

January 2008

In an emergency always dial 999

If your call is not an emergency please contact us at Tooting Police Station, Mitcham Road, SW17 9JQ

0208 721 2701

tooting.snt@met.police.uk

You can also report certain non-emergency crimes or hate crime at online.met.police.uk



Security Advice For The Festive Period

Tooting Safer Neighbourhood Team's officers are targeting burglary and motor vehicle crime and would like to remind residents to take a few simple steps to avoid becoming victims of crime. Although it is tempting for us to display Christmas tree and gifts in the window they can also be a tempting invitation to an opportunist thief. Home security is the best way to reduce your chances of being burgled. Burglars don't like locked windows because breaking glass attracts attention. Vulnerable windows are those not visible from the street or that can be accessed by climbing up a drain pipe or on to a flat roof. Untidy gardens and insecure sheds provide tools to break glass or force doors open and doors without secure deadlocks can be opened just as easily from the outside as from the inside.

For peace of mind whilst away on holiday or visiting family make your home look as 'lived-in' as possible. Automatic time switches on lights can turn your lights on when it gets dark. Remember to cancel all deliveries and ask a friend or neighbour to pick up your mail. Neighbours may also be able to help by closing your curtains occasionally.

Crime Reduced in Tooting

Crime figures showing the number of crimes committed in Tooting during October 2007 show a total decrease in reported crimes by 51 compared to the same month in 2006. The figures, the latest available to the SNT show that all of the ten crime types monitored by the Home Office show reductions in the number of offences compared to the previous year – including sixteen fewer burglaries and seven fewer robberies committed. The SNT will continue to work hard to keep these levels of crime down and to push them down further because fewer crimes means that fewer people who live or work in Tooting will become victims of crime.

Fraudster Sent To Prison



On 17 September Milan Patel (pictured above), a 36 year old unemployed man from Fishponds Road pleaded guilty at Kingston Crown Court to three counts of committing fraud by false representation following an investigation by the SNT. He was later sentenced to eighteen months in prison for repeatedly targeting the elderly victim in his own home. Mr Patel had first approached the man over a year ago and subsequently tricked him into handing over large amounts of cash several times using complicated stories and excuses.

Be Safe, Use a Licensed Minicab



There are approximately 45,000 licensed private hire vehicles operated by minicab firms in London (as well as about 20,000 taxi cabs that operate from taxi ranks). This should make it easy to find a minicab to take you home when you need one but for those times when you can't there is a service called Cabwise. To use this simply text the word HOME to 60835 and the phone numbers for two local licensed minicab operators plus the 'taxi one-number' will be sent direct to your mobile phone. The service can be used in any part of London 24 hours a day and forms part of 'Know what you're getting into', a campaign to warn women of the dangers of using unlicensed minicabs and offers safer travel information. 'Know what you're getting into' is part of Safer Travel at Night, a partnership between the Mayor of London, Transport for London and the Metropolitan Police. All minicabs, which now have to display yellow licensing discs on their windscreens, must be pre-booked. Only taxis can be hailed in the street. Unlicensed minicabs are often actually unfit to be on the road and are dangerous for you to travel in and uninsured. Tooting SNT will continue to work closely with our partners, and arrest and prosecute unlicensed minicab drivers who target their victims and have in the past carried out sexual assaults. In the first three years of this campaign sexual assaults and rapes across London that were related to unlicensed minicabs fell from 18 each month to around 10 a month. We urge women to take the advice 'Know what you're getting into' and look after your friends - don't take the risk of getting into a car belonging to a complete stranger.

For more information visit www.cabwise.com

Successful Open Day Held

On Saturday 10 November the SNTs for Tooting and Graveney wards held a joint 'Open Day' in St Augustine's Church Hall on Broadwater Road. The day took the form of a drop-in session with all members of the community invited through Neighbourhood Watch schemes and with posters put up in shop windows. Over 120 people came and spoke with the teams about their work in Tooting. Crime prevention advice leaflets and travel pass holders were given out (pictured below) as well as free 'Pots in the Fridge' and many people took the time to complete a questionnaire about policing priorities for the year ahead.



Making Your Community Safer

As we enter a season of festivities we would like to wish all of Tooting's residents and visitors a safe Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. Your SNT is committed to reducing all types of crime within the ward but we will be focussing on reducing burglaries, robberies and motor vehicle crime most of all. In 2008 we will run operations to reduce the numbers of these offences and to deal with the criminals who commit them.

The dedicated team are here to make a difference in your community. If you have any concerns or information about crime and disorder issues in Tooting please contact us using the phone number or e-mail address on the front of this newsletter, or for more information visit the website www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods