



Chelsfield and Pratts Bottom Dedicated Ward Policing Newsletter – Winter 2018



Welcome to the Winter edition of the ward newsletter. We use this as a way to deliver information about what is happening on the ward, provide crime prevention advice and let you know what is being done to tackle issues in the area. You can find your local team's details including a ward map and other useful information by entering your postcode on the front page of our new website: www.met.police.uk

Seasonal advice

Many of you will do some or all of your Christmas shopping online, it is important to remember that criminals will try to take advantage, so: If possible use online retailers/brands that you know and trust. For major brands go to their official website to find a list of approved sellers. Check the delivery, insurance, warranty and returns policy.

Take extra care when buying expensive items.

If buying from auction sites remember there is an increased chance the expensive branded item at a bargain price may not exist, or may be a poor imitation. If it seems too good to be true it probably is. Do not be tempted to leave the site to complete the purchase, to avoid fees or receive enhanced discounts, as you risk losing any protection on the site. If you are venturing out, buy the most expensive items last, so there is less time for them to get lost or stolen.

When using ATMs be aware of anyone standing close by and always check the machine to see if it's been tampered with before you use it. Once you have your expensive new items, ensure you record details such as serial numbers, and property mark them using a UV pen or traceable liquid (such as Smart Water).

Reduce the risk of your house being broken into while you are out by ensuring it looks occupied. Fit timer switches to lights, and even if you are only popping out for a short time, ensure you lock up properly and set your alarm if you have one fitted.

Finally, after all the fun and excitement of Christmas, please remember that leaving the boxes on display outside your house for disposal advertises the new things in your house to thieves.

We wish you all a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.





Ward Promises

Since our last newsletter we have continued to provide presentations to youth groups across the ward and have contacted all of the primary schools to arrange input as part of our youth engagement promise. Neighbourhood Watch continues to be popular with residents and we are optimistic that the serious interest shown by people we have spoken with will result in new schemes being registered in the coming weeks. We are happy to offer a range of engagement methods to help start schemes. We have visited many of our vulnerable/older residents providing advice, and have given talks at the I-Care Centre and House Martins. All of these promises are in line with the area priorities around ASB, Burglary, and Safeguarding, given the topics we cover during our presentations, the engagement we carry out, and the advice we provide. The Ward Promises this quarter are to continue our work around Youth Engagement, Neighbourhood Watch, and Vulnerable/Elderly Residents.

Scams

Financial fraud and online crime is costing the UK £2 million pounds every day and every year the allegations are increasing in number. Your personal data, even just your name, birthday and address can be used by fraudsters to commit a range of frauds and leave you out of pocket. Don't be tricked into giving a fraudster access to your personal or financial details. Never click on a link in an unexpected email or text. Be wary about the personal information you share online, ensure you check your privacy settings on social media sites. If you receive unwanted scam emails, don't just delete them. Forward them to nfibphishing@city-of-london.pnn.police.uk as they are collating the details of these to enable enforcement and prevention activity. They will monitor the content and source information and trace the originator if there are sufficient notifications.

Contactless payments

At least one in three card payments in the UK is now being made using contactless technology. Every contactless card has an inbuilt security check, which means occasionally you have to enter your PIN to confirm payment. Protect your contactless payment cards by investing in a protective wallet. These are lined with an electromagnetic shield to prevent the data being intercepted, and also stop accidental payments. Always monitor your bank statements regularly, to ensure that payments have not been taken without your knowledge or permission. If your contactless payment card or contactless enabled smart phone is lost or stolen you should notify your bank immediately.





Protect your vehicle from theft

Electronic keys: Criminals are using both simple and sophisticated methods to steal motor vehicles. Protect your electronic keys: Thieves are using equipment to scan for electronic keys and create a blank key that can then be used to steal vehicles. Keep your electronic key in a security pouch, which prevents thieves from scanning your key and stealing your vehicle.

Don't make it easy for them: Always double check your windows and doors are closed and locked every time you leave your vehicle, even if you're only gone for a few minutes. Thieves will often try door handles on the off chance that they are unlocked. Remove all items from view by taking them with you or putting them in the boot out of sight. Thieves will look for any items on display. Things like clothes, documents, or an old bag might not seem like "valuables" but they could tempt a thief. Set the steering lock if your vehicle is fitted with one. If not use an individual bar type steering lock. Consider using a gear stick lock. Thieves will often burgle houses to steal vehicle keys. Keep your safe and avoid obvious storage places such as hallways and kitchens. If you don't have one, consider fitting a tracking device to your vehicle to help recover it if stolen.

Parking: If you have a garage at home, use it. If you don't, try to park in a well-lit open place. Use public car parks that are part of the police approved "Park Mark" Safer Parking Scheme.

Upcoming Events

We will be conducting street briefings at the following locations:

The Hillside at 17:00 on 10/11/18.

Woodside, junction with Goldfinch Close at 19:00 on 16/11/18.

Kingsley Road, junction with Worlds End Lane at 1730hrs on 29/11/18.

Harley Gardens at 17:00 on 15/12/18.

Beech Road, junction with Worlds End Lane at 19:00 on 21/12/18.

Green Farm Close, junction with Glentrammon Rd at 17:30 on 03/01/19.

The Meadows, junction with Oxenden Wood Road at 13:00 on 12/01/19.

Crown Close, junction with Edith Road at 17:00 on 19/01/19.

High Beeches, junction with The Retreat at 19:00 on 25/01/19.

We will also be at the following events:

The Pop-in at The Greenwood Centre on 03/11/18 and 08/12/18.

The Chelsfield Village Society AGM on 07/11/18.

Brittenden Close coffee mornings on 21/11/18 and 30/01/19.

The next ward panel meeting will be on 23/01/19. We are always looking for new people to join the ward panel, please contact us for details.





Useful Contacts

Action Fraud, UK fraud and internet crime reporting centre

- 03001232040 or www.actionfraud.police.uk

Bromley Borough Council

To report a wide range of issues visit www.bromley.gov.uk/report

- Noise issues (outside office hours) 03003038671

- Trading Standards, report rogue traders on 07903 852090

Child Exploitation and Online Protection (National Crime Agency)

- www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Childline

- 08001111 or online www.childline.org.uk

Confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline

- If you suspect it, report it. 0800789321

Crime Stoppers

- 0800555111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Immobilise Property Register

- www.immobilise.com

London Fire Brigade:

- Fire advice and safety visits www.london-fire.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

- For information on NHW in Bromley visit www.bnwa.co.uk

Official Police Security Website

- www.securedbydesign.com

RSPCA

- Animal welfare concerns 03001234999 or online www.rspca.org.uk

Thank you for reading this newsletter. If you wish to talk to us for any reason, please call or email using the details below.

For regular updates about our activity on the ward follow us on Twitter.

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Chelsfield and Pratts Bottom Dedicated Ward Team

Bromley Neighbourhood Policing

Website: www.met.police.uk

Twitter: @MPSchelsfield

Email: Chelsfield.PrattsBottom.snt@met.police.uk

Mail: Bromley Police Station, High Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1ER

In an emergency call 999

For non-urgent enquires visit www.met.police.uk or call 101

