

Bexley Borough Police message

Christmas 2012



Welcome to the Christmas Safer Neighbourhoods Newsletter.

Christmas is a time to relax with friends and loved ones. Unfortunately it's also a time when crime 'spikes', when criminals try to turn your seasonal holiday to their advantage. To combat the criminals and to reduce crime we have a number of initiatives in operation and planned. You will read about some of them in this newsletter.

May I wish all our partners, residents and business owners a happy and crime free holiday and New Year.

Chief Inspector Ian Broadbridge

Comprehensive website for victims

'You have options' is the message from the MPS after launching a comprehensive website outlining the choices available to victims of rape and serious sexual assault.

Mydecision.co.uk is a step-by-step guide for victims or anyone who knows someone who has been raped or sexually assaulted. It takes the user through all their options; whom to contact, the type of care they will receive, how evidence will be collected, making a report, the investigation, and their ability to control the process.

As well as explaining every step in detail, the site also offers choices, advice and links to other support organisations, with which the MPS works in partnership.

Consultation with a number of charities and organisations for victims highlighted the barriers people may have to reporting, such as victims feeling they will not be believed, being confused about where to go for help, and feeling that they would lose control of the process once in the hands of police.

The MPS recognises rape and serious sexual assault remain significantly under-reported. It is estimated that of the people who have experienced rape, only one in five will go to the police and around 40% of victims will choose not to report it. We are committed to changing this and it is hoped the website will help achieve this by educating people about their choices and ultimately encouraging reporting.

In the numbers

Bexley has seen a massive 15.5% reduction in all forms of recorded anti social behaviour, compared to the same time last year, that is 875 fewer incidents!



In the last three months Bexley Safer Neighbourhoods officers have arrested 117 offenders for various offences, notably burglary, possession of drugs with intent to supply and robbery.

In the same period police in Bexley stopped over 1,500 people believed to be involved in crime and/or anti social behaviour.

Safer Neighbourhoods work closely with partner agencies and other Met units to target criminals and reduce crime.

Virtual Ward Panels

Public opinion and knowledge is important to us in helping set local policing priorities. Virtual Ward Panels are being set up to send electronic surveys to residents who want to have their say and influence the way their streets are policed.

From the findings, data will be fed back into quarterly Ward Panel meetings to provide a wider picture of what issues exist on the ward.

For more information about being part of the process please contact your local SNT or email VWP.Bexley@met.police.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

In November, as part of their 'in the community' initiative, Bexley Neighbourhood Watch members will be in Erith, Bexleyheath and Welling handing out safety awareness leaflets and asking the public to be vigilant in the run up to Christmas.

At B&Q, Belvedere from 12-2pm on Wednesday 5th December and Morrisons, Sidcup 12-2pm on Friday 14th Neighbourhood Watch members will be working with officers to drive home the 'safer Christmas' message.

For information about Neighbourhood Watch call 020 8284 5537 or email them at bexwatch-office@btconnect.com

Keep your bike secure this festive season

The Metropolitan Police, Safer Transport Command and Transport for London (TfL) are reminding cyclists to secure their bikes and follow the three R's.

Record – Keep a record for yourself of the frame number, make and any other marks that can identify your bike to police if it is stolen.

Register – The MPS preferred national register for your bike details is The Bike Register - www.bikeregister.com.

Report – If a bike is stolen the theft should be reported to police. Reporting it will enable police to check databases and contact the owner once the bike is recovered.

In the last week, 18 people were arrested on suspicion of theft, 677 bikes were marked and registered at BikeRegister.com. Project Cycle Ops is a partnership between TfL, police and cycling groups to tackle cycle theft from public places across the Capital. Due to increased activities in the last week 11 bikes have been returned to their rightful owners.

For crime prevention advice contact your local Safer Neighbourhoods Team by visiting www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods or call the police non emergency number 101.

Operation Hawk Update

Safer Neighbourhoods are taking the lead for Operation Hawk; targeting drug dealers and drug users by responding to local intelligence from Bexley's residents.

Since September officers have executed 57 search warrants. Closed 10 cannabis factories, arrested 60 people, seized 320 bags of cannabis and nearly 400 cannabis plants, 75 bags of Ketamine and over £27,000 in cash destined to be used by criminals.



Every piece of information provided by the public is looked at and acted upon. Information helps us build a picture of what is happening so we can effectively target resources.

Combating Burglary

Darker nights mean more time for burglars to target homes but there are ways to send a message to 'stay away'. An unlit home shouts 'no one in' to a burglar. Lights on timers in rooms, not hallways, will give the illusion that someone is home and a burglar will think twice.

A burglar wants to be in and out in the shortest time and goes for easy pickings. Not leaving valuables lying around keeps them safer, locking them away safer still.

Burglars are interested in homes where they can see presents under the tree. 'Keep presents out of sight until Christmas Eve' is our message, drawing the curtains gives the impression someone is home.

If you do not have an alarm please think about having one fitted. Wireless alarms are low cost and when activated a burglar will probably decide it's not worth it and run.

As always the most important message is always going to be 'use the key to secure the locking mechanism' on uPVC doors and windows, even if you are going out just for a short while.