

# Update on Neighbourhood Policing in Croydon

**INSPECTOR STEPHEN WARNES**  
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 SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS TEAM (SNT) CROYDON

## South Norwood, Selhurst, Woodside and Addiscombe West

This month officers were involved in a big police operation in Thornton Heath. Thanks to the professionalism and commitment of the officers involved, a sizeable amount of heroin estimated at £35K and a large amount of cocaine prepared for sale were recovered. Some of the substances tested were 92% pure. Added to this, officers found large amounts of cash, estimated at over 10K and over 300 exhibits of high value clothing/electronic goods. Two people were arrested and a further two investigated. There is a lot more work that needs to be done to ensure that the appropriate charges are applied to those involved but officers are committed to having a continuous impact on tackling drug supply on our streets.

## Town Centre Teams (TCT)

The new TCT carried out focused patrols in West Croydon conducting regular weapons and drugs sweeps as well as joint operations with specialist officers. The team participated in a walk and talk event and had honest conversations about Violence Against Women and Girls issues.

On Saturday 18th December, Road Traffic Policing Command conducted an operation with the TCT using the specialised number plate recognition cameras. They had 10 arrests in 1 day! This included a crack cocaine and heroin drug dealer who had hidden the drugs in the centre console of the car, the team weren't happy and called for a drugs dog who sniffed them out!

Our brand new officers in their first weeks of the job have also been assisting the operation with multiple weapon sweeps and community engagement. They were also the first on scene to a fight and made arrests and prevented the incident from escalating. Really great focus and experience gained for our newest teams.

## Shirley, Purley and South Croydon

Officers continue to conduct weapon sweeps across Croydon to reduce violence related offences.



## Norbury and Pollards Hill

The team conducted regular patrols in the hotspot Norwood Grove area in a bid to reduce offending and anti-social behaviour.

## Thornton Heath, Bensham Manor and West Thornton

In late January officers executed ten search warrants on addresses in Thornton Heath under Operation Guesthouse, an investigation into the mainstream supply of class A controlled drugs in the area.

Two arrests have been made, a 38 year old male & a 36 year old female, for several counts concerned in the supply of class A, possession with intent to supply class A (Crack Cocaine & Heroin) and money laundering.

A considerable quantity of drugs were recovered (suspected rocks of crack cocaine and a block of heroin), a substantial quantity of cash (over £10K), and high value goods have also been recovered from the properties as suspected proceeds of crime.

This operation was planned by PS Andrew Smith and his Thornton Heath Safer Neighbourhood Team over the last few months with support from specialist teams from across the organisation, and the invaluable support of partner agencies and forces including Sussex Police and Croydon Council.



NEWSLETTER OF  
 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CROYDON

# Croydon Eye



## Burglary Advice

Below are some useful tips to secure your home:

- Please ensure that gates or access to the rear of your house are locked and secure.
- Don't forget to lock your shed; your tools can be used to break in.
- Trim overgrown plants – don't give burglars a hiding place.
- Fit security lighting, either dusk to dawn energy efficient lighting that will come on automatically as dusk sets in, or a passive infra-red (PIR) light that will draw attention to movement.
- Use an automatic time switch on an indoor light, either in a room that cannot be peered into from the road, or upstairs. Regularly change the timing on the switch.
- Put a time switch on a radio that has been tuned to a chat station, this will give the impression that the house is occupied. Again regularly change the timing on the switch.
- Property mark your valuables. Some articles are unsuitable for marking so photograph them with a ruler in view to show scale.
- Secure windows, paying particular attention to those on the ground floor and above flat roof areas. Always use locks and bolts and keep all your keys, including car keys, out of sight and out of reach.
- Intruder alarms are an effective deterrent against burglars. Before choosing a system ensure it is the one most suitable for your needs.



Continued on page 2...



# Cyber Crime and Fraud in Croydon

Over a 12 month period in the Croydon Borough\* there were 3305 offences reported to Action Fraud by Croydon residents. The losses amounted to a total of £19,358,965 that's an average of £5,857 per victim.

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

Fraud Type	Amount of offences	Amount lost
Online Shopping and Auctions	651	£309,270
Other Advance Fee Frauds	297	£410,109
Other Consumer Non-Investment Fraud	222	£1,086,286
Cheque, Plastic Card and Online Bank Accounts (not PSP)	157	£741,164
Other Financial Investment	121	£6,624,998

Top 5 types of fraud by amount lost (value):

Fraud Type	Amount of offences	Amount lost
Other Financial Investment	121	£6,624,998
Share sales or Boiler Room Fraud	60	£2,127,347
Other Consumer Non-Investment Fraud	222	£1,086,286
Cheque, Plastic Card and Online Bank Accounts (not PSP)	157	£741,164
Fraud by Abuse of Position of Trust	20	£675,844

Always report scams, fraud and cyber crime to Action Fraud, either online at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by telephone on 0300 123 2040

\*Data from Met Cyber Crime Unit / latest data available as of December 2021

## 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.

## People of Croydon march against knife crime

After a record number of knife crimes in the Borough last year, campaign group My Ends coordinator Anthony King called out to the people of Croydon to attend a march to express their concern over the high number of knife crimes, and the lack of resources being provided to stem this explosion of attacks in the Borough. He also called for people to step forward and become mentors for young people and their families.

Over 100 people representing families and organisations (including the Police and Neighbourhood Watch) in Croydon attended the march to show their solidarity behind the call for more to be done by Government, and local Government, and to provide the resources needed to stem the tide of knife crime.



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## Croydon Council Trading Standards

Have you heard of 'register my appliance week'?

To mark Register My Appliance Week Croydon Council trading standards are urging residents to register their appliances in case of urgent recall or safety repair.

While the recent increase in online purchasing (reportedly soaring as high as 70%) and the advent of smart appliances will all help to improve traceability, government estimates are that we are now running more than 212 million essential appliances to cook, wash clothes and dishes, clean floors and store our food. Official research has also found that 49% of us have never registered a product, potentially leaving some 100 million large and mid-sized older machines untraceable.

We are encouraging people to make their homes safer by registering their appliances. As we all aim to keep our appliances running efficiently for many years, maintenance and registration of machines becomes increasingly important.

Registration can be completed easily and it doesn't matter if your item is new or old - many brands allow you to register these too.

To register you please visit [registermyappliance.org.uk](http://registermyappliance.org.uk). You will need to know;

- the brand of the appliance
- the model
- a serial number
- the approximate date of purchase.

So dig out that paperwork and get registering!



## Renew your driving licence

by SELHURST WARD - SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD  
POLICING TEAM

Please check your driving licence. There are about two million people who are driving around with an expired driving licence, and are therefore driving without a valid licence. This could result in you getting a fine of up to £1000.00, and three to six penalty points on your licence, if found guilty, along with your vehicle being seized at the roadside.

Renewing your driving licence is your responsibility, and you should receive a reminder letter from the DVLA. Unfortunately the photo driving licence expires every 10 years.

To renew your licence visit:

[www.gov.uk/renew-driving-licence](http://www.gov.uk/renew-driving-licence) where you will find all the information needed before starting your application, or you can visit your local post office with a copy of your DVLA letter, providing the post office deals with renewals.

How do I know if my photo licence has expired? To check the status of your photo driving licence, look at the front of the card and under the title 4b, it will show you the expiry date.



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## 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](http://www.locklatch.co.uk)

quote coupon code **NWNLock** on check out.



# Volunteering opportunity with the Metropolitan Police

South Area Police are looking for members of the public to form a panel on each of the three boroughs – Sutton, Bromley and Croydon. The panels are being created to give communities the opportunity to feedback on policing encounters from their own neighbourhoods by watching Body Worn video (BWV) footage and offering their views on what went well or what the Met can improve.

If you are over 18 and live, work, are in education or have other strong links to the boroughs and would like to get involved or simply hear more, please email the dedicated mailbox at:  
**PolicingEncounters.SouthArea@met.police.uk**

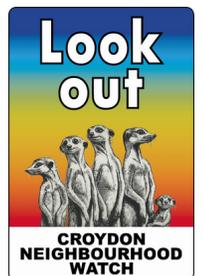
**CROYDON**  
www.croydon.gov.uk

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](http://my.croydon.gov.uk)) under the 'My account' section.

## New logo for National Neighbourhood Watch

A special edition Neighbourhood Watch 40th anniversary logo has been created to celebrate the success of the organisation.



## Croydon NHW Needs YOU!

- We are on the look out for new committee members including; a treasurer, fundraising officer, web page officer, and many more....
- Share our new scams leaflet with as many people as you can. We have distributed 10,000 hard copies throughout the borough and have sent it electronically to all of our mail subscribers.
- Ask us along to your event to recruit & run a raffle to raise funds. As the Council's Community Fund Budget is no longer available to charities such as ours we must raise monies in other ways to keep the charity afloat.
- Coordinators: 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 Natalie at [nhw@cbnwa.com](mailto:nhw@cbnwa.com) if you can help (or need help) with any of the above, we'd love to hear from you.

Your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator's details:



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