

Tooting CRIME BRIEFING

6 August, 2003

We have had a few technical troubles bringing you the crime figures this week, so the list is rather short this time. Unfortunately this does not reflect the number of crimes being committed. We hope to resume a complete service as soon as possible.

The police advise us that, despite their success in reducing burglaries generally, London's opportunist burglars have been hard at work this summer. Since 1 May 2003, almost 25 per cent of London's burglaries have been committed through open doors and windows. Many of the burgled homes were fitted with approved British Standard doors, windows and burglar alarms, but these home security devices were rendered useless because windows and doors were left open on hot days.

To make matters worse for victims, household insurance could be invalidated if the burglar accessed the property through open doors or windows.

Just by taking a couple of simple steps you lower your chances of being a victim of this truly upsetting crime. In the hot weather be aware, an open door or window is an open invite to a burglar, don't let them into your home."

- lock doors and windows even if you are leaving the house for a short time
- ensure that newspapers and milk are cancelled when on holiday
- install timers that switch lights on and off automatically to make it appear that the house is occupied

Please advise other members of your Watch if you are going away on holiday, and ask them to keep a special eye on your property and perhaps offer to do the same for them.

Attached are details of the street crimes and burglaries reported to **Tooting** police during the period 23/7/03 to 29/7/03

STREET CRIME

Street Robbery	29/07/2003 1530	BALHAM HIGH ROAD,	Suspect(s) threatened the victim with a knife and took her property.
Theft Snatch	25/07/2003 1130	GARRATT TERRACE,	Suspect snatched the victims mobile phone as he rode past on a cycle

Street 29/07/2003 2345 ELMFIELD ROAD, Two suspects threatened victim with weapons and stole property.
 Robber
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BURGLARY

FALLSBROOK ROAD,	29/07/2003	1220	29/07/2003	1230	Suspect forced entry through rear ground floor door but was disturbed.
THURLEIGH ROAD,	19/07/2003	0300			Suspect climbed wall adjacent to side gate of the house but left when disturbed.
WESTCOTE ROAD,	30/07/2003	0600	30/07/2003	0620	Suspect put arm through cat flap and turned keys in locked door, entered and stole.
FISHPONDS ROAD,	29/07/2003	1245	29/07/2003	1400	suspect(s) broke glass in front door in order to reach through and unlock door Entered premises as trespasser and ransacked house looking for jewellery and stole property the house
FRANCISCAN ROAD,	29/07/2003	0300	29/07/2003	0945	Suspect entered and took property
MITCHAM LANE,	31/07/2003	0230			Shuttering of premises forced and glass in front door smashed and items stolen
FERNLEA ROAD,	29/07/2003	2300			Suspect(s) forced entry to ground floor window but was disturbed.
BLANDFIELD ROAD,	30/07/2003	1530			Suspect stated he was from the water board and entered premises
TRINITY ROAD,	29/07/2003	0840	29/07/2003	1840	Suspect entered and removed property.

WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU CAN HELP?

If you can help solve any of the crimes mentioned above, or can assist to identify the person(s) responsible, please contact Tooting Sector Office on 020 8247

Alternatively pass your information to CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800 555 111. You do not have to give your name or address and you may be eligible for a reward if the information given leads to the arrest and conviction of an offender.

CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE

Advice on all aspects of crime prevention can be obtained from:

1) Wandsworth Crime Prevention Centre, 17 Arndale Walk, Wandsworth Shopping Centre (formerly the Arndale Centre), London SW18, (telephone 020 8871 0803), open to callers between 9am and 5pm Mondays to Saturdays.

2) Putney Crime Prevention Shop, next to the Odeon Cinema in Putney High Street, (telephone 020 8785 8874). The shop is open to the public between 10am and 5-30pm, Mondays to Saturdays.

3) Community Policing Contact Centre, Islamic Centre, 145 Upper Tooting Road, London SW17 between 11am and 1pm on Saturday mornings will be pleased to mark mobile phones and other property, give advice and accept third party reports of crime.

Information on crime in other parts of Wandsworth can be found under 'crime bulletins' on www.wandsworth.gov.uk