

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

BURGLAR ALARMS

Police statistics demonstrate that fitting an effective burglar alarm to a house is almost a 100% deterrent to burglary. However, everybody with a burglar alarm should be reminded that:

- all alarms must have a 20-minute cut-out device. It is an offence, subject to a fine of up to £5,000, for an alarm to ring for longer. A number of offenders have already been prosecuted;
- the police must be given the names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least two key-holders; and
- if you are a new resident taking over an existing alarm, or if you have installed a new alarm you must register your alarm, by completing a form which is obtainable from the **London Borough of Barnet, Environmental & Consumer Services Department, Barnet House, Whetstone N20 0EJ (0181 359 2000).**

DIALLING 999

One of the greatest frustrations for the police and a considerable waste of police time is when people make emergency telephone calls to the Sector Office or to some other telephone number at the Police Station instead of using the 999 system. There have even been cases of people leaving emergency messages on one of the police telephone answering machines which is, perhaps, the ultimate example of waste of police time in their having to listen to an out-dated message and utter frustration in it being too late for them to take any action. On one occasion, the police even received a letter from a man saying that he actually saw someone breaking into the house next door but that he didn't consider it important enough to use the telephone!

The police want us to make much more use of the 999 system. **If in any doubt, dial 999.**

'HELP CALL POLICE POSTERS'

Women drivers (and men too!) worried about breakdowns on motorways and major roads can obtain a poster from Golders Green Police Station to carry in their cars for display in the rear window should they ever encounter a difficulty or breakdown. Experience has shown that passing motorists will alert police to a driver in distress and, in a test of the idea, police were able to be at the scene within 15 minutes having been alerted by over 20 motorists using their car phones. Meanwhile, the driver in distress should sit in the passenger seat and remain securely locked inside the vehicle until the police arrive. The posters, sponsored by Brownhill Morris and West Insurance Services, are free and can be obtained from the front desk in the Police Station. They are about 10"x16" and printed on bright yellow card.

A New Year message

Two years ago, when burglary had just come down to its then lowest recorded yearly total of 186 and vehicle crime was falling fast, I wrote a somewhat euphoric New Year message which began by saying that we had every reason to start the New Year with a sense of achievement and an air of confidence, and which finished by saying, 'Well done, Suburb residents. Keep up the good work.'

However, it would seem that a number of Suburb residents apparently took this to be their cue to relax and forget all about security. During the spring and summer of 1995, doors and windows were left open, alarms were not switched on - and up went burglaries again reaching a peak in September 1995 of a twelve month total of 242. Because of this, you then got a number of 'doom and gloom' articles from Co-ordinators in their Watch newsletters and from me in *Suburb News* spelling out the basic messages all over again.

During 1996, most of us successfully secured our homes against burglary. But, regrettably, far too many of us failed to secure our cars against vehicle crime. Having come down to its lowest ever twelve-month level of 328 crimes in April 1995, vehicle crime then climbed steadily month by month to a figure of over 500 for the twelve months ending on 31st August 1996. This is not the highest it has ever been: the highest twelve-month figure of 755 occurred at the end of August 1993. By the end of November 1996 it had come down slightly to 477, but this is still far too high and certainly not a situation on which I can build an encouraging New Year message.

So, to give you that uplift and comfort to march boldly and with confidence into the New Year, I must rely on the burglary situation. And that is really very encouraging. But, do I dare divulge it to you? Or will you relax again and forget about all the vital measures to ensure that your homes remain secure?

Well, here goes - by the end of September 1996, the twelve-month burglary figure had come down to the lowest ever recorded total of **161**, to rise again slightly by the end of November to a figure of **163**! Of course, these good figures are partly due to much pro-active work by our police in Operation Bumblebee in raiding the homes of known burglars and putting them behind bars. But much credit is also due to a great many of you who systematically go on taking the correct actions to ensure that your homes are always secure.

My message, therefore, at the start of 1997 is again Well Done! But please don't get over-confident and relax your efforts either during the long winter evenings or when the warmer weather comes around again.

Peter Loyd



ROBBERY FROM CAR DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS

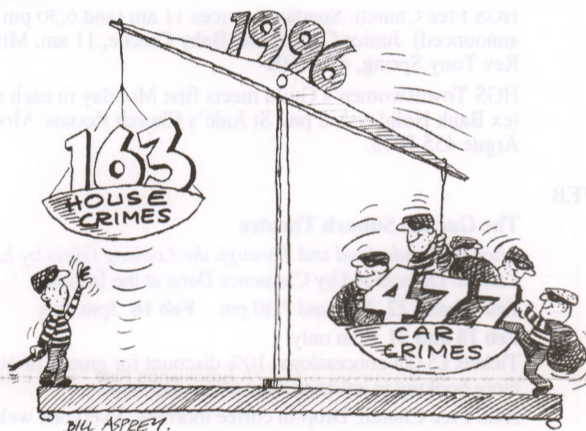
There have been increasing instances of criminals getting into cars stopped at traffic lights or in slow moving traffic and robbing drivers and passengers of jewellery and cash at knife point.

The new lesson which we all now must learn from this is that, regrettably, whenever driving in a car - whether during the day or at night - all the car doors should be firmly locked at all times. It would seem that somehow we have got to learn a new procedure which is that, before we drive off, as well as fastening our seat belts, adjusting our mirrors and so on, we have conscientiously got to go through the 'drill' of locking all car doors.

SUBURB CONMAN

The confidence trickster, generally referred to as the 'Suburb Conman', although out of prison has not been reported as 'working' in this area for quite some time now - probably because he also enjoys working in other areas of London such as Chelsea, Kensington and Paddington. However, sooner or later, he will be back, saying he is calling on behalf of the Residents Association or the Trust to collect 'money due'. He is well dressed and, with his clipboard and name-dropping of other residents on the Suburb, extremely plausible. In the interests of keeping his administrative costs to a minimum, he does not take cheques.

So, if this rather effeminate, 5' 8" glib talker of slim build in his 50s and with short fair/mousey hair calls on you, do NOT let him in the house, but ask him to wait while you get your money. If there are two or more of you, one should keep him talking at the front door (on the chain) while the other goes to the phone out of earshot. Then dial 999, give your address and say you have the conman standing outside your front door ready to be arrested if the police come quickly!



NOISE NUISANCE

Noisy transistor radios and wild disco parties may be more of a nuisance in the warmer months. But car alarms, whose owners have gone away on holiday or for the weekend, can still go off and ring continuously at any time of the year, driving us all to distraction.

Now, help is at hand. Barnet has re-established a comprehensive out-of-hours emergency service to combat noise of every sort with environmental officers standing by on weekdays and at weekends with the promise of a swift response and with the power to have it stopped - with police back-up if needed. Barnet's emergency services can be contacted on **0181 359 2000**.

WHY DON'T YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF THE TRUST COMPANY

We are anxious to increase the number of company members. The sole requirement for membership is to have lived on the Suburb for more than 3 years. Also there are no restrictions on how many people can join from the same household.

In many respects the Trust is an unusual organisation and differs from most companies in the following ways:

n Non-Profit Making

The sole objective of the Trust is to conserve and maintain the character and amenities of the Suburb. The company does not produce profits or pay dividends to its members.

n Unpaid Directors:

The eight directors of the company are known as Trust Council Members. Four of them are appointed by outside organisations (Law Society, Royal Institute of British Architects, Royal Town Planning Institute and Victorian Society), and four

are elected by members of the company. The Trust Council Members are unpaid and all the work they do is voluntary.

Role of Members:

The Trust does not have shareholders in the conventional sense but members. There is no financial commitment and if the company went into liquidation the liability of members is limited to £1.

There are 2 main advantages to membership:

Receipt of the Annual Report and Accounts of the Company, and participation in Trust Council elections.

The opportunity to take part in the management of the Suburb. Most residents come to live here because in terms of architecture and town planning it is a unique environment, and they support the aims of the Trust in trying to preserve this Outstanding Conservation Area.

The Trust belongs to the community and therefore all residents who believe that the job we are trying to do is worthwhile should become members.

If you would like an application form please complete and return the coupon below.

To: **C.M.Kellerman, Trust Manager, Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, 862 Finchley Road, London NW11 6AB.**

Please send me application form(s) for membership of the Trust Company.

Name:

Address:

HAMPSTEAD - GARDEN - SUBURB - TRUST

862 Finchley Road, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London NW11 6AB Telephone: 0181 455 1066 & 458 8085