

BROMLEY BOROUGH COMMANDER'S NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2014

Welcome to February's newsletter.

Officers from Bromley took part in a major two week pan-London operation to increase awareness of security and counter terrorism policing in London during January.

The initiative - known as Operation Penna - was the second operation of its kind run by the Metropolitan Police Service. The first was held in December 2012 and involved co-ordinated activity focussed on reminding the public, as well as police officers and staff, of the vital role we all can play in protecting London from terrorism.

Activity took place across all 32 boroughs between 13 - 24 January, with tactics including high visibility patrols around crowded places such as shopping centres and transport hubs, and briefings to businesses. Officers held 537 external briefings, with a total audience of 11,390 people, providing information explaining the ongoing threat from terrorism and what can be done to protect the capital against it.

The operation was co-ordinated by the Counter Terrorism Protective Security Command (SO20) in partnership with local policing colleagues across the MPS.

Operation Penna builds on our engagement with our communities and businesses in a variety of ways to counter the threat from terrorism and improve the protection offered to local businesses from a terrorist attack. Our aim was to raise awareness and improve protection from a terrorist attack and other crimes and it is pleasing that we have managed to brief more than eleven thousand people on such an important subject and this work will continue.

This operation also shows how proactive policing focusing on counter terrorism can also contribute to combating other criminality as officers engaged in the operation made 181 arrests for offences including theft, burglary and drugs supply and seized 32 vehicles across the Capital.

Everyone has a role to play in keeping London safe from terrorism and local officers are an integral part of the way the MPS responds to the threat from terrorism, whether it is by deterring those who may be involved in terrorist activity through high visibility patrols, or briefing businesses on how to protect their premises from attack.

The threat to London from terrorism remains real and serious so we encourage the public to remain vigilant and alert and to report anything suspicious to police.

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.



Steph Roberts
Borough Commander

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Large cannabis factory discovered in Crystal Palace Park Road

Officers patrolling in Crystal Palace Park Road, SE20 late one evening in January uncovered a large cannabis factory operating in the area.

The officers from Bromley's North West Neighbourhood Policing Teams were on patrol in Crystal Palace Park Road SE20, when they noticed a strong smell of cannabis in the area. As officers approached a detached house, they noticed a man placing large bags inside a wheelie bin. The man saw police and immediately ran off into Crystal Palace Park.

When officers entered the house they found that it had been converted into a cannabis factory, with four large rooms set up with ventilating and heating equipment, and in excess of 500 fully grown cannabis plants inside.

The suspect had been in the process of cropping and moving the cannabis out of the address when disturbed by police. Enquiries are still ongoing to trace the man.

This seizure represents a major and unexpected dent in the network of cannabis supply in the South East London area and was brought about through proactive local neighbourhood policing.



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A violent robber has been jailed for 15 years for committing two knifepoint robberies in Bromley borough

Mark Allen, age 47, of Robina Close, Penge was found guilty of two counts of robbery and one count of wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm and was jailed at Croydon Crown Court last month for a total of 15 years. Allen had pled not guilty to all offences throughout his trial.



On 19 February 2013 at 22:10hrs Allen entered the RS Best Food and Wines store in Anerley Hill, threatening staff with a knife and hammer before stealing £642 and cycling off.

On 24 February 2013 at 19:10hrs Allen entered the BP Petrol Station in Anerley Road, stealing £200 at knifepoint and stabbing a 42 year old cashier who chased him twice in the back. The cashier required hospital treatment for his wounds.

Allen was arrested on 13 March 2013 after being identified through CCTV. He was also forensically linked to the discarded clothing and knives after his DNA was found on them. Sentencing was as below:

- Robbery on 24/02/13 - 9 years
- Wounding with intent on 24/02/2013 - 6 years, consecutive
- Robbery on 19/02/13 - 7 years, concurrent

Allen has 15 previous convictions for 27 offences dating back to 1982.

I hope these verdicts and the prison sentence handed down reassures residents of our capability and determination to identify, locate and prosecute violent and prolific offenders such as Allen. Allen is a habitual criminal and the sentence passed should act as a deterrent for those considering in engaging in this type of crime.

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Man jailed for life for two Orpington rapes



A man convicted of the rape and robbery of two women in an Orpington graveyard has been jailed for life.

James Steve Isted, 27, of Tintagel Road, Orpington was sentenced at Croydon Crown Court for the following offences:

- one count of rape of a woman 16 years of age or over on 30 September 2011 in the Orpington area: sentenced to life imprisonment (min of nine years)
- one count of rape of a woman 16 years of age or over on Tuesday 7 May in the Orpington area: sentenced to life imprisonment (min of nine years)
- one count of robbery on 30 September 2011 in the Orpington area: sentenced to life imprisonment (min of nine years)
- one count of robbery on 7 May in the Orpington area: sentenced to life imprisonment (min of nine years)
- one count of assault on a police officer in the Orpington area on 7 May: sentenced to 18 months.

All sentences to run concurrent.

The first incident occurred at approximately 02.40hrs on 30 September 2011. The 17-year-old victim was walking along Church Hill, Orpington when Isted came up behind her, hit her to the back of the head and dragged her into the graveyard of nearby All Saints Church where he subjected her to a prolonged rape before robbing her of her handbag and a number of personal items including her mobile phone.

On 7 May 2013 Isted committed a second offence in the same location. At around 13.30hrs that day he approached the second victim - a 27-year-old woman - from behind and threatened her with a knife before raping her in the grounds of the church. A member of public who witnessed the incident alerted police and officers on patrol nearby responded immediately. Isted was disturbed and ran off, but was chased by the officers and arrested nearby.

He was found in possession of the victim's bank card and jewellery including her engagement ring. Unable to account for how he came to be in possession of these items, he was subsequently charged in connection with both incidents.

Isted has shown a total disregard for both victims in this case, forcing them to re-live their ordeal by pleading not guilty to the offences. Both victims have shown immense courage in attending court and facing their attacker throughout the three week trial.

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Man jailed for preying on vulnerable teenage boy

A man who preyed on a vulnerable teenage boy at a leisure centre, and forced him to engage in oral sex, has been sentenced to eight years imprisonment.

John Bartholomew, age 50, of Church Road, SE19 was found guilty at Croydon Crown Court, of rape and sexual assault after attacking the 15-year-old boy.



The court heard how Bartholomew approached his victim at the Walnuts Leisure Centre in Orpington, on 9 October 2012 in the swimming pool changing rooms. The victim, who is autistic, was asked by Bartholomew, who he recognised from previous visits to the venue, to follow him into his changing room - fearing for his safety, the victim agreed.

Once inside the changing room, Bartholomew sexually assaulted his victim before performing oral sex on him. Bartholomew then forced the victim to perform oral sex on him. The victim managed to escape from the changing room and alerted staff who called police. Officers attended and Bartholomew was arrested as he left the leisure centre.

DC Ann Downes from Sapphire, part of the Met's Sexual Offences, Exploitation and Child Abuse Command, led the investigation. She said:

"Bartholomew preyed on this victim's vulnerability, manipulating the situation to isolate him and attack him. He was found guilty by a jury and I welcome this conviction. I hope it serves as a warning to others who may be tempted to pursue children in this way. Bartholomew is a dangerous man. It is likely that he stalked his victim over a period of time and then struck when he thought he would go undetected.

The victim has found the courage to see his attacker convicted and I commend him and his family who have shown immense strength through what must be an incredibly difficult time.

Bartholomew is now in prison and I would appeal to anybody else affected by this man's behaviour to come forward and speak to police - specially trained officers and partner agencies will support you."

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Orpington man jailed for Handling stolen goods

A 21 year old man has been jailed for handling stolen goods after an 83 year old grandmother had her jewellery stolen in a burglary.

Mark Mumford, age 21, of Sweeps Lane, St Mary Cray pled guilty to handling stolen goods at Bromley Magistrates Court and was sentenced to six months imprisonment.



On 24 September 2013 an 83 year old woman returned home to find that it had been burgled and a quantity of jewellery had been stolen. Mumford took a number of items of jewellery into a pawnbrokers in Orpington in October, which was later identified as having been stolen in the burglary. He was traced and arrested at his home address on 1st November.

Man jailed for sexual offences on buses in Bromley

A man has been jailed for six weeks for outraging public decency and sexual assault, committed on buses on Bromley.

Michael Kowalski, 30, of Woolwich Road, Kent, was sentenced at Bromley Magistrates Court after pleading guilty. He will also be placed on the sex offences register for seven years

On 23 October 2013, the victim, a 13-year-old girl, was on her way to school and was walking down the stairs about to alight a route 320 bus near Downham Way, Bromley, when Kowalski grabbed her bottom. She challenged him, but he ignored her, so she alighted and reported the incident.

Officers from the Bromley Safer Transport Team investigated and gathered intelligence on Kowalski, which resulted in him being arrested at a bus stop in Bromley North on 19 December 2013. He was interviewed and charged after making a full admission to the offence, as well as a previous offence in April 2011, when he was travelling on a route 51 bus on Sevenoaks Way and was seen masturbating.

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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