



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION for 31st January 2008

### EMAIL NEWS

A N/W member has reported receiving an email from The World Health Organization offering the sum of £6.5 million for you to use to help the less privileged. The email asks for personal information and no doubt you would then be asked to send a handling fee so that the cash can be sent to you. On the genuine World Health Organization website they have the following message regarding these emails

#### **“WHO denounces scam emails falsely implying association with WHO**

Various scam emails purporting or implying to be from or associated with the World Health Organization (WHO), have been circulating on the Internet. Some of these emails request detailed information and/or money from individuals, businesses or non-profit organizations with the promise that they will receive funds or other benefits in return. Other emails ask for registration fees for conferences allegedly sponsored by WHO and for hotel reservations, again with the promise of certain benefits. These emails sometimes carry the WHO logo, and emanate from or refer to an email address which is made to look like a WHO or United Nations address. These emails do not emanate from WHO, and are not in any way associated with WHO projects or events. WHO wishes to warn the public of these misleading practices, and suggests that recipients of invitations such as those described above (whether sent by email or communicated in any other way) verify their authenticity before sending any response. In particular, WHO suggests that recipients do not send money or personal information in response to invitations from anyone who claims to be awarding funds, grants, scholarships, certificates, lottery winnings, or prizes, and/or who requests payment for registration fees and hotel rooms reservations, in the name of WHO. It is not WHO policy to charge for attendance at meetings.

If you have any doubts about the authenticity of an email, letter or phone call purportedly from, for or on behalf of WHO, please email us at [internet@who.int](mailto:internet@who.int). WHO is trying to put a halt to these misleading practices, and we would therefore greatly appreciate your help in bringing suspect communications to our attention.”

#### **BOGUS CALLERS**

Information this week that a complete British Gas uniform has been stolen from a vehicle, the uniform was in a large size and also a leather folder containing details of products, this uniform could be used anywhere in the country so please be aware of any unexpected British Gas callers.

A N/W member has reported that one of the residents in his street had a male of Afro-Asian appearance call stating that he was from the Council and showed a leaflet with 'MR' on it. The neighbour thought this must be market research but when the caller was asked for ID none was produced so they shut the door. There have not been any other reports of this caller.

Bogus callers in NEW ADDINGTON this week where two white males called posing as water board employees, cash was stolen from inside the house. One suspect described as approx 38 years old 5'05" tall with short brown hair and wearing a dark blue blazer. Second suspect was approx 30 years 5'10" tall with a skin head and wearing a long coat.

#### **CROYDON PRIZE REGISTER**

A N/W Member has received a mailing from the 'Croydon Prize Register' quoting large prizes that are ready to be dispatched to her. You have to ring a premium rate number which costs £1.50 per minute to find out what you have won and then fill in and post the claim form with all your personal details on it. The following information is one of several posts on the internet:

#### **Prize Register Letters Go Localised!**

This week [compers](#) have been receiving letters from a brand new localised Prize Register service. Stockport, Milton Keynes, Cardiff, Wigan, Birmingham, Manchester, Portsmouth, Wolverhampton, Stoke on Trent, Torquay, Sheffield and Carlisle are just some of the "lucky" UK areas who now have their own Prize Register. We're also told there's a Northern Ireland one too!

The letter, though, is very familiar to experienced compers: You're told you've won something from a list of prizes and to ring a premium rate telephone number to collect your prize or you can contact the UK Prize Register, PO Box 78, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 9ZU for a no purchase necessary entry.

So why is it familiar? It's because this is fact are old friends at the [Unclaimed Prize Register](#). These are also known as McIntyre & Dodd Marketing or The Prize Winners Club or Purely Creative or Strike Lucky Games and all are owned by the same company [DM PLC](#).

If you're wondering why you're getting this kind of mail through the door then [you can contact](#) DM PLC for an explanation. Apparently, according to information they gave The Guardian, they're happy to explain to you details of your previous competition entries with them on request.

### **So should you enter these competitions?**

We'd suggest binning it and shredding it. If it's a letter from the Prize Register or a scratch card in your newspaper - put them in the bin (or recycle them if you can to be environmentally friendly). There are better [competitions](#) to enter and they won't cost you a penny.

However, if you're tempted to spend money on a premium call then it's worth reading the reports from [The Guardian](#) and [The Mirror](#), both of whom investigated these offers.

*Many thanks to the compers who provided details and information!"*

### **CRIME HOTSPOTS**

The CROHAM and WADDON wards have had an increase in burglary numbers recently, also the SELHURST and FAIRFIELD wards have shown a marked increase in theft from motor vehicles.

Croydon Police have issued the following advice for home owners and motorists:

Good home security is the best way to reduce your chances of being burgled. The following tips may assist you in avoiding becoming a victim.

Fit security lighting, either dusk to dawn energy efficient lighting that will come on automatically as dusk sets in, or a passive infra-red (PIR) light that will draw attention to movement.

Use an automatic time switch on an indoor light, either in a room that cannot be peered into from the road, or upstairs. Consider drawing the curtains if you are in a room with the lights switched on.

Regularly change the timing on the switch. Put a time switch on a radio that has been tuned to a chat station, this will give the impression that the house is occupied. Again, regularly change the timing on the switch.

In-car satellite navigation systems are becoming the new "must have" for motorist and for thieves. Croydon police has noticed an increase in these types of thefts and believe they are going to be on increase as more people invest in them. PC Nick Howden, Croydon Vehicle Crime Unit said:

"Hiding the system in the glove box is simply not enough - this is the first place thieves will look if they break into your vehicle.

"Satellite navigation systems are small, hand-held devices that are easily transportable - take them with you when you leave your vehicle, as you would the fascia of your car stereo. Consider placing a prominent notice in your car stating that the system has been removed. "Where possible, do not even leave the cradle for the system on display and remember to wipe clean the mark left on the windscreen where the cradle was. If you have to leave the cradle for the system in your car, make sure it is marked overtly with poster paint.

"Mark your Satellite navigation system with your postcode and house number or your vehicle registration number, using special security markers. These pens are readily available from any good hardware store. "Never leave anything on view in your car. Thieves are opportunist; make sure to always lock all doors, windows and sunroofs. The effects of having your vehicle broken into is not only time consuming but can also increase the cost of your car insurance."

### **PUBLIC MEETING**

The local community are invited to attend an open public meeting being chaired by the Borough Commander Ch Supt Mark Gore on Friday 8th February 2008 at Croydon Town Hall, Council Chamber at 7.30pm - 9.00pm to discuss any issues surrounding the future of police accommodation in Croydon.