

Bromley Borough Commander's Newsletter



April 2015

Welcome to the April edition of my BOCU Commander's Newsletter. As I write this month's edition, it's worth reflecting that we have just had a dramatic General Election with all four sitting MPs in the Borough being returned by the electorate. I would like to pass on my congratulations to them. Secondly, this week has seen the seventieth anniversary of the VE Day with services of commemoration taking place across the country. I was fortunate to attend an event at St George's Chapel at Biggin Hill this morning and added my thanks to all those who served and made the ultimate sacrifice during the six years of the Second World War.

Crime update

Although MOPAC 7 crime continues to decrease, the rate of reduction has reduced to -1.5%, or 153 less offences. This reflects the challenges we currently have regarding theft of motor vehicle, which has risen by 176 offences, criminal damage (+258 offences) and Violence with injury offences (+338 offences). I hope many of you will have noticed the extra officers patrolling in 'the Crays' and Mottingham in recent weeks to address the theft of mopeds and motorcycles which account for the majority of the increase in offences. There have been some significant arrests and we have deployed our own off-road motorcycles as a tactic but overwhelmingly, we need information from the community to identify who the riders are and where they store their vehicles. Burglary continues to reduce and is currently -16.5% (497 less offences) although we are reaching the time of year where sheds and garages are targeted, so please ensure yours are locked and secure. There are also excellent reductions in theft from motor vehicle (-247 offences), robbery (-133 offences) and theft person (-48 offences). I'm also very pleased that both confidence of the local community in their police and the satisfaction of victims has also crept up again.

Volunteer Police Cadets

This month I attended the Volunteer Police Cadet annual awards presentation and found myself in 1945. It was a pleasure to be presenting awards with the Mayor of Bromley, Julian Benington. Over a hundred cadets demonstrated their drill on the 'parade square', led and supported by the VPC staff in authentic MPS and military uniform to commemorate 70 years since VE Day. The ceremony moved inside where a number of awards were given to outstanding cadets who routinely support us with crime prevention initiatives and at community events. This was a fitting way to celebrate the VE Day anniversary.

Election Day

As you will have expected, this was a busy day for the MPS and my officers were on-duty to work with staff at both the Polling Stations and at the Count. I hope that some of you saw them and were able to talk with them as they visited the Polling Stations. They didn't report any issues although the high winds in the run up to today may have had an impact on the marquee at the count if it had increased in strength on the night!



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Operational News

- **Body Worn Video**

This month saw Bromley officers secure the first Body-worn video (only) successful trial in London. The officers from my Community Safety Unit worked tirelessly to secure the first conviction based only on the evidence of body-worn video. The suspect had a long domestic abuse history and his various victims, including our one were unwilling to support a prosecution. Working closely with the CPS prosecutions, Met Prosecutions, staff at Bromley Mags and the BWV programme team, the contested trial went ahead and the defendant was found guilty and sentenced to six months imprisonment. The feedback regarding the initial investigation, victim care and trial preparation was excellent and I'm confident we will learn valuable lessons from this investigation to help future victims.

- **Heartbeat 'Bromley style' or day in the life of a Bromley Duty Inspector**

Insp Chris Wood recently transferred to the Met from West Yorkshire Police where he was a Detective Inspector. I thought you would like to hear how he has taken to our Borough in his own words.

'Swapping West Yorks for Met was an easy decision but the reality was more daunting. My previous role as a senior detective involved overseeing numerous complex and lengthy investigations. I wasn't sure what to expect in my new role. Training has its place in the Police Service, however there is no substitute for actually doing the job and I was soon let loose on my new team. I quickly realised that I had actually missed the buzz of responding to emergency calls and that the typical day for a Duty Officer in Bromley Borough is anything other than monotonous. A particularly busy night shift recently, started with an incident whereby I authorised police protection proceedings for two young children after they were found with injuries after an assault. There were then many other routine calls that needed investigating by my team, leaving little time for anything but a quick sandwich and cup of coffee. The shift ended with an emergency call at a local bank that had been targeted by thieves using inflammable gas to try to gain access to the cash machine. Fortunately they were unsuccessful, but that didn't prevent my officers being put in a dangerous situation on arrival and one that required the specialist assistance of London Fire Brigade and MPS Explosives experts to make safe. We had a great shift and met all of our response targets whilst arresting some villains as well. I have always loved being a Detective and relished the challenges that investigating crime brings, however I am quickly finding out that if you want to test yourself on a daily basis, the role of Duty Officer is the place to be.'

- **The recent passing of an awarded Bromley Police Officer**

This month saw the death of retired PC Ivan King. PC King and two colleagues received the George Medal in 1950 for thwarting a burglary in Biggin Hill by three armed men, during which they were shot at. Despite this they made the arrests and were rewarded by King George VI. PC King died peacefully at home in Yorkshire at the age of 89. I wrote to his wife to pass on the condolences and best wishes of all of us in Bromley.



Chris Hafford
Borough Commander

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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 11 am - 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 3BB
- **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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A/Inspector Andy Buckley

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 Ian Brown

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 Phyllis Rooney

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 Toby Noar

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

