



Chelsfield and Pratts Bottom Dedicated Ward Policing Newsletter – Spring 2019



Welcome to the Spring edition of the ward newsletter. We use this as a way to deliver information about what is happening on the ward, provide crime prevention advice and let you know what is being done to tackle issues in the area. You can find your local team's details including a ward map and other useful information by entering your postcode on the front page of our new website: www.met.police.uk

Burglary

Burglary can have a long-lasting emotional impact on victims, leaving them feeling isolated and vulnerable. However, by taking a few simple measures, you can reduce the chances of it happening to you. When you go out it's important to leave your home as secure as possible. Getting into an exit routine can help ensure that you don't forget obvious, but important things like not leaving valuables near windows.

Always remember to: Close and lock all doors and windows, even if you are only going out for a few minutes. Set your burglar alarm. Make sure the side/back gate is locked. Lock your shed or garage, putting away garden tools. Make sure valuables are out of sight. Keep keys out of reach of the letterbox. In the evenings shut curtains, and put on lights. If you are going to be away for days or weeks at a time, you will need to take additional action, such as cancelling deliveries. Use a timer device to automatically turn on lights and a radio to create the impression that the house is occupied.

Alarms are undoubtedly the most effective deterrent against burglary, but making your home as difficult as possible to get into also helps, and that starts with your boundaries. Keep front boundaries low, so burglars can be seen from the street. Keep rear and side boundaries high, using trellis and prickly climbing plants to make climbing over difficult. Store wheelie bins, or other potential climbing aids behind locked gates, so burglars can't climb up on them. Doors and windows are the primary route of entry for most burglars, so even on warm nights ensure that any accessible windows- especially on the ground floor are shut and locked overnight. If your doors have multi-locking handles always lock the door with the key and remove it: LIFT - LOCK - REMOVE.

Visit www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/ for more advice.





Rogue Traders

As we are approaching Spring and nicer weather is (hopefully) around the corner, we are likely to see an increase in rogue traders knocking on people's doors offering services such as gutter cleaning, roof repairs and various garden services. Always ask yourself: would you have had these repairs if a trader had not called? If the answer is no, you need to think very carefully about your decision. Fraudsters convince you to pay for goods or work which is overpriced, poor quality or is not even carried out. In many cases this work is not necessary. They may use intimidation and pressure you to make quick decisions, so you agree to their demands. Criminals may try to convince you that work is urgently required and the price they are charging is fair. They will put pressure on you to have the work done immediately and may ask for payment up front. Often the work is not completed or if it is, the work is to a poor standard. You may also be overcharged for any work done.

They may use deception to convince you:

Claiming they were working on a neighbour's house and noticed you need work completing and they have left over materials.

They may inspect areas you can't access e.g. loft or roof and show you photos or videos claiming they are evidence that you need urgent repairs. Beware of these tactics, the images may not be of your property. They may throw water down when you are not looking to indicate you have a "damp" problem.

They may be insistent you pay in cash immediately or put down a deposit, even offering to take you to the bank to get the money. If you do this, they may continue to find reasons for you to pay more money.

Never accept any offer to be taken to a bank to withdraw money. If someone forces you to withdraw money, make the bank staff aware.

Bank staff are trained to look out for signs of people who may be withdrawing money under duress and will deal with this in branch.

Always be suspicious of "too good to be true" offers and deals. Never agree to offers or deals immediately, insist on time to get independent advice- no matter how much they push you to commit. You should never feel pressured into accepting an offer of work or service. Do not hand over money or sign anything until you have checked the credentials of the company or individual.

If you have elderly or otherwise vulnerable neighbours look out for suspicious behaviour around their property. Your vigilance could protect them. The local Trading Standards team work hard to prevent vulnerable people losing their money, but need your help. If you know someone who may be a victim of a rogue trader call the team on 07903852090.

For more information visit www.bromley.gov.uk/scams





Ward Promises

Our work around the ward promises over the last quarter has continued with talks delivered to youth groups and schools across the ward (Youth Engagement); visits carried out to safeguard some of the most vulnerable members of our community (Vulnerable/Elderly Residents); and engagement activity carried out to encourage the registration of NHW schemes on the ward (Neighbourhood Watch).

For the next quarter we intend to continue our drive to safeguard our vulnerable residents, but need your help to do so. If you are concerned about a resident please let us know so that we can visit and provide advice to help protect them from crime and exploitation. We will also continue to prioritise engagement with the young people on our ward to warn them of the dangers of drugs and gang activity; encourage social responsibility; and listen to their concerns. Our other local focus will be on carrying out targeted patrols in response to reported burglary offences, offering home security surveys, and providing advice to properties deemed potentially vulnerable to burglars.

Stop Press

Three males from the Orpington area have been arrested, charged and remanded in custody awaiting trial for robbery offences committed at McColls, Windsor Drive on 05/09/18, 05/10/18, and Chimes Service Station on 08/10/18 as well as five other linked offences.

Upcoming Events

We will be conducting street briefings at the following locations:

Northlands Avenue, junction with Haywood Rise at 18:00 on 07/02/19.

Steep Close at 17:30 on 22/02/19.

Warren Road, junction with Woodside at 13:00 on 02/03/19.

The Meadway, junction with The Woodlands at 19:00 on 08/03/19.

The Highway, junction with Repton Road at 19:00 on 14/03/19.

Foxbury Drive, junction with Foxbury close at 19:00 on 28/03/19.

Glentrammon Road, junction with Linslade Road at 17:30 on 10/04/19.

Porthallow Close at 13:00 on 20/04/19.

Roseberry Gardens, junction with Cromford Close at 19:00 on 26/04/19.

Martindale Avenue, junction with Atkinson Close at 19:00 on 02/05/19.

We will also be at the following events:

Green Street Green Association Road contacts Meeting on 18/04/19.

Green Street Green Association AGM on 10/05/19.

Brittenden Close coffee mornings on 13/02/19, 20/03/19 and 03/04/19.

The next ward panel meeting will be on 17/04/19.





Useful Contacts

Action Fraud, UK fraud and internet crime reporting centre

- 03001232040 or www.actionfraud.police.uk

Bromley Borough Council

To report a wide range of issues visit www.bromley.gov.uk/report

- Noise issues (outside office hours) 03003038671

- Trading Standards, report rogue traders on 07903 852090

Child Exploitation and Online Protection (National Crime Agency)

- www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Childline

- 08001111 or online www.childline.org.uk

Confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline

- If you suspect it, report it. 0800789321

Crime Stoppers

- 0800555111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Immobilise Property Register

- www.immobilise.com

London Fire Brigade:

- Fire advice and safety visits www.london-fire.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

- For information on NHW in Bromley visit www.bnwa.co.uk

Official Police Security Website

- www.securedbydesign.com

RSPCA

- Animal welfare concerns 03001234999 or online www.rspca.org.uk

Thank you for reading this newsletter. If you wish to talk to us for any reason, please contact us using the details below.

For regular updates about our activity on the ward follow us on Twitter.

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In an emergency call 999

For non-urgent enquires visit www.met.police.uk or call 101

