



METROPOLITAN POLICE

Working together for a safer London

TOOTING SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM NEWSLETTER JULY 2006

Good news stories and information from your local policing team. If you wish to contact the team please use the details printed at the end of the newsletter.

Garden Security

Police have seen an increase in the numbers of thefts from gardens nationwide. People very often underestimate the value of the items in their garden but statistics show there were 18,000 incidents of theft involving garden property across the country last year and insurance claims rose significantly.

The most likely items to be stolen are plants, gardening equipment and lawnmowers but almost anything can be a target, including garden gnomes!

Tips to protect your garden

Plant a prickly hedge; holly or briar roses with thorny stems are ideal.

Mark garden ornaments with your postcode. Secure valuable plant containers with a steel cable or weigh them down with bricks. Padlock garage and shed doors, and always put your tools away after use.

Acceptable Behaviour

3 young men who all live with their families in Tooting have signed Acceptable Behaviour Contracts with the Housing Department at Wandsworth Borough Council and the SNT. The young men had all admitted to doing graffiti in or around Copeland House. The contracts guarantee that they will not cause further damage to council owned property.

Tooting Crime Prevention Panel

A successful "crime prevention day" was held on Friday 23rd June at the car park entrance of Sainsbury's on Tooting High Street. SNT officers, London Fire Brigade and members from the Community Self Protection Partnership gave advice, leaflets and property marking pens to shoppers on behalf of the Tooting Crime Prevention Panel, a charity that works closely with local Police. The aim of the day was promote crime prevention techniques and personal safety awareness.

Prevent crime. Register your property at www.immobilise.com

Officers Catch Suspected Robbers

PCs Josh Taylor and David Rowsell were on foot patrol when they responded to a call from a victim of robbery on Tooting Bec Common. The officers made their way towards the area and received descriptions of the three suspects involved. On Hillbrook Road the officers saw and stopped three men and were soon joined by colleagues who helped to identify them and recover property nearby that had been taken from the victim. Three young men, all from Tooting were arrested on suspicion of robbery and two have been bailed to return to the Police Station pending further investigation.

Tooting Ward Panel News

Tooting's Ward Panel sat on 27th June 2006, this was the first full meeting of the panel in its current form. The panel's constitution was discussed and agreed and the current three priorities were set. The priorities agreed are

- 1) To tackle Motor Vehicle crime on the ward.
- 2) To tackle incidents of anti-social behaviour in Garratt Lane.
- 3) To tackle incidents of anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of Ernest Bevin school.

These three priorities will be addressed in partnership with the local authority and the neighbouring wards where appropriate. The Tooting SNT would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners, too numerous to mention, for their continued dedication and support. We can achieve great results together. The Ward Panel meets again on 13th September at 7:30pm Tooting Police Station to discuss and monitor progress.

Neighbourhood Watch News

Sgt Hurley attended the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators meeting, held at the Civic Suite in Wandsworth. This evening brought the co-ordinators together to exchange good practice and ideas on how the co-ordinators can enhance their role. The co-ordinators were facilitated through a workshop session looking at various aspects of Neighbourhood Watch activity. One of the scenarios looked at an emergency situation where a road would have to be evacuated and explored what the co-ordinator could do prior to an emergency of this nature arising.



Kenlor Road Watch has been very active working with the SNT and Wandsworth Council in improving their immediate environment. The footbridge that crosses over the railway from Kenlor Road on to Merton Borough is in a very poor state of repair and the residents and visitors to the area all stated that they did not feel safe using it. The bridge was generating a serious fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. Wandsworth Community Safety Projects Officer, Steve Jiggins visited the area and said "the bridge appears to be sadly neglected and in dire need of a repaint." Following on from various meetings it now appears that an in principal agreement is in place to improve the bridge. This is a very good example of the wider issues that Neighbourhood Watch can tackle.

The SNT are actively seeking to recruit more Neighbourhood Watches to assist in making Tooting the safest Ward in Wandsworth. If you know of anyone that would like to become a co-ordinator or receive information about the scheme please contact Tooting SNT. The latest watches to start up are in Worslade Road and Bertal Road but we need many more. If you are concerned about the prospect of crime in your area, why not get involved with neighbourhood watch it combines the efforts of the police, local authority and other voluntary organisations. The scheme relies on local individuals and communities to make a difference. You can download a useful guide at www.neighbourhoodwatch.uk.com/nwatch02.htm

We can be contacted at Tooting Police Station, Mitcham Road, SW17 9JQ or

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