

# saferbromley news

Your update on the Safer Bromley Partnership

Spring 2016



## Safeguarding is everyone's business

**A man was jailed for three years following action by Bromley Trading Standards after he conned an 80-year-old Beckenham resident out of £21,700.**

A concerned resident reported the fraud to Bromley Council when they heard their elderly neighbour had paid a very large sum for property repairs, which were later valued at only £500. The man turned up while a member of the Council's Trading Standards team was visiting the elderly man and ran off, but was later arrested by Police. In addition to the prison sentence, he has been banned for five years from cold calling in England and Wales.

This is just one of many cases of criminal traders preying on older people in the borough where Trading Standards, in partnership with the Police and others, work tirelessly to bring criminals to justice or to thwart them in the first place.

Trading Standards is training people who work in the community, including social workers, post office staff and fire officers, to look out for signs that an older person may be falling victim to an unscrupulous trader or to scam mail. "We need everyone's help," said head of Trading Standards, Rob Vale. "If it hadn't been for a concerned neighbour, this criminal may have got away with it. Please contact us immediately if you become aware of traders acting in an inappropriate way."

Trading Standards Rapid Response number 07903 852090.

**LATEST NEWS** – A Lincolnshire-based man has been found guilty of conspiracy to commit fraud following a Trading Standards investigation. The victim, a 73-year-old man from Orpington, was cold called in 2013 and agreed to property repairs. He was then tricked into gifting his house as payment for the repairs with the promise he could remain living there until he died. Trading

Standards were alerted by a worried neighbour who was told by the victim he was being forced to leave his home. The perpetrator was due to be sentenced in March 2016.

**Remember**, never agree to buy goods or services at the door.

**If you're not sure, don't open the door.**  
[www.bromley.gov.uk/scams](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/scams)



### Looking out for each other

Rogue traders are becoming ever more audacious in the way they pick on our older residents and attempt to rip them off with unnecessary and expensive home maintenance. Bromley Trading Standards are having real impact in tackling this widespread problem, but we believe that looking out for our more vulnerable residents is everyone's business. If you become aware of someone who may be being targeted by these despicable criminals please get in touch with Trading Standards.

**Cllr Kate Lymer**

*Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety*



### Meet the Board

The Safer Neighbourhood Board exists to make sure your views are fed back to the key Safer Bromley Partners. We have already held a number of events around the borough, including our popular annual Crime Summit, and are planning more.

I look forward to meeting you soon at one of the following events – look out for details of locations on the events section of the Council website:

- Thursday 19 May 7pm - Crays
- Thursday 21 July 7pm - West Wickham
- Saturday 17 September - morning Crime Summit, Civic Centre
- Thursday 17 November - Kelsey and Eden Park

**Cllr Tim Stevens**

*Chairman of the Safer Neighbourhood Board*



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Working together for a safer London

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[www.bromley.gov.uk/saferbromley](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/saferbromley)

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

[www.bromley.gov.uk](http://www.bromley.gov.uk)

“Our partners are working together with the community to address this problem”

## Fly-tippers – *we're watching you*

Illegal dumping of waste around the borough has been on the rise so our partners are working together with the community to address this problem. We want to send out a clear message that we're watching – through CCTV in hotspots and visible presence on the streets. We are also tapping into the 'eyes and ears' of the community and urging anyone who sees fly-tipping to report it with any information that may lead to a prosecution of the offender. You could even qualify for a reward of up

to £500 if your information leads to a prosecution.

Often unscrupulous builders are to blame, so householders should be aware of their responsibility to inspect the waste licence of anyone taking rubbish away for them as they will be liable to criminal prosecution if it is illegally dumped and traced back to them.

You can report envirocrime at  
[www.bromley.gov.uk/envirocrime](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/envirocrime)

## Dealing with abuse

Domestic violence wrecks lives and relationships. Bromley is running a Domestic Violence Intervention Project aimed at men who want to change their behaviour.

A 26-week group treatment programme based in Orpington is open to any man who identifies that he has a problem with abusive or violent behaviour in his relationships with women. Structured sessions help men to understand why they use abusive behaviour, how they can change this, and how they can work towards respectful relationships with women. The programme challenges men to take responsibility for their actions rather than blaming their partners or outside factors for their violence. Men are taught to critically assess their gender-based expectations of themselves and their partners. It is not an anger management or counselling group; it is designed specifically to address domestic abuse.

Referrals from individuals, GP or local agency, provided the resident is over 18, not in Court proceedings and acknowledges a willingness to address his domestic abuse issues. Contact DVIP on 020 7633 9181 or email: [vpp@dvip.org](mailto:vpp@dvip.org)

[www.bromley.gov.uk/domesticabuse](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/domesticabuse)

## Crime Support

Experiencing a crime can be upsetting and sometimes it is difficult to know who to turn to. Victim Support is an independent charity that offers free services to anyone who has experienced a crime, whether or not it has been reported and regardless of when it happened.

“We offer tailored support for specific crime areas including domestic abuse, rape, fraud and others, both from an emotional and practical point of view,” said Kate Frail who heads up Victim Support for Bromley. “The Safer Bromley Van, for instance, provides a

## Purple Prize

Beckenham has been given the prestigious Purple Flag award by the Association of Town and City Management in recognition of its night time economy which offers clean and safe environments, great bars and clubs, a variety of arts and cultural attractions and excellent transport links. Partnership initiatives included greater Police visible presence at key times and Bromley Council's Licensing Team ensuring premises abide by the law and help support people to get home safely with the Beckenham Town Team in a co-ordinating role.

The Purple Flag award was launched in 2009 and now 42 towns nationwide possess the status. The award is supported by the Home Office, Association of Chief Police Officers, Local Authorities' Regulatory Services, drinks company Diageo and other organisations.

[www.atcm.org](http://www.atcm.org)



free home security assessment and upgrades if required.”

Kate added: “The charity is built on our volunteers, without whom it could not continue to do its positive work for victims and some witnesses of crime. We always need new volunteers. So if you are interested, please contact us for an application form or to ask any questions.” Call 0208 776 7071.

## Man guilty of noise offences – three times

A man from Beckenham was fined a total of £225, ordered to pay £500 costs and a £20 victim surcharge for noise offences following three successful prosecutions served on him in five years.

Bromley Council first took action in 2011 when a Noise Abatement Notice was served on the man after amplified music was heard from his property. A further prosecution followed in December 2014 and the latest breach was last year.

Magistrates commented on the information provided by, and the credibility of, the Bromley Council Officers giving evidence in this case. Despite the defence having an experienced expert witness with regard to the recordings, they failed to convince the bench that the Officers' opinions were incorrect and invalid.

[www.bromley.gov.uk/report](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/report)

“I want to see Bromley become the safest borough in London”

Chris Hafford  
Bromley Police Borough Commander



# Fewer victims of crime in Bromley

**Bromley Police have achieved more than a 17 per cent fall in crimes compared to four years ago. This means there are just over 2,000 fewer victims of crime in Bromley this year than there were in 2011/12.**

“I am very happy with the borough’s recent record of tackling crime,” said Police Borough Commander Chris Hafford. “We have achieved results through some excellent preventative work by my officers in close partnership with Bromley Council, and other partners, many of whom are members of the community themselves. We have tried some different ways of tasking our officers to the key areas in the borough where they have been successful in preventing crime and arresting offenders.”

Four years ago, the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) challenged London boroughs to achieve a 20 per cent reduction on seven key crimes by 2016. Bromley is very close to that target

despite starting from a much lower crime base than many other London boroughs.

“Whilst we have seen challenges with some of the seven crime types, I am pleased to say that burglary has reduced by more than 25 per cent, robbery by more than 47 per cent and theft from motor vehicles by almost 31 per cent. In just these three areas there are around 1,800 fewer victims,” the Borough Commander added.

“Despite our successes, we will never be complacent but will continue to try new ways of being more effective in our fight to make Bromley the safest borough in London.”

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



## The ‘MOPAC 7’

The Police and Crime Plan contains a target for the MPS to reduce crime by 20 per cent by 2016 in seven priority categories that Londoners said most affected their lives. Find out more at MOPAC Crime Dashboard.

The crimes are:

Burglary, criminal damage, robbery, theft from a motor vehicle, theft from a person, theft of a motor vehicle and violence with injury.

## Making an Impact

Bromley firefighters are working with Bromley schools to run special Impact Factor Days. The events give year 9 and 10 students the chance to learn about emergency incidents, try on firefighting gear, and learn lifesaving skills, and to better understand the consequences of their actions and choices in life. The days involve representatives from all the emergency services, as well as other groups offering advice and guidance on issues affecting young people.

“These sessions give young people the chance to learn new skills and to focus on making positive choices as well as think about the possible outcomes if they choose to follow the wrong path in life,” said Dan Cartwright, Bromley’s Fire Borough Commander.



## All fired up

### New Fire station is fully functional

Orpington’s new fire station in Avalon Road is now fully operational, with the official opening this spring.

Fire Borough Commander Dan Cartwright said: “This brand new fire station is good news for the local community. The former Orpington Fire Station no longer met the demands of a modern fire and rescue service. The new station provides us with facilities fit for the 21st century and reinforces our commitment to providing the best possible service to Londoners.”

Not only does the station have great new office space, and areas for firefighters such as a lecture room,

quiet study rooms, changing and resting areas but also a larger appliance bay. There are also areas the public can visit to get important fire safety information and a community room available for bookings. The station meets the highest environmental standards, designed to make the best use of natural light, and draws energy for power and heating from renewable sources.

Bromley borough was one of nine areas across London chosen to receive a new fire station as existing buildings ceased to be fit for purpose any longer.

[www.london-fire.gov.uk](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk)

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# Changing lives through mentoring

**Vickie has a full time job running a printing consultancy, but still finds time to be a special person in the lives of young people as a Bromley mentor.**

"I spent a lot of time thinking about how I could personally help turn the tide towards a healthier, happier young generation," said Vickie. "Life has changed since I was young. We live in a global community where relationships are fragile, social media invades every aspect of life, and children are forced to abandon their innocence so quickly."

After seeing an advertisement for volunteers two years ago, Vickie met Bromley's mentoring co-ordinator Jane Belding who soon signed her up to the mentoring programme. Vickie has helped a young student make the transition to secondary school, coping with the trauma of bullying; a young carer where family illness had a massive impact on her life; and a teenager who made unfortunate choices in life and was excluded from school.

"Mentoring helps mentees define their identity, think about their future, take responsibility and approach the world in a more balanced and thoughtful way," Vickie explained. "And not only that, but mentoring makes me feel incredible too. I care deeply about each one of them. I feel so proud when I see them succeed."

"And who knows, when they're grown up, they may remember that 'special person that came into their life when they badly needed it' and that might prompt them to volunteer too."

Interested in mentoring?  
Contact Jane Belding 020 8461 6240  
or email [ebp.admin@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:ebp.admin@bromley.gov.uk)

## Getting involved

The Metropolitan Police in Bromley has a small but dedicated team of volunteers who provide support to the local police. They get involved behind the scenes at Bromley Police Station by assisting with administrative tasks, freeing up officers and staff to take on other duties. Volunteers help at the Dog Training Establishment in Keston and others provide front counter service in West Wickham.

"We are always looking for motivated people to volunteer with us," said Bromley Volunteer Programme Manager Adrian Smith. If you would like to know more, contact Adrian on 07557 318921 or email [adrian.t.smith@met.police.uk](mailto:adrian.t.smith@met.police.uk)

## saferbromley partnership

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

Contact us at:  
[community.safety@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:community.safety@bromley.gov.uk)  
Follow us on [Twitter@saferbromley](https://twitter.com/saferbromley)

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## Neighbourhood Watch news

Neighbourhood Watch in Bromley continues its success with some 600 watches across the borough. If you don't have a watch in your road – or don't know if you have one – go to the Bromley Neighbourhood Watch Association's website at [www.bnwa.co.uk](http://www.bnwa.co.uk) where you will find lots of information and an application form. Your dedicated ward police officers should also be able to help.

"Invitations are going out for our Annual General Meeting," said Alf Kennedy, Chairman Bromley Neighbourhood Watch. "All co-ordinators are welcome from 7 for 7.30pm on Wednesday 20 April at Orpington Methodist Church Hall, Sevenoaks Road, BR6 9JH. Key local speakers will take part and it will be a time to catch up on news about changes to Neighbourhood Watch. We are looking for volunteers for the Neighbourhood Watch management committee. If you have not already received an invitation, we may not have your correct email address, so please email us." [info@bromleynwa.org.uk](mailto:info@bromleynwa.org.uk)



## Keep your property safe

### Lock it or lose it

Make sure you lock up your property and don't forget sheds and garages too. They often contain valuable equipment, so don't make it easy for thieves.

### Windows:

- Close and lock windows, even if you are only going out for a few moments.
- Accessible areas should be toughened glass or double glazed.
- Fit appropriate window locks.
- Avoid leaving valuables and keys near windows or doors.

### Doors:

- Fit external doors with a five-lever mortice deadlock.
- Ensure the frame is strong enough.
- Letter boxes should have an internal cover plate and you could fit a spyhole.

### Garden:

- Secure your shed door with at least one heavy hasp and closed-shackle padlock.
- Secure bikes to a ground anchor stand and store tools in a locked box.

## Who to contact

### Bromley Police

Find contact numbers at [www.met.police.uk/bromley](http://www.met.police.uk/bromley)  
Non-emergency number: 101  
In an emergency call 999

### Bromley Council

Report, apply and pay at [www.bromley.gov.uk](http://www.bromley.gov.uk)  
Report street and park problems at [www.bromley.gov.uk/fix](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/fix)  
Trading Standards rapid response 07903 852090

### Tackling Domestic Abuse

Bromley Women's Aid 020 8313 9303  
[www.bromley.gov.uk/domesticabuse](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/domesticabuse)

### Bromley Fire Brigade

[www.london-fire.gov.uk](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk)

### Bromley Neighbourhood Watch

[www.bnwa.co.uk](http://www.bnwa.co.uk)

## Don't be scammed

### Remember:

- Banks never ask for your pin number over the phone
- If an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is!

Advice about scams at [www.bromley.gov.uk/scams](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/scams)