



IMPORTANT INFORMATION for 20th April 2011

CRIME NEWS

The number of burglaries in the BENSAM MANOR ward has reduced over the past two weeks by over 30% although there has been a general increase in the thefts of games consoles in burglaries throughout the Borough. However street robberies have increased in the area around Croydon General Hospital (Mayday) during the past two weeks. Mostly mobile phones snatched or taken by groups of mainly black males, victims were mostly teenagers. Additional patrols are taking place in the area especially on Thursdays and Saturdays when most offences have occurred.

SECURING YOUR WINDOWS

During the warm weather please be aware of the following advice on keeping your home secure:

Many burglars take advantage of an open window, so ensuring yours are closed whenever possible is essential. Easily visible window locks throughout the house will deter many thieves, or at least force them to break the glass and risk attracting attention. DIY stores sell inexpensive key-operated locks for all kinds of windows. If possible you should:

- Fit key-operated window locks to all downstairs windows, those that can't be seen from the street, plus easily accessible upstairs windows such as those by a drainpipe. Only do this if these windows are not escape routes in case of fire.
- Try to ensure that even small windows, such as skylights or bathroom fanlights, have locks. **Remember to remove keys from locked windows**, keep them out of sight in a safe place, but make sure you know where they are in an emergency. You could also consider the following measures:
- Louvre windows are especially vulnerable because the slats can be removed easily from the frame. Glue the slats in place with an epoxy resin and fit a special louvre lock, or replace them with fixed glass.
- If you are replacing glass in or around doors, consider laminated or wired glass for added strength.

SELHURST SNT CLOSE DOWN CANNABIS FACTORY

On 12/04/11 Selhurst SNT in conjunction with Territorial Support Group executed a warrant under section 23 of the misuse of drugs act 1971 to enter what was believed to be a Cannabis factory. Local residents and officers patrolling the area had noticed a strong smell of cannabis in the area and applied for a warrant to enter the premises. An estimated £1/4M worth of plants were seized and several arrests made. TSG officers present stated that it was the largest factory they had seen. The closing of this factory is hoped to have a substantial impact on the supply of cannabis not only locally but over a wider area and also in the number of drug related crimes.

Two men were arrested at the scene on suspicion of cultivating cannabis. They have been bailed until 26th May pending further inquiries.

Officers also targeted addresses in Hughes Walk, Drake Road and Ockley Road on 14 April and made several arrests. A man in his thirties was arrested and cautioned for possession of a Class B drug. A 54yr-old man was arrested for possession of Class A drug. He has since been charged and bailed to appear at Croydon Magistrates Court on 1st June. A 15yr-old boy was arrested on suspicion of theft by finding. He has been bailed until 21 April pending further inquiries and a 17yr-old boy was arrested for possession of a Class B drug. He was later issued with a final warning.

Inspector Chris Green, who is leading the police teams for Operation Refresh said;
"It's been six months since Operation Refresh began and the intense work being done in the London Road area continues to bear fruit.

"Overall crime in the area is down by 7% since we started last year and the reductions in robbery and violent crime are particularly pleasing, but we still know there is much work to do, with burglary an obvious challenge for us.

"However, I'm confident we're moving in the right direction and that Operation Refresh will continue to make a real difference to the lives of the people in the area."

Operation Refresh is a community focused operation and residents or businesses from the five wards involved are encouraged to contact their local Safer Neighbourhoods team or call police on 0300 123 1212 if they have concerns or information about crime or antisocial behaviour or visit the Safer Neighbourhoods website at:

www.met.police.uk/teams/croydon/index.php

HEATHFIELD SNT ARRESTS

Following a public order incident outside the Quest Academy on Tuesday 5th April, where 2 rival gangs of youths were sighted by members of the public threatening each other with knives. Officers from Heathfield SNT assisted by the Schools officer from the Quest Academy attended the home address of one of the youths identified, a 15 year old male, and arrested him for Affray and possession of a bladed article on Thursday morning 7th April, he was taken to South Norwood Police Station.

The suspect is currently on bail for both offences and has since been excluded from the School. The suspect is linked to Gangs from Croydon.

Enquiries are still continuing to identify the other suspects involved in the incident. The team then continued to provide reassurance patrols and intervened around the vicinity of the school to prevent any repercussions from the initial disorder. They have worked closely with the school to prevent any disorder affecting the students or residents nearby. The end of term break up went off quietly and there were no further reported incidents.

EMAIL MESSAGES

Another phishing email claiming to be from Visa warning that you should validate your card due to new security measures being introduced, the link provided leads to a bogus website in Ottawa, Canada.

After a quiet period the Spanish Lottery scams have returned with an email from the 'Lotto National' claiming that you have won \$850 thousand and asking for your personal details so that a bank draft can be sent to your home address. This is yet another attempt at obtaining your personal details for identity theft.

KENLEY SNT ASSIST ELDERLY MAN TARGETED BY BOGUS BUILDERS

Kenley Safer Neighbourhood Team came to the rescue of a vulnerable resident on their ward on Wednesday (12 April) after he was targeted by bogus builders.

The 84-year-old victim was at home on Monday afternoon when he answered the door to two men claiming his roof urgently needed repairing. The victim was initially told that the cost of repairs would be in the region of £2250. When the victim refused to pay, the 'builders' dropped their price, finally agreeing to carry out the work for £800.

The victim was then driven to the bank to withdraw the cash. When the bank was found to be closed the suspects arranged to return the following day to complete the work and collect the cash.

The victim later confided in his neighbour who in turn, alerted police. Kenley SNT along with Trading Standards officers went to the victim's address the following morning where they found the suspects already at the scene and ready to start 'work'.

Two men aged in their twenties were arrested at the scene on suspicion of fraud by false representation. They have been bailed until early June pending further enquiries by Croydon Police and Trading Standards.

Police Sergeant Tim Bull of Kenley SNT said: "Bogus callers are notoriously difficult to catch due to the people they tend to target. This is a great result in our battle against rogue traders and the victim did exactly the right thing in calling the police."

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH OFFICE Telephone: 020 8649 0168

The Office will be manned **Tuesday and Thursday mornings** next week. The answer phone will be available for messages outside these times. Please do not report any crimes on this number, as the office is not continuously manned. In an emergency always call 999. **For non-urgent crime reports please call 0300 123 1212.**

Sarah Gardner will be away from the office from 22nd April to 3rd May inclusive.