

Neighbourhood Watch

A New Year Message

We have every reason to start the new year with a sense of achievement and an air of confidence. During 1994, Suburb crime fell steadily and consistently. And, with your continuing co-operation, there is no reason why it should not continue to do so throughout 1995.

In the Metropolitan Police area as a whole, crime fell by 8% during 1994. However, in the Golders Green and Finchley Police Division it fell by considerably more than this, by 20%, which must say something for the efficiency of the particular team of police who look after this general area of Cricklewood, Golders Green, Hampstead Garden Suburb and Finchley. And, indeed, we owe a great deal to them for the way in which they have wholeheartedly thrown themselves into initiatives such as Operation Bumblebee which has targeted known burglars and put them behind bars, and into various positive actions to get the car criminals off our streets.

So, what of the Suburb and its immediately surrounding area? Well, during 1994, Suburb crime fell by a staggering 32%!

But why did this happen? Why is crime coming down so much faster on the Suburb than in other parts of the police division? Did the police concentrate on us to

the detriment of other parts of the division? Did they give the Suburb special treatment to bring about this result? No, it was YOU who achieved it!

This is the result of more and more Suburb residents taking the trouble to understand what they have to do to protect their homes, their cars and their families - AND THEN ACTUALLY DOING IT.

So, well done, Suburb residents. Keep up the good work. Let's get crime even lower in 1995. Happy New Year.

Peter Loyd



Noisy Alarms

Fines of up to £5,000 face residents who ignore Barnet's legislation on burglar alarms which states that it is an offence for an alarm to ring for longer than 20 minutes. Environmental Health Officers have already taken action against a number of offenders and do not accept excuses such as that the house is for sale and it will be up to the new owners to update the alarm.

Whenever any alarm rings, everyone who hears it should dial 999 and inform the police immediately. But, if any resident is troubled by a house or car alarm that rings for a period longer than 20 minutes, it can be dealt with by telephoning as follows:-

- During working hours -
The Environmental Health Officer
Tel: 0181-446 8511
extn 4722
- Out of working hours and at weekends -
The Emergency Service Controller
Tel: 0181-202 8282

Henrietta Barnett charity needs helpers

Over a hundred years ago "the Country Holidays Fund to Provide Fresh Air for Ailing London Children" was formed. The originators of the scheme were the Rev Samuel Barnett and his wife, Dame Henrietta, who had been experimenting with the idea of sending London children from the East End into the country since 1877. In 1884, with the forming of a properly constituted charity with a central committee and the backing of a number of influential people, the die was cast and 5,000 children were sent away for a fortnight into the fresh country air. So the Barnetts' idea of having some of their poor parishioners from Whitechapel to stay with them at Wadebridge had come to fruition as they felt something had to be done to save the health of the children who lived in crowded houses and narrow streets.

Our records show that between 1896-1913, each year over 30,000 children went away and between 1919-1939, it was over 20,000. Nowadays it is a more modest figure, 3,136 in 1993 and 2,886 in 1994, making a grand total of 1,754,814.

135 children from the Hampstead area enjoyed one of our holidays this year, some staying with families, others going to camps. Aged between 5-12, we provide these London boys and girls from low income families with their only chance of a 10 days break in the summer. They are recommended to us by Social Services and Head Teachers.

We have a network of Country Representatives throughout England who find families willing to welcome children into their homes. Some children return to the same family year after year. Our charity relies very much on people, and in order to continue our work we need more volunteers; London visitors to interview the children, train marshals to accompany children on the train, and supervisors for our camps.

If you would like to help call Mark Godfrey, Children's Country Holiday Fund, 0171 928 5522.

Joey Clover

Positive Driving

If you were stuck in a pretty country lane with a flat tyre, would you rather

- (a) wait for a passing stranger,
- (b) sit in your car for a very long time after making a phone call, or
- (c) change the tyre yourself within ten minutes, and then drive on your way?

I went to an evening meeting on positive driving run by friendly faced WPC Linda Bailey, in a well-known suburb car showroom in the Market Place. A group of us updated our knowledge on jump starting a car with leads. Red on positive, black on negative: connect negative first on dead car, let live engine run 2 minutes, then start dead car.

Tyre changing proved easy. It was a useful experience, and I hoped that the physical memory of it would come to my aid when necessary. We were shown ways to lift and hold the tyre in place: it is well within the capabilities of most women, even unfit ones, I undid and tightened the wheel nuts by standing on the wheel wrench. It is worth asking our garage at the next visit to check that the wheel nuts are the right torque, and not over tight. H R Owen will do this for you, free, on any make of car.

The video showed useful strategies for avoiding attacks and problems when parking in multi-storey car parks, handling a break down on a motorway, or being followed by another car. The best way to find out, is to go to another meeting run by the Golders Green Metropolitan Police.

Contact WPC Linda Bailey or WPC Melanie Burdett on 0181-733 5670.

Jackie Norman



Intrepid Walkers for Hospice

The autumn drizzle and mud did nothing to deter the intrepid walkers for "Health and Hospice" on Hampstead Heath Extension. John Marshall, M.P., led a group of sponsored doctors and energetic supporters to benefit the North London Hospice.

The walk raised awareness in the many other users of the Heath Extension besides a very "healthy" £4,500 for the North West Support group to present to the North London Hospice.

Gas meter outside

Recently the gas supply pipe coming into my house under the garden had to be renewed. The work was done with very little damage to the garden, as the new pipe was pushed through the old one underneath the lawn.

Residents may be interested to know that within a Conservation Area the Gas Board, where possible, now install the meter outside - half burying it in the ground - see photo. This meter has a drop lid which lifts up and is easily read without requiring entry to the house.

With a low growing plant, which can be cut back when necessary, such as pulmonaria, it is barely visible.

C. Welsman



New Residents

If you are a new resident, what are you doing to make yourself aware of all the things you need to do to be 'crime wise' - to prevent yourself and your family being the victims of crime? Here are 3 positive action points for every new resident:-

- Contact the Crime Prevention Officer, PC Peter Davis, and leave a message on his answering machine (733 5570) asking him to contact you to carry out a free security survey of your home. You will find his down-to-earth, practical advice invaluable.
- Make sure you have a "New Residents Information Pack", either from your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator or from the Police Station, and then read the contents and act on them.
- Make sure all your valuable property - videos, TVs, silver, jewellery, etc. - is marked with your postcode and house number, and that you have 'MP stickers' prominently displayed on your home.

Do you want to play
TENNIS, BOWLS OR SQUASH?
then come and join us at
TEMPLE FORTUNE CLUB
Beginners, Improvers and Juniors welcome
Coaching available
Licensed Bar - Monthly social events
For details visit us at
122 Bridge Lane, NW11
(Car Park and entrance opposite Prines Park Avenue)
or telephone 081 455 2184

 **INSPIRE** dental health
FOR ALL YOUR DENTAL NEEDS
CALL 081 201 8877 A. SMITH BDS
6 Lyttelton Road, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London N2 0ET

Hotblack Dixon & Co
Incorporating J. BROWN OGDEN
Estate Agents

Do talk to us when you are thinking of moving. Its no great secret that we have had a successful business in the Suburb for many many years now. If you yearn for the "non-pushy" & friendly professional approach, we are your Agents.

17 Market Place
Hampstead Garden Suburb
London NW11 6JY
0181-458 8411

LOW RISK HOUSEHOLDS SHOULD NOT PAY HIGH RISK PREMIUMS

Are you a low risk household?

Do you belong to Neighbourhood Watch?

Have you adequate security?

If so, you may substantially save on your Building and Contents Insurance and also enjoy the benefits of NO CLAIMS BONUS.

For further information and advice please write to:

Brownhill, Morris and West (Insurance Services) Limited
16 Bromley Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 2JE.
Telephone: 0181-658 4334

General Accident

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