carshalton, Surrey pled guilty to burglary and was sentenced to four years imprisonment at Croydon Crown Court.

Cotman was seen acting suspiciously in Felstead Road, Orpington during the evening of 30<sup>th</sup> August 2012 by an alert member of public who immediately contacted the police. Officers attended and stopped Cotman, finding him in possession of screwdrivers, a torch and a quantity of jewellery in boxes. He was arrested for going equipped to steal.

Later that day the occupiers of a house in Felstead Road returned home to find that it had been burgled. Officers showed them the property that was recovered from Cotman, and they confirmed that it was theirs.



Cotman even had a framed photograph of the victims on their wedding day hidden in his bag. Cotman was further arrested for burglary.

Cotman was apprehended and brought to justice due to the vigilance of a local resident and I would like to appeal for the continued support from the community to be vigilant and always report any suspicious behaviour to us. Please immediately ring 999 if you see anyone acting suspiciously.

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## Vehicle crime warning

Shopping for presents in the run up to Christmas is ideal opportunity for criminals to target cars, so we would ask people to take a series of simple steps to prevent themselves becoming a victim:

- Most vehicle crime is preventable. It can take as little as 10 seconds for a thief to steal something from your car. If at all possible, leave nothing on view.
- NEVER leave valuable items in your car - cash, credit cards, chequebook, mobile phones, vehicle documents or other valuables in the car. This includes your Sat Nav!
- Don't leave presents or purchases from on the back seat
- Always close the windows and sunroof; lock the doors and activate any security devices when leaving your car unattended.
- Always park with care, particularly at night or if you are leaving the vehicle for a long time. If possible, park in a busy, well-lit area.

We are aware that the festive season does provide more opportunities for thieves, and we'd urge everyone just to take a bit of extra care to have a secure and crime free Christmas.

## Cadets raising burglary awareness

Our young volunteer police cadets have been out and about at locations across the borough distributing burglary crime prevention packs, as part of the local anti-burglary initiative Operation Flint. The cadets have been handing in excess of 600 leaflets/packs a day, two nights a week, throughout November and will be continuing to do so at locations across the borough in the run up to Christmas.



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## Pick-pocket warning

We are warning residents to be wary of pick-pockets when out shopping in the lead up to Christmas.

Police would suggest taking following precautions whilst out shopping in order to avoid becoming the victim of a pick-pocket or purse-dipper:

- Carry your bag close to you with the clasp facing inwards. Keep it zipped up, and make sure your wallet or purse can't be seen. Don't carry large amounts of cash.
- When at a bar, restaurant or cafe, keep your belongings safe. Keep bags where you can see them but out of reach of passers by. Use bag hooks under tables if they are available.
- If you use your mobile phone on the street be aware of your surroundings whilst you're on the phone and after your call has ended.
- Spread your possessions about - keep your mobile phone separate from your purse, and your keys separate from your credit card.
- Beware when using cash dispensers. Criminals target people when using these machines.
- Cover up any expensive jewellery and, if you must carry other valuables, be discreet.

## **Robbers jailed for six years**



Two robbers and their accomplice have been jailed for a total of six years after assaulting a man and stealing his laptop and cameras.

Sean Trowers, age 22, of Queens Road, Bromley pled guilty to robbery and was jailed for 40 months, Craig

Ogunshakin, age 21, of Rafford Way, Bromley pled guilty to robbery and was jailed for 32 months and Tammy Thackery, age 20, of Plaistow Lane, Bromley pled guilty to robbery and was jailed for 12 months, suspended for two years, at Croydon Crown Court.

The 20 year old victim, who was a casual acquaintance of Thackery, was lured to Palace View in Bromley by her whilst on his way home from work and was robbed of his bags containing a laptop computer and photographic equipment. The suspects were traced through CCTV footage and mobile phone records.

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## Police in Bromley raise counter terrorism awareness

Bromley Police officers were part of a major pan-London operation to raise awareness of protective security and counter terrorism in late November and early December.

The initiative - known as Operation Penna - involved co-ordinated activity focused on reminding the public of the vital role they can play in protecting London from terrorism.

As such, we would like to encourage residents to remain vigilant and alert and to report anything suspicious to police:

- We want you to look out for the unusual - some activity or behaviour which strikes you as not quite right and out of place in your normal day to day lives.
- You may feel it's probably nothing, but unless you trust your instincts and tell us we won't be able to judge whether the information you have is important or not.
- Remember, no piece of information is considered too small or insignificant.
- Our specially trained officers would rather take lots of calls which are made in good faith, but have innocent explanations - rather than not getting any at all.
- All information passed to the police is treated in the strictest of confidence. It is thoroughly analysed and researched by experienced officers before, and if, any police action is taken.

Suspicious activity could include someone:

- Who has bought or stored large amounts of chemicals, fertilisers or gas cylinders for no obvious reason.
- Who has bought or hired a vehicle in suspicious circumstances.
- Who holds passports or other documents in different names for no obvious reason.
- Who travels for long periods of time, but is vague about where they're going.

Anyone who has any information about unusual activity or behaviour should contact the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321. In the event of an emergency always dial 999.

Although the threat from terrorism has not increased, it remains real and serious. Protective security is a key element of our counter terrorism strategy as it creates a hostile environment for those planning terrorist attacks. Everyone has a role to play in keeping London safe from terrorism.

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## **Fraudster jailed for five years**

A 51 year old man has been jailed for five years after pleading guilty to fleecing a couple out of their life savings.

Stephen Ross, aged 51, of Drake Mews, Bromley pled guilty to two counts of fraud and was jailed for five years at Croydon Crown Court. A further three counts of fraud were ordered to remain on file by the Court.



Ross's modus operandi was to befriend his victims, claiming to be employed as a broker at Rothschilds Banking Group and telling them that he was a personal investor for, or a friend of, amongst others Sir Robin Fellowes (personal equerry to HM Queen), Bryan Adams (pop star), Sir Richard Branson (entrepreneur), Sir Paul McCartney (pop star), Pete Waterman (music mogul), George Michael (pop star) and Simon Cowell (music mogul).

He groomed his victims for years to win their trust and shamelessly used his disability (he only has one leg) to lower the victim's defences and get them to trust him – indeed he even claimed that he had lost his leg in the July 2005 London bombings, which is untrue. He then offered them the chance to invest money in schemes with 'guaranteed' returns

His victims paid tens of thousands of pounds to Ross to invest, money which he then used to fund his lavish lifestyle. None of the people or institutions named by Ross have any knowledge of him.

Ross is an accomplished confidence trickster and convincing storyteller who has conned people from all walks of life, including vulnerable people and business owners. He also shamelessly used his disability to appear frail in order to lower the victim's defences and trust him. However, this facade slipped when Ross was challenged by the victims about the money, when he became an aggressive bully.

He left his victims not only financially out of pocket but also left feeling defenceless and upset. People put their trust in this individual and handed over money that they couldn't afford to lose.

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## Domestic Abusers targeted

A series of dawn raids took place across the borough during the last week in November to help end the suffering caused by domestic abusers.

The scale of the violence and abuse caused by those in domestic relationships is shocking. About one third of all women will suffer some form of physical or sexual abuse at the hands of their partners.

Suffering behind closed doors should not and cannot be ignored. We all have a responsibility to put a stop to domestic violence.

Led by specially trained officers in the borough's Community Safety Unit, this operation was timed to support White Ribbon Day - the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women which was on Sunday 25 November. Under the banner of Operation Athena the Metropolitan Police targeted prolific and dangerous offenders responsible for both domestic violence and hate crime.

We are committed to tackling all of forms violence, and will make sure we play our part in supporting and protecting victims of both sexes. It is also importantly about demonstrating to abusers that their actions have legal, and in some cases, long lasting consequences.

There is no place in London for domestic violence or those cowardly crimes committed because of someone's race, religion, sexuality or disability. It is the offenders who should live in fear - of our knock at the door.

The Metropolitan Police Service works with a wide range of third parties to make sure that all possible support is given to victims of domestic violence and hate crime. We will also take reports and information from those people who aren't comfortable talking to police direct.

## Uninsured porche latest to be removed from Borough's roads

A porche has been seized and removed from the roads after the driver was found to be uninsured. The porche was stopped in Elmers End Road, Bromley after a child was seen in the front seat without a child seat and with an out of date tax disc displayed on the vehicle. The vehicle was also found to be uninsured, with £320 worth of penalty notices issued against it. Over 550 uninsured vehicles have now been seized and removed from Bromley's roads since March of this year.





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## **Help us to help you from becoming a victim of burglary.....**

Having your home burgled can be a traumatic experience, and therefore we are determined to reduce the chances of it happening in the first place by raising peoples' awareness of security. 36 per cent of burglaries result from insecure properties – please don't let your home become a target. Help us to protect your home by taking simple steps such as using timers to turn lights and radios on, fitting alarms, making sure homes are properly locked and by keeping valuables and presents out of view.

Please be vigilant and use these simple steps to secure your home and keep criminals out.

### **Our ten top burglary crime prevention tips for residents:**

1. Mark or etch your property with your postcode, house or flat number or the first three letters of your house name.
2. Register items with a serial number at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)
3. Do not leave your car keys, valuables or ID documents near a door, letterbox or window.
4. Always check who's at the door and don't open it if you feel anxious.
5. Close and lock all your doors and windows, even if you are only going out for a few minutes.
6. Keep your valuables out of sight
7. Leave some lights on if it will be dark before you get home
8. Fit a mortice lock to your front door and other external doors. Consider installing a burglar alarm.
9. Always keep sheds and outbuildings locked
10. Cancel milk or other deliveries if you will be away for days or weeks at a time.



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**\*\*\*Sign up now to regularly receive information from the Police\*\*\***

## Neighbourhood Link

Neighbourhood Link is a free service that enables you to regularly receive information from the police about crime and safety in the areas you sign up to. It will also be used by the Metropolitan Police Service to keep you informed in the event of a major incident impacting on London.

To register please visit [www.neighbourhoodlink.met.police.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodlink.met.police.uk).

## Contact numbers for Bromley Police's Safer Neighbourhood Teams

<b>Bickley</b>	07920 233 852
<b>Biggin Hill</b>	07880 783 736
<b>Bromley Common &amp; Keston</b>	07920 233 855
<b>Bromley Town</b>	07887 826 502
<b>Chelsfield &amp; Pratts Bottom</b>	07920 233 857
<b>Chislehurst</b>	07920 233 850
<b>Clock House</b>	07920 233 847
<b>Copers Cope</b>	07766 804 406
<b>Cray Valley East</b>	07880 788 942
<b>Cray Valley West</b>	07920 233 851
<b>Crystal Palace</b>	07920 233 858
<b>Darwin</b>	07920 233 859
<b>Farnborough &amp; Crofton</b>	07920 233 856
<b>Hayes &amp; Coney Hall</b>	020 8649 3548
<b>Kelsey &amp; Eden Park</b>	07920 233 846
<b>Mottingham &amp; Chislehurst Nth</b>	07880 781 483
<b>Orpington</b>	07766 804 412
<b>Penge &amp; Cator</b>	07843 065 880
<b>Petts Wood &amp; Knoll</b>	07920 233 853
<b>Plaistow &amp; Sundridge</b>	07920 233 849
<b>Shortlands</b>	07920 233 848
<b>West Wickham</b>	07920 233 854

Internet Address: [www.met.police.uk/bromley](http://www.met.police.uk/bromley)

Non emergency contact number 101 **In an emergency always dial 999**

Bromley Community Engagement Forum 020 8658 7168

