

BROMLEY BOROUGH COMMANDER'S NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2013

Welcome to November's newsletter.

Burglars across South London are being targeted as we launch a burglary initiative to coincide with the shortening days, in conjunction with a campaign to remind residents that there are simple measures that they can take to reduce the risk of being a target for burglars.

Operation Bumblebee will see the boroughs of Bromley, Bexley, Greenwich, Lewisham, Lambeth, Croydon and Southwark target burglars through a new 'South Area Bumblebee Team', targeting our combined resources to detecting where burglars may strike and arresting suspects in efforts to tackle the traditional rise of these offences at this time of the year.

Whilst overall, burglary across the MPS is down by 7.4% - and down by over 10% across Bromley - as the clocks go back there is a seasonal trend for it to increase over the period from September to December. Figures show that homes become more vulnerable to burglars at this time of year as the evenings get darker with burglars on the prowl for valuables and cash. During this period residential properties remain in darkness for much longer periods which makes them easier for burglars to target, especially if there are no obvious signs that there is anyone home.

Whilst we are determined to raise people's awareness of security and help stop burglary from happening in the first place, we are also introducing a tough new approach to improving performance in investigating and tackling burglary through the creation of the new 'South Area Bumblebee Team'. This team will be made up of experienced and specialised officers and will be able to work across borough boundaries, co-ordinate search activity for outstanding suspects, manage an improved forensic strategy and work in partnership with the MPS's Territorial Support Group and the London Crime Squad to bring offenders to justice.

We will also be exploring other tactics such as predictive policing, which enables us to identify where certain crimes are more likely to be repeated. It uses a specially designed computer algorithm to produce crime maps, which can then direct police officers to the areas where they are more likely to be successful in preventing and detecting burglary.

More details on this, our latest Operation Big Wing and details of some of our latest convictions can be found on the following pages.



Steph Roberts
Borough Commander

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South Area Bumblebee Team to target burglars

As mentioned in the introduction to this month's newsletter, burglars across South London are being targeted as we launch a large burglary initiative to coincide with the shortening days and the increase in burglaries that is seen at this time of year.

The campaign will see increased patrols and enforcements, including both covert and overt policing patrols across the borough, work is being undertaken across many other fronts to help tackle residential burglary.

Safer Neighbourhoods teams will take a problem-solving approach to the issue of residential burglary, working in collaboration with such partners as social landlords, housing managers and crime prevention advisors from local councils, and local residents, to come up with sustainable, long-term solutions to help tackle the problem.

Safer Neighbourhood Teams will also raise awareness of burglary through their street briefings and surgeries to offer advice and guidance on measures the public can take to secure their homes - these crime prevention steps can be as simple as installing a light timer to turn the lights on whilst out, to deter potential thieves.

The Directorate of Forensic Services will be working continuously to increase the number of offenders identified through forensic intervention at all burglary scenes. This is achieved through the use of the National Fingerprint identification data base and extensive DNA processes. Working with partners within the CPS, forensic case managers will robustly pursue every forensic opportunity to ensure all cases have the best chances of achieving a positive criminal justice outcome.

In addition, the MPS will be utilising the Proceeds of Crime Act to recover stolen money and other assets (criminal property) from persons convicted of burglary. Financial Investigators establish how much the convicted person has benefited from their criminal conduct and a Judge at the Crown Court can direct the making of a Confiscation Order. This requires the payment of any benefit and can mean the person selling assets such as their house(s), car(s) or any other realisable property that can be found subject of the financial investigation. The Judge will impose a default term of imprisonment which is imposed if the person fails to pay the Confiscation Order within a maximum period of six months.

Second hand traders will also be approached by officers to sign up to a voluntary agreement to restrict the sale of stolen property and allow police to examine stock. These agreements will help to ensure second-hand shops and stalls do not purchase stolen property and also mean customers will have an increased confidence in their purchases.

Burglary crime prevention advice will be made available via borough twitter accounts and the MPS website, where there is an interactive graphic. The graphic allows the user to get bespoke crime prevention advice by clicking on a relevant section of a house and by hovering over an 'i' icon, specific advice about that section of the house can then be read.

We want people to feel safe in their homes and in their communities and we are working hard to pursue those responsible. Whilst burglary is down we want to continue that drop and bring those offenders before the courts.

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Beckenham Sergeant starts tweeting local policing news



Sergeant Gareth Starr, head of Beckenham's Copers Cope and Shortlands Safer Neighbourhood Teams, has started tweeting from a new twitter account, @MPSBeckenhamSgt.

His new twitter account will ensure residents in Beckenham, Penge, Kelsey, Clock House, and Crystal Palace can now get updates direct from their local Neighbourhood Policing Teams, complementing the news and crime prevention advice from the borough police's main twitter account, @MPSBromley.

The response has been very positive and Sergeant Starr already has over 700 followers. If you live in the North East part of the borough why not follow him and keep up with the news in your area?

Thief jailed for 4 years for stealing from vulnerable woman

A callous thief has been jailed after stealing nearly £114,000 from a vulnerable 62 year old woman who she had previously worked with.

Julie Rudd, age 48, a civil servant of Edgewood Close, Widnes, Cheshire was found guilty of thirteen counts of theft and one count of money laundering at Croydon Crown Court on 14th October 2013 and was jailed for four years.

In September 2010, Police were alerted to the possible theft of monies from a 62 year old woman in a residential care home, after there was insufficient money in her account to pay the bills for the care she was receiving. Investigations revealed that the victim had needed to sell her house and move into a care home as her health had deteriorated.

After a complex investigation, Rudd was arrested at in Cheshire on 7th July 2011 and was charged in September 2011. Rudd, who was a friend of the victim, had then stolen money from the victim's account between 2008 and 2010 totalling £114,000. Rudd had met the victim when they worked together prior to the victim retiring in the mid-1990's after her health deteriorated. Rudd pled not guilty to all fourteen offences, but was convicted of every one.

Police will be seeking recovery of the stolen monies from Rudd through the Proceeds of Crime Act. Under this, Financial Investigators establish how much the convicted person has benefited from their criminal conduct and a Judge at the Crown Court can direct the making of a Confiscation Order. This requires the payment of any benefit and can mean the person selling assets such as their house(s), car(s) or any other realisable property that can be found subject of the financial investigation. The Judge will impose a default term of imprisonment which is imposed if the person fails to pay the Confiscation Order within a maximum period of six months.

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16 years for violent assailant



A man who attempted to strangle a former girlfriend and who stabbed her mother and father has been jailed for 16 years.

Luke Nicholson, age 29, a teaching assistant of St Johns Road, Sevenoaks, Kent pled guilty to three counts of causing Grievous Bodily Harm with Intent at a hearing at Croydon Crown Court and was sentenced to 16 years imprisonment.

In the evening of 24th January 2013 Nicholson went to the address of his former girlfriend in Ernest Grove in Beckenham.

At the address he knocked on the door, stabbed her 58 year old father in the upper arm when he opened the door, severing an artery, and then stabbed her 54 year old mother in the hands in a frenzied attack in the hallway of their home.

Hearing the attack going on downstairs, Nicholson's former girlfriend attempted to escape from the house by jumping from the first floor bathroom window but was caught by Nicholson in the back garden. Nicholson hit her over the head with a plant-pot and proceeded to strangle her to the point at which she lost consciousness. He only left her for dead when disturbed by a neighbour who had heard the attack.

All three victims were taken to hospital, with the father needing treatment in the Intensive Care Unit.

Nicholson was arrested a short while later in Lloyds Way, Beckenham and taken to hospital for treatment to head injuries that he sustained during the assault on the family, after the mother fought back after being stabbed, striking him over the head with a plant pot.

The Police investigation established not only that Nicholson was responsible for the attacks, but from material seized on him and from material seized from his home address in Sevenoaks, that there had been a significant element of planning and preparation for the attack.

All three victims require ongoing and long term treatment for their injuries.

It was only at the eleventh hour, and in the face of the overwhelming evidence, that Nicholson decided to plead guilty to the horrific attack he carried out on the family. To date, Nicholson has still not provided an explanation for what he did, which has made it even harder for the family to deal with.

I would like to praise the courage shown by the family, both in the immediate aftermath and during the traumatic months since the incident. Hopefully the sentence will help them start to move on from what happened.

Sentences like those given to Nicholson should send out the message that the Metropolitan Police Service and the Crown Prosecution Service will work together to ensure that violent offenders are brought to justice.

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13 arrests in Bromley Big Wing operation



13 people were arrested across Bromley under the latest Operation Big Wing, cracking down on thieves who target the public for their valuables.

Arrests were made for a range of offences, including suspicion of handling stolen goods; robbery; burglary; drugs, assault, immigration offences and offenders wanted on warrant.

Quantities of drugs, stolen goods and cash were recovered during the raids - and two men were arrested as they ran out of a phone store with a quantity of stolen phones, straight into officers from Bromley Police's Borough Support Unit taking a refreshments break.

More than 5,000 officers were out in force across London's 32 boroughs, as part of sustained action by the MPS to drive down personal theft offences and promote crime prevention awareness amongst the public.

Big, highly visible operations like Operation Big Wing play a major part in the fight against crime and demonstrate there is no hiding place for criminals. These operations reinforce what we do on daily basis in targeting criminals head-on and provide further public reassurance through visible high impact policing.

We arrested 13 suspected criminals, people who have been a blight on their local communities. A number of those offenders have been arrested as a result of intelligence and information provided by members of the public, acting as our 'eyes and ears' and I ask residents continue to provide information about crime and criminals in your area. If you know something please don't hesitate. Tell us, we will listen and we will take action.

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Appeal for information two years after the tragic death of Tommie Warde in Orpington



Over two years after the tragic death of Tommie Warde in Star Lane, Orpington we are renewing the appeal for information to track down the person responsible for Tommie's death.

A £20,000 reward remains on offer for information leading to the identification, arrest and prosecution of the person responsible for taking Tommie's life.

On the afternoon of 9 August 2011 Tommie and one of his friends decided to go out and buy a motorbike, having heard noises from a group of boys who were riding motorbikes in Star Lane, Orpington. They gathered together their money and successfully bought an off road bike from the boys for £150.

They took the bike back to Tommie's friend's house where they carried out some repairs so they could take it back to the park off Star Lane and ride it safely. The boys walked the bike back along Star Lane on the pavement. As they walked along the lane they noticed a large group of people who had gathered, drinking and generally hanging around.

The two boys felt uncomfortable so decided to ride the bike along the road to avoid the group. Neither boy had a crash helmet with them.

Tommie was riding as the pillion passenger on the bike, as they travelled up Star Lane past the group. The group started throwing cans as they passed. Tommie's friend, driving the bike then remembers how Tommie suddenly fell backwards from the bike landing in the road. He saw that Tommie had a shard of wood protruding from his head, which doctors say penetrated his skull and pierced deep into his brain.

Tommie was taken to hospital where he underwent surgery, but he never regained consciousness and on 13 August the equipment keeping him alive was switched off and Tommie died.

It has been over two years since that August afternoon that ended in tragedy for Tommie and his family. Police remain keen to hear from anyone who has any information that can help to bring Tommie's killer to justice.

We know that there were a large group of people who were gathered in Star Lane that day. They will have seen what happened and be able to identify the person responsible.

The police investigation encountered a wall of silence that has remained over the last two years. Now that time has passed we are hopeful that someone may now feel that they can now come forward and speak out and help us to bring Tommie's killer to justice.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact the Murder Investigation Team on 0208 721 4906 or call Crimestoppers, which can be done anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

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Eight officers commended after Beckenham drugs success

Eight police officers have been commended after sixteen people were jailed for 45 years following an undercover drugs operation in Beckenham and Penge.

The officers were commended for their part in Operation Alkes, a complex investigation which identified and dismantled an Organised Crime Network who were the main distributors of Class A controlled drugs within the Bromley area.

The operation took place over a period of ten weeks where the investigation team utilised various covert policing techniques, identified a number of Class A drug dealers who were targeting pubs and clubs within the Bromley/Beckenham/Penge areas and arrested and charged them with a total of 49 drug and firearms related charges.

During the operation police recovered 1 Kg MDMA crystal (street value £40,000), 250 rocks of Crack Cocaine (street value £2,500), 1050 wraps of cocaine (street value £52,500), one handgun, ammunition, sawn off shotgun and a CS canister were recovered, along with £10,000 cash. One of the offenders in particular was charged with possession of a handgun, live ammunition, a silencer and £16,000 of crack cocaine.

This operation proved to be a major success in the fight against drug-related crime on the streets of Bromley. We will continue to target those people involved in the illegal supply and use of controlled drugs in Bromley and proactively seek to disrupt their criminality. If you sell drugs in Bromley, prepare to be arrested at any time.

Rogue trader warning in wake of indifferent weather

As the indifferent weather closes in we are warning local residents to beware of rogue traders, who will try and convince you to pay for unnecessary renovations to your property.

Fraudsters and rogue traders target vulnerable and elderly people. With the recent storm and the indifferent weather that is forecast these criminals may well use it as an opportunity to try and con more people out of money, which we are keen to avoid.

The simplest advice is not to open the door to unexpected or cold callers. If you do get a call from a builder or trader, then if they are genuine, ask them to come back when a trusted friend or family member can be there as well.

If you've got to get urgent repairs done then use a reputable tradesperson or someone that has signed up to the Trader Register to help protect yourself from rogue traders. The Trader Register can be viewed online and brings up a list of registered traders in the Bromley area.

I would also urge anyone with elderly friends or family to make sure they make them aware of our advice before agreeing to any works.

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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
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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Contacting the police in Bromley

There are a number of ways that you can contact the police.

If a crime is currently taking place and you are in immediate danger, please always dial 999.

If you wish to contact the Metropolitan Police Service and it is not an emergency, please call our non-emergency number, 101. You can request a visit from a local officer within 48 hours via this number too.

Certain categories of crime or incidents committed in the London area can now be reported over the internet, as long as an urgent response is not required. Please visit the MPS website for further information – www.met.police.uk

You can also contact any of our Neighbourhood Policing Teams by telephone or email – visit the MPS website www.met.police.uk, type your postcode into the team finder and you'll be directed to your local team's webpage which contains their contact details.

In non-emergency situations you can visit any Front Counter:

- **Bromley Police Station**, High Street, Bromley, BR1 1ER has a front counter open 24 hours a day
- **Penge SNT base, Maple Road, Penge**, SE20 8RE is open:

Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) between 11am - 7 pm (closed 3pm- 4pm).

- **West Wickham SNT base**, 9 High Street, West Wickham, BR4 0LP is open:

Monday and Thursday:	1pm - 4pm
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday:	10am - 1pm

There are also currently three Contact Points across the Borough. Contact points provide a convenient opportunity to speak to the local police face to face. They are an alternative to visiting a police station front counter for non urgent issues. These are:

- **Biggin Hill SNT base**, 192-194 Main Road, Biggin Hill, TN16 5DT
- **Cray Valley SNT base**, 43 - 45 High Street, St Mary Cray, BR5 3NJ
- **Green Street Green SNT base**, 49 High Street, Green St Green, BR6 6BG

Their opening times are:

Wednesday and Thursday evenings:	7pm - 8pm
Saturday afternoons:	2pm - 3pm

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Inspector Darren Murphy
Contact numbers for Safer Neighbourhood Teams in the North East Neighbourhood

Bickley	020 8721 2610
Bromley Town	020 8721 2859
Chislehurst	020 8721 2612
Mottingham & Chislehurst North	020 8721 2889
Plaistow & Sundridge	020 8721 2613


Inspector David Antoine
Contact numbers for Safer Neighbourhood Teams in the South West Neighbourhood

Biggin Hill	020 8721 2820
Bromley Common & Keston	020 8721 2607
Darwin	020 8721 2603
Hayes & Coney Hall	020 8649 3548
West Wickham	020 8721 2608


Inspector Ian Brown
Contact numbers for Safer Neighbourhood Teams in the North West Neighbourhood

Clock House	020 8721 2615
Copers Cope	020 8721 2772
Crystal Palace	020 8721 2604
Kelsey & Eden Park	020 8721 2616
Penge & Cator	020 8649 3541
Shortlands	020 8721 2614


Inspector Paul Power
Contact numbers for Safer Neighbourhood Teams in the South East Neighbourhood

Chelsfield & Pratts Bottom	020 8721 2605
Cray Valley East	020 8284 8113
Cray Valley West	020 8721 2611
Farnborough & Crofton	020 8721 2606
Orpington	020 8721 2729
Petts Wood & Knoll	020 8721 2609