

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Suburb Crime and the Apathy of Residents

Suburb crime continues to increase month by month and is now 14% up on this time last year. The increase in car crime is especially serious, now being 30% up on last year.

So, what is the reason for this increase? Is it due to a general increase in crime throughout the country? Is the Suburb now being particularly targeted by criminals? The answer to all these questions must be NO. The reason for this increase in crime is almost entirely due to apathy and the quite unnecessary carelessness of residents, which

can be seen from the crime figures and illustrated from police experience at the scene of crimes.

Burglary

Most of the burglaries have been from homes that have looked empty, without lights after dark. The house surrounds have had good, covered approaches for the burglars to get close without being seen and then to consider the easiest way to gain entry. There have been no security lights around the house. In many cases, tool-sheds have been unlocked or easy to break into,



and garden tools have been used to gemmy open windows and doors if not left open or insecure anyway. Far from carrying out the simple security recommendations of the Crime Prevention Officer, the home-owners have not even invited him to carry out a free security survey. The burglaries are almost invariably from homes that have not marked their property with their postcode and house number and got 'Marked Property' stickers displayed. Thus, stolen goods, even if recovered by the police, cannot be returned to their owners.

Vehicle Crime

Many car owners have radio/cassette systems which are NOT

marked with their postcode and house number or car registration number, and which are capable of being easily removed from the car by a thief. As a result, 122 radio/cassette systems have been forcibly removed from Suburb cars over the last twelve months - an average of ten a month. Blaupunkt and Pioneer systems are especially popular with thieves. Even systems which have been adapted to be removable easily by owners and taken away from the car when parked, have been left in the cars as an invitation to thieves.

Car wheels are now again becoming extremely popular with thieves, especially spare wheels that are attached to the outside or underneath of cars without an adequate locking system. During the first two months of this year, there have been twenty-three cases on the Suburb of spare wheels being stolen.

Then, it is amazing that people still leave attractive items on display in their cars, inviting thieves to break in and remove them. Over the last months, a TV set, golf clubs, camcorders,

cameras, wallets containing money and credit cards, and jackets left in full view, have all been stolen from cars. Thieves operating in the middle of the night are particularly attracted to cars that have been loaded with suitcases and other gear on the evening before in order to enable the family to make a quick holiday getaway first thing in the morning.

Cars displaying Vehicle Watch stickers (available from the police or from Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators) are seldom stolen or broken into. Yet a survey has shown that fewer than 1% of owners of cars on the Suburb are members of Vehicle Watch.

"Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly"
(Proverbs 12:15)

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for residents ever to part with cash to the RA or to the Trust.

So, if this rather effeminate, 5'8" glib talker of slim build and with short blond (mousy) hair calls on you:

- do NOT let him in the house;
- if possible, ask him to wait while you get your money;
- if there are two or more of you, one should keep him talking at the front door (on the chain) while the other goes to the phone - out of earshot;
- then dial 999, give your name and address and say that the conman whom the police are looking for is standing outside your front door and can a police car please come round in double quick time!

Peter Loyd

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A ROTHERWICK & SOUTH EAST CORRINGHAM SUCCESS STORY

Recently there have been a number of burglaries where heavy items of furniture have been stolen from the ground floors of houses while the occupants have been asleep upstairs.

In the early hours of 15 March, an elderly lady in Corringham Road thought she heard some strange noises in her house downstairs but took no further notice. However her neighbour opposite, seeing a man loading a table into a van, took the registration number and dialled 999. As a result, the police seized the van, which contained seven items of furniture, all of which were returned to the elderly lady before she had even realised that she had been burgled. The area was searched using police dogs, and a man from Edmonton, believed to be the van driver, was arrested.

This is a really excellent example of a member of the Rotherwick & South East Corringham Neighbourhood Watch taking exactly the correct action.

Selmar Car Alarm

The Selmar Car Alarm Company has been taken over by Sextons, National Control Centre, Drake Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 4HQ. Anyone with a Selmar car alarm can get it serviced by Sextons for a charge of £29.75 + parts + VAT.

Those wishing to do this should contact Sextons on 0181-710 7780 and ask for a S Type Cash Sale Service. They will need to have their credit card details available to make a home appointment and details of any fault.

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The Secretary, The HGS Gourmet Society
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WHY DON'T YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF THE TRUST COMPANY?

We are anxious to increase the number of company members. The sole requirement for membership is to have lived on the Suburb for more than 3 years. Also there are no restrictions on how many people can join from the same household.

In many respects the Trust is an unusual organisation and differs from most companies in the following ways:

● Non-Profit Making

The sole objective of the Trust is to conserve and maintain the character and amenities of the Suburb. The company does not produce profits or pay dividends to its members.

● Unpaid Directors:

The eight directors of the company are known as Trust Council Members. Four of them are appointed by outside organisations (Law Society, Royal Institute of British Architects, Royal Town Planning Institute and Victorian Society), and four

are elected by members of the Company. The Trust Council Members are unpaid and all the work they do is voluntary.

● Role of Members:

The Trust does not have shareholders in the conventional sense but members. There is no financial commitment and if the company went into liquidation the liability of members is limited to £1.

There are 2 main advantages to membership:

- Receipt of the Annual Report and Accounts of the Company, and participation in Trust Council elections.
- The opportunity to take part in the management of the Suburb. Most residents come to live here because in terms of architecture and town planning it is a unique environment, and they support the aims of the Trust in trying to preserve this Outstanding Conservation Area.

The Trust belongs to the community and therefore all residents who believe that the job we are trying to do is worthwhile should become members.

If you would like an application form
please complete and return the coupon
below.

To: C.M. Kellerman, Trust Manager,
Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust,
862 Finchley Road,
London NW11 6AB.

Please send me application form(s)
for membership of the Trust Company.

Name:

Address:

HAMPSTEAD - GARDEN - SUBURB - TRUST

862 Finchley Road, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London NW11 6AB. Telephone: 0181 455 1066 & 458 8085