



- 1) Of course I look familiar, I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
- 2) Thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
- 3) Love the flowers. That tells me you have taste and taste means there are nice things inside. Those toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
- 4) I really do look for newspapers piled up in the porch and I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
- 5) If it snows while you're out of town, ask a neighbour to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.
- 6) If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see it's set.
- 7) A good security company alarms the window over the sink and the windows on the first floor,

- which often access the master bedroom and your jewellery. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.
- 8) It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella and you forget to lock your door Understandable, but understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.
- 9) I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. Don't take me up on it.
- 10) Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.
- 11) Helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.
- 12) You're right: I won't have time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.
- 13) A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're

out of town, you can buy a device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. Find it at: www.faketv.com/uk

14) Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook.

15) The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbours.

16) I'll break a window to enter even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbour hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.

17) I'm not complaining but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?

18) I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems. I'll drive or walk through your neighbourhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.

19) Don't announce your holiday on Facebook. It's easier than you think to look up your address.

20) To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.

21) If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk in.

Well there you are, a few helpful hints. With thanks to Hadley Wood News.

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BARNET BOROUGHWATCH

Support our stressed soldiers says Martin Bell

The Fair on November 6 in Fellowship House is being held in support of a worthwhile and very topical cause – help for those soldiers who suffer from mental injuries sustained in combat. Combat Stress is their charity. We are all aware of the costs of the present conflict in Afghanistan, in which our troops are engaged in the most sustained and intensive combat since the Korean War. We have seen the pictures of the weekly repatriation ceremonies in which the hearses pass through the Wiltshire town of Wootton Bassett. What we are perhaps not sufficiently aware of are the injuries sustained by soldiers who walk off the aircraft in Lyenham or Brize Norton apparently unaffected by their six month tours of duty in Helmand or Kandahar.

Post traumatic stress disorder – what used to be called 'shell shock' – can strike the soldier many years after the events that touched it off. The *average* delay

between a soldier being affected and seeking help is fourteen years. The Army is well aware of the problem and attaches no stigma to it. But it is a sobering thought that, while 250 soldiers and marines were killed in action in the Falklands in 1982, more than that number of Falklands veterans have taken their own lives since.

The war in Afghanistan may seem a long way from our peaceful Garden Suburb. But the casualties are being brought home to us both literally and figuratively. And I hope that the Combat Stress event will be well attended. My own interest in it is that of a former soldier (Private 23398941 Bell M of the Suffolk Regiment) and a reporter who has been close to our soldiers in recent conflicts.

The Army of today is better than the Army that I served in, not least because it no longer has me serving in it! It is also taking more casualties, both seen and

unseen. I believe that as individuals we can show our appreciation of the soldiers who risk not only life and limb, but also peace of mind, on our behalf.

MARTIN BELL

Saturday November 6, 10am-1pm Fellowship House, Willifield Green. If you are able to help, provide produce, home cooking or anything else please contact Ruth Smith, 8458 8191 or ruthafsmith@hotmail.com



Not enough rain, then it's too much

Summer of 2010 has been unusually interesting weather-wise, some might think much more aggravating than usual. A really hot summer seemed to be developing in June but did not materialise and August was much colder than usual. Rainfall, too, was very difficult. The extremes mentioned in this column for May intensified. On the first two

days of May 3.04 inches was recorded (as reported then in this column). However, excluding these two days, the total for May, June and July was only 2.43 inches, compared with a normal three monthly total of 6.86 inches. No wonder decisions of whether and how much to water were driving gardeners crazy. Lawns and plants were not at all happy. Trees, however, seemed to enjoy it, with their deep roots still accessing early May's bounty.

over an inch on the night of the 22nd, the rainfall was fairly evenly spread. As a result, there has been a late summer explosion in plant growth. Lawn mowing has had to begin again after a welcome earlier laziness. Fruit has been falling all over the place.

Then, at last, in August the rain came. And it went on coming, all 5.37 inches of it. This was a record in North London for the month. Since 1980, August 2004, with 5.35 inches, has been the only other August to receive over 4 inches and the average is just under 2.4 inches. Apart from just

With all the excitement of floods and droughts, the total rain so far this year has been just under 21 inches, compared with a norm of 18.56 inches. So, if the weather now calms down, overall the year may turn out to be rather average and we will all soon forget the precipitation of 2010. In other parts of the world, such as Pakistan, Russia and China, people might be glad to have our rather mini extremes instead of their much more lethal ones.

DIANA IWI

Gallery show successes



The annual summer show in the Henrietta Barnett School hall was much appreciated by arts and crafts furniture enthusiasts on the Suburb and from further afield. Running from the end of July for two weeks there was

constant stream of buyers looking to complement their arts and crafts period homes with the sort of furniture that fits in. Jeff Jackson who curated the exhibition, the fourth held so far, said, "We will certainly be

back next year and, in addition with the Gallery, are looking at mounting a different show for local painters earlier in the year."

NEW EXHIBITION IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS
Meanwhile, starting on the 14th November, we will be mounting an exhibition of work by Mari l'Anson, a well-known Finchley painter who will be showing mostly watercolours of local scenes, and from her extensive travels abroad particularly landscapes of Normandy. Suburb painter Annie Walker said, "It is obvious from her work that

here is a really well-trained artist." Mari says, "My paintings speak for themselves. I make no clever statements about how my work evolves, or what I feel. I simply enjoy what I do and hope my work speaks for itself and gives pleasure to others."

HEATH CALENDAR FOR 2011
Do you love the Heath? Then a calendar showing Heath scenes is available from the Gallery at £9. It is 33mm x 23mm (about 13 x 9 inches), will fit into the large size postal envelope and is shrink wrapped.

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The Gallery in Fellowship House

welcomes visitors to browse or buy the work of local artists.
Prints, watercolours, oils, and ceramics at all prices.
We also stock Suburb books, cards and other Suburbilia.
RA volunteers keep the Gallery open most days from 10.30am - 4pm except Saturday pm and Sundays.

GARDEN SUBURB GALLERY

Fellowship House,
Willifield Green, 136a Willifield Way
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