



IMPORTANT INFORMATION for 20th March 2008

WEEKLY CRIME MESSAGES

I will be on holiday next week so there will be no crime messages, I will catch up the week after.

EMAIL NEWS

A N/W member has reported an email from Halifax referring to the requirements of the Financial Services Authority and the need for you to click on the link to update your account information. The website has now been closed down by the bank.

Password phishing emails targeting banks are continuing this week with Abbey being targeted with an email claiming that your Online Services have been deactivated due to a mismatch access code. The link provided takes you to a site in Scottsdale Arizona. Another email claiming to be from RBS looks very professional and claims your online account is about to expire. This link takes you to a site owned by Konskiraj.com in Poland.

BOGUS CALLERS

In SHIRLEY an elderly female victim had two white males follow her up to her front door. They stated that they were CID police officers and they needed to check her house as she had been burgled. They were admitted and the victim put her handbag in the hall, they looked round the house and then left, the victim then found that her purse had been taken from her handbag. The two males are described as one about 30 years old 5'10" tall, thin build with short blonde curly hair and blue eyes, wearing blue jeans. The second male was also about 30 years 5'07" tall, stocky build with short brown hair.

There has been a second case, as reported last week, of a white male calling at a flat in Croydon asking for a glass of water to take his medication. The male described as approx 30 years old 5'02" tall, slim build with black hair and wearing a green/grey jacket and black trousers. The victim found that a large amount of loose change had been taken from the flat.

In WEST THORNTON two males knocked on the door of a disabled victim in a wheelchair and stated that they were police officers, they then pushed their way into the flat. The two men then searched the flat and put items into a bag and left. The men are described as one white male approx 30 years old wearing a blue tracksuit and blue jeans. Second male described as black about 5'06" tall and wearing beige jacket and blue jeans.

In PURLEY an elderly female had a white female call saying that her family would be moving in next door and she was invited in leaving the front door open, while victim distracted an unseen suspect searched through the bedroom, nothing appears to have been taken. The female was described as approx 50 years old of slight build and with short brown hair; she was wearing a short white cotton jacket and had 'tatty' gold design shoes. Also in SANDERSTEAD a white female called saying that her male friend needed to take his medication, while victim got a glass of water a third male entered and took cash from the bedroom. The female is described as approx 35 years old 5'06" tall with brown shoulder length hair. She was wearing a light coloured fleece and dark tracksuit bottoms.

BOGUS ADVERTISEMENTS

A N/W member has reported problems with a company advertising in magazines offering cut price electronic goods. They trade as N T M Trading/ N T Malick Trading, there are over 1800 references to this company on the internet as they have apparently put advertisements in many well known magazines and newspapers such as the Guardian who have then received complaints from readers who sent off deposit cheques and never heard from the company again. There was a company called NTM Trading registered at Companies House but they are now dissolved.

CRIME HOTSPOTS

As reported last month, in the South of the Borough and in the neighbouring Surrey Police area a gang has been operating overnight, stealing the catalytic converters from underneath Ford Transit vans and other large vehicles such as 4 x4's where it is easy to get underneath the vehicle without using a jack. They use pipe cutters to avoid making any noise, if you see or hear anything suspicious involving these types of vehicles **do not** approach the vehicle but call 999, if any vehicles are seen to be involved a note of the registration number will greatly help the Police.

As reported last week a series of hand bag thefts have been occurring the South Croydon/Purley areas. Last weekend the thief targeted an area north of COOMBE Road with entry via the rear of properties. With this being the bank holiday weekend he is likely to be out and about, targeting

large houses with entry through the rear gardens. One suspect has been reported as a white male, over 30 years old with a bald head. If you see anyone similar looking over walls fences watching large houses dial 999 immediately so that Officers can attend and check the suspect out. Meanwhile please keep back doors locked at all times.

LANDMARK YEAR FOR CRIME CHARITY

Crimestoppers aims to celebrate its 20th anniversary in the best way possible – by taking its one millionth telephone call to its free phone number **0800 555 111**.

Since it began, calls to Crimestoppers have resulted in more than 80,000 arrests and charges. Over £100 million worth of property has been recovered and nearly £150 million worth of drugs.

Crimestoppers is an independent charity dedicated to solving crimes and taking criminals off the streets. Around 17 people are arrested and charged every day as a result of the information given to Crimestoppers. One person every five days is charged with murder.

It was set up following the Tottenham riots in the 1980s and the brutal murder of PC Keith Blakelock on the Broadwater Farm Estate in London. International businessman Michael Ashcroft (now Lord Ashcroft) offered a reward for information that would lead to the killers. He also brought together a group of like-minded business people who were determined to do something positive to stem the rising levels of crime in Britain. Gradually, plans took shape and in January 1988 Lord Ashcroft and his friends from the world of business and the media launched the Community Action Trust - re-named Crimestoppers in 1995.

Today Crimestoppers is recognised as a safe and secure way to report crime anonymously. Free calls can be made from landlines and are handled by trained members of staff at the Crimestoppers call centre.

Callers are never asked who they are, but simply what they know.

Anonymity is guaranteed. The police never know the name of the caller because Crimestoppers do not have the name to pass on. At the same time there are safeguards in place to ensure police time isn't being wasted following up malicious information.

Rewards are payable through Crimestoppers by means of code words. Surprisingly, very few rewards are ever claimed by the callers. Most people see making the call as doing their public duty.

As part of its 20th anniversary celebrations Crimestoppers has completed work on a revamp of its website: www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

The search functionality for the popular 'Most Wanted' section - where visitors can help solve crimes - has been vastly improved. Visitors to the site can now search by crime type, region, postcode and specific appeal.

Crimestoppers has 39 Volunteers Boards across the UK to promote campaigns and events in their local area. Representatives from Neighbourhood Watch are among the 400 volunteers who sit on the regional boards.