NEWSLETTER OF
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CROYDON
Croydon Eye
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Update on Neighbourhood Policing in Croydon

INSPECTOR **STEPHEN WARNES** - **SNT CENTRAL & NORTH**
INSPECTOR **CATHY THOMAS** - **SNT SOUTH**
NEIGHBOURHOODS POLICING CROYDON

South Norwood, Woodside and Addiscombe West
Officers have been working closely with the Modern Slavery Proactive Taskforce and conducted a joint visit to a brothel in Lesley Park Road where one female was arrested for immigration offences. Following intelligence of drug use at a property in Albert Road, Woodside, a Warrant was authorised and executed. Two officers from the team identified two males they wanted to speak to on Portland Road, both suspects were successfully detained and arrested for possession of offensive weapons as two knives were found discarded nearby.

Town Centre Teams
At the start of the month they ran an operation targeting shoplifting resulting in 6 arrests, 3 community resolutions and £800+ of items recovered.

The team assisted in an operation at East & West Croydon stations targeting those suspected of being involved in County Lines. In East Croydon offices detained a male found to be in possession of a large hunting knife which was concealed down the front of his joggers, he has two other impending cases for carrying knives and was on tag.

In West Croydon 2 males were detained on Parsons Mead one was wanted for arson and the other had a knife discarded near him, both were arrested.

The team have made over 40 arrests this month for robbery, GBH, weapons offences, attempted child abduction, assaults against Police, shoplifting offences, seven drug offences, and a good number of miscellaneous offences including immigration and recalls to prison. The team have also recovered seven knives and two offensive weapons.

Norbury and Pollards Hill
The Team have been working very hard to put a prolific shoplifter (targeting shops on London Road) behind bars. Thanks to the team's tenacity and dedication they managed to get enough evidence to arrest the male who last week was subsequently sentenced to 12 months in prison.

Thornton Heath, Bensham Manor and West Thornton
A search warrant was executed at an address on Southwell Road, West Thornton where a cannabis factory was found with 150+ fully grown plants with a substantial street value. The drug remains linked to modern slavery, gangs and organised crime groups and armed gangs attempt to rob factories for their crop. The team executed another search warrant in Leander Road, West Thornton and recovered a substantial quantity of suspected cocaine and £10K cash, three arrests were made for possession with intent to supply and they remain under investigation.

Multiple Warrants executed - Drug Arrests
SNT Officers have conducted numerous warrants throughout South Croydon & New Addington finding large quantities of cannabis, cash, a machete and 2 knuckle dusters resulting in 3 arrests. With the assistance of our Territorial Support Group (TSG) and Violent Crime Task Force (VCTF) colleagues, multiple warrants were executed in the Shirley area resulting in the arrest of one male for Possession with Intent to Supply class A and Possession of class B, & one male issued with an out of court disposal.

Weapons seized/found - Shirley, Purley and South Croydon
Officers continue to conduct weapon sweeps across Croydon to reduce violence related offences. North Shirley SNT conduct regular weapon sweeps & found a large Rambo style knife in a disused garage. Officers from Purley & Woodcote SNT dealt with a couple of youths causing ASB with the assistance of their other ward colleagues. As a result of a drug search a large machete was found and the youths were arrested.

Crime Prevention Day & AGM 2021

Following our last very successful event in 2019, plans are underway for this years Crime Prevention Day in collaboration with Croydon Met Police.

All Neighbourhood Watch coordinators and residents in their watches are welcome so please **SAVE THE DATE!**

More details will follow over the coming months and will be sent to all coordinators so please keep a look out for emails.

If you are not a coordinator but live in a NHW area and would like more information or to attend, please contact Becky at the NHW office directly on nhw@cbnwa.com

Saturday 6th November 2021

Royal Russell School
Coombe Lane
Croydon CR9 5BX

Invitations will follow, watch this space for further information

METROPOLITAN POLICE TOTAL POLICING

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS
LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Continued on page 2....

Cyber Crime and Fraud in Croydon

In March 2021* there were 374 offences reported to Action Fraud by Croydon residents. The losses amounted to a total of £1,821,082 that's an average of £4,869 per victim.

Top 5 types of fraud by volume (no. of reports) were:

Fraud Type	Amount of Offences	Amount Lost
Misc. (False Representation)	86	£4,028
Online Shopping and Auctions	65	£58,793
Push Payment	36	£206,083
Other Advance Fee Frauds	30	£10,140
Cheque, Plastic Card and Online Bank Accounts (not PSP)	23	£139,528

Top 5 types of fraud by amount reported lost were:

Fraud Type	Amount of Offences	Amount Lost
Share sales or Boiler Room Fraud	9	£479,746
Other Financial Investment	18	£441,072
Push Payment	36	£206,083
Cheque, Plastic Card and Online Bank Accounts (not PSP)	23	£139,528
Other Consumer Non Investment Fraud	19	£122,001

Always report, Scams fraud and cyber crime to Action Fraud, either online at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by telephone on 0300 123 2040

**Data from Met Cyber Crime Unit / latest data available*

STOP
Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

CHALLENGE
Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

PROTECT
Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud.

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ANPR Operation - targeting Drugs in South Croydon
Excellent work carried out by PC Swift who led teams resulting in 6 arrests of which 2 were for Possession with Intent to Supply controlled drugs. Officers working with the assistance of Roads Traffic Police, Charlton ANPR team and bailiffs, implemented an ANPR operation across 2 sites in the New Addington area resulting in 94 vehicles being stopped, 6 arrests and 5 vehicles seized.

Catalytic Converter Thefts
The Operation Basswood Team have continued their manhunt and have arrested another nine subjects for conspiracy to commit theft from motor vehicles. Five of those have subsequently been charged and remanded.

Since the operation we have seen around **69% reduction** in catalytic converter thefts in Croydon, Sutton & Bromley.

WELCOME Inspector Cathy Thomas

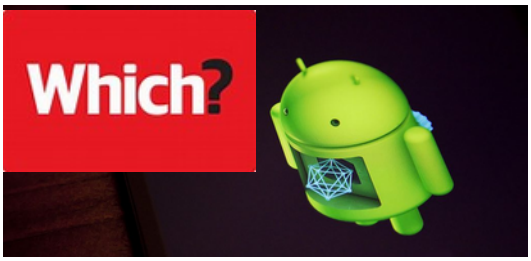
Cathy has been based at Croydon for approx. 5 years previously managing Partnership and Prevention across Bromley, Sutton and Croydon which incorporates within its remit, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Licensing, Faith and Hate Crime. During these challenging times ward officers have continued to conduct plain clothes and high visibility patrols, executed warrants, implemented Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) operations and continued to work in partnership with the council to reduce Burglary, Motor Vehicle crime, Drug related offences and ASB.

Over the next few weeks all Dedicated Ward Officers (DWO's) will also be focusing their efforts on ensuring communities are safe as restrictions are lifted across the UK. This also includes specific operations targeting our open spaces to decrease violence related offences including Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and ASB related issues. The good news is that as restrictions lift officers can begin to restart community engagement and will advertise through Social Media.

Car Cruises/Motorbike ASB - Waddon, Purley and Woodcote SNT
SNT & Road Policing teams using Police Solo riders have been dealing with a range of ASB issues across the wards, particularly the problem of car cruises and off road motorbike riders causing annoyance in **Valley Park, Purley and South Croydon**. Large scale ops led by PS Dickinson and APS Lambert-Singer have been conducted over the last 6 weeks resulting in 30 Section 59 notices issued for ASB, 18 vehicles seized incl 2 dirt bikes, and 1 quad bike. 20 Fixed Penalty Notices issued, 4 arrested for driving under the influence of drugs.

Social media shows car meet organisers now refer to Croydon as **" hot with police"!**

How the 'FluBot' spyware is getting onto Android devices



Have you heard of 'FluBot'?

The spyware is spreading among Android devices and could steal your passwords.

An app known as 'FluBot' is being sent to mobile devices in a text message fraudulently posing as being from courier DHL – it says you have a parcel out for delivery and includes a link that invites you to track the delivery by downloading a fake tracking app. But the app is actually malware/spyware that could steal your passwords.

Spyware is malicious software that can access data on your phone. Sometimes it might trick you into entering sensitive information such as passwords by prompting you with fake login pages. These details can be used to access accounts and target you and your contacts with further scams. The way spyware is distributed is constantly evolving to use different links, and masking the messages' origins with different mobile numbers.

How to protect yourself from FluBot:

- Don't click on any links you receive in text messages
- Keep on top of the latest software updates.

How to get rid of FluBot:

We've heard from lots of affected people that it's impossible to simply uninstall this spyware. A full system reset should work, but you might want to back up your data first so you don't lose it.

However, don't restore the phone from the backup – do a completely fresh install with a factor reset, then download your apps and files again. It's a nuisance, but it's safer. You can also contact your phone manufacturer's customer support for help.

e-scooters!

by MELANIE FELTEN -
CBNWA CO-ORDINATOR, OVAL ROAD

NHW coordinators have been working to raise awareness about the danger posed by illegal scooters on our paths and roads.

I discussed the subject recently at my quarterly SNT meeting - Addiscombe West, as e-scooters ridden illegally on pedestrian highway are posing significant danger to the most vulnerable pedestrians like children and the elderly.

I've engaged with over 350 members of the public via social media, using a voting system to gather public perception and experiences on the matter.

Over 92 % of the public I've engaged with feel unsafe using pedestrian highways due to e-scooters. A letter and the report has been sent to Sarah Jones MP with the request that it should be discussed with the relevant Government Ministers.

The law on e-scooters is you cannot ride on public roads, cycle lanes or pavements, only on private land. They are treated as motor vehicles by the Department of Transport and subject to the same legal requirements like MOT, licencing, tax and insurance.

UPDATE from the Police: Insp. Cathy Thomas has confirmed that 'OP RIDER' is in place currently in the Town Centre but will be rolled out across the Borough. Anyone seen with an e-scooter will be stopped and asked for insurance, they will receive a warning the 1st time but 2nd time the scooter will be seized. Watch our newsletters for updates here on.

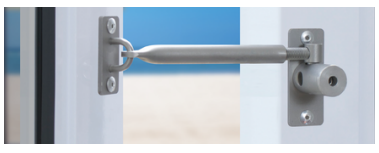
LOCKLATCH™

We are pleased to announce a new partnership between **National Neighbourhood Watch Network** and **LockLatch**: the worldwide distributor of LockLatch, PetLatch and MiniLatch.

The three products are adjustable lockable latches that fit any door or window, whatever the window or door is made from and whichever way it opens. The locks enable you to keep your property secure with leaving windows and doors ajar.

They are pleased to offer all Neighbourhood Watch supporters a **15% discount** off the retail price of their products with a matching contribution going towards Neighbourhood Watch Network expenses.

www.locklatch.co.uk
quote coupon code **NWNLock** on check out.



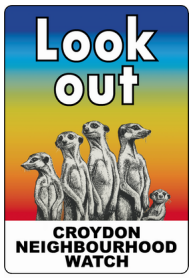
CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk

Trading Standards Croydon
Bogus Community Nurses

Beware!
There have been problems locally, ensure you ask for ID and be aware.

If in doubt **DO NOT** allow them in.

Watch out for regular 'Community Alert' updates



DOG FOULING!

A few coordinators have expressed concerns with excessive dog fouling in their areas.

The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 carries a **max fine of £1,000** if the owner, or person in charge of a dog fails to clean up their animal's faeces from pedestrianised areas, public footways, parks and open spaces, housing, land & grass verges.

You can report offences on the Croydon council website (my.croydon.gov.uk) under the 'My account' section.

Mrs Audrey Terrey

One of our long serving NHW coordinators from Norbury Park Ward, Mrs Audrey Terrey, sadly passed away in hospital in May.

Audrey did so much for her neighbours and community during her life time and will be greatly missed.

4 Ways you can help us...

- Deliver **recruitment leaflets** in a road near you to increase our co-ordinator numbers.
- Persuade your local councillors to support our **"Scams" campaign**, details of which have been sent to all Croydon councillors already.
- Arrange for us to have a **stall** at a function to recruit and run a raffle to raise funds. As we are no longer eligible to apply for funding from the Council's Community Fund Budget we must raise monies in other ways to keep the charity afloat.
- Coordinators: Help us **save on printing** costs, obtain email addresses or mobile numbers from your neighbours and look to use email or maybe WhatsApp broadcast for sharing CBNWA newsletters and updates.

Contact Becky at nhw@cbnwa.com if you can help with any of the above, or need help, we'd love to hear from you.

Your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator's details:

Subscribe to our mailing list at www.cbnwa.com