

# BLACKHEATH CATOR ESTATE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

Spring / Summer / Autumn 2016

## CASE HISTORIES

1. The man on your doorstep appears completely distraught, weeping and in a highly emotional state. He is, he claims, a near neighbour, though not somebody you know. His wife has rushed off in their car to take their young child to hospital - St Thomas's. He's desperate to follow her to find out about their child, but his money and his house keys were in the car. You invite him in to your house and offer to arrange and pay for a taxi. No, he says, he already has a taxi ordered. You generously give him £30 to pay his fare.

Later, you enquire about the child at the address he had given. You discover there are no children in that household. You also learn that another neighbour - one you know - has parted with £20 to someone with a similar tale.

*Sadly this is a true story - and one that has been repeated with minor variations at least six times on the Cator Estate since August. Not everyone has given money but this man (white, dark hair, in his 30's and, on at least one occasion, walking with a limp and supported by a stick) is clearly a very convincing actor.*

2. The polite teenage boy on your doorstep is asking for sponsorship for a 10k run organised by a local athletics club in aid of a cancer charity. He has a list of names and addresses and you notice that one or two of your neighbours have already signed up. Being of a suspicious nature you ask him to come back after he has completed the run. You check with the athletics club and find that no such event is planned. The boy does not return!

*This is a tricky one as these runs do take place and some very worthy young people do take part and merit our support. Perhaps it is best not to part with any cash until evidence of participation in an actual event can be provided.*

**If you think you have been approached by a con artist don't keep it to yourself.**

***Tell your Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator and we'll spread the word!***

**If you have been threatened or abused and would like police advice, contact your Safer Neighbourhood Team (details below).**



**Christmas is coming, but sadly, not everyone gets the goodwill bit. At this time of the year opportunist crime tends to increase so, amidst the festivities and travel, now is not the time to drop your guard.**

- Keep front and back doors locked at all times and keep keys and valuables out of sight and reach from cat flaps, letterboxes and downstairs doors and windows.
- If you're out in the evening make sure you leave a light on and draw the curtains.
- If it's dark before you get home, use timer switches to turn on the lights.
- Light up your front door with dusk to dawn lighting - make sure it's visible from the street.
- Don't leave tools lying in the garden, burglars could use these to break into your house.
- Keep sheds and garages locked and secure.
- Keep Christmas presents out of sight from passers-by.
- When recycling, fold up any cardboard boxes that might advertise your Christmas gifts to thieves.

**You don't know your local  
Neighbourhood Watch  
Coordinator??**

***There are currently 30 of us!  
Ask David Marler to put you in touch***

***Tel: 020 8318 5874***

## **YOUR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS TEAMS**

If you have any safety or security concerns they will be delighted to talk to you. They pride themselves on responding to any message within 24 hours. Try them!

**Blackheath Westcombe**

**020 8721 2635**

**Middle Park and Sutcliffe**

**020 8649 3538**

**Emergency? Dial 999**

**Not so urgent? Dial 101**

# CRIMEWATCH

## Crimes Reported on the Cator Estate

March to November 2016



### March / April / May

#### Burglaries

St Michael's Church  
Blackheath Park  
Guy Barnet Grove

#### Thefts from Vehicles

Blackheath Park  
Blackheath Park  
Streetfield Mews

#### Indecent Exposure

Foxes Dale

### June / July / August

#### Burglaries

Blackheath Park x 3  
Morden Road  
Fulthorp Road  
Manor Way

#### Theft from Vehicle

Manor Way

#### Cycle Thefts

Blackheath Park  
Morden Road

### September / October / November

#### Burglaries

Brooklands Park x 2  
Corner Green  
Foxes Dale x 2  
Holm Walk  
Manor Way  
Plantation  
The Hall

#### Attempted Burglaries

Holm Walk  
The Lane

#### Robbery

Morden Road

#### Vehicle Thefts

Papillons  
Foxes Dale

#### Vehicle damage

Manor Way

#### Cycle Thefts

Blackheath Park  
Manor Way

## By recent Cator Estate standards we've had a bad few weeks crime-wise

The last edition of this newsletter recorded just 17 incidents in the 40 weeks to the end of February 2016.

In the past three months alone there have been 16 reported crimes, with a total of 32 in the 40 week period as a whole.

The increase in burglaries and attempted burglaries and a handbag snatch in Morden Road are perhaps the most disturbing features.

Items lost from cars, homes and garages include computers, i-Pads, phones, clothing, a purse, a couple of Satnavs, six bikes and two cars.

The police tell us that some break-ins are motivated by the search for car keys - thieves can be in and out in 90 seconds. Keeping keys and other valuables upstairs is recommended.

Properties undergoing building work are particularly vulnerable and seem to be targeted as a source of tools and equipment - there have been 5 such incidents in this period.

Hopefully this mini-crime wave will soon subside and the downward trend of the last few years resume.

In the meantime, keep doing all the sensible things - lock up securely, use your burglar alarms, keep some lights on (inside and out), don't keep items you value in your vehicle, hide your keys.

Those of you reading this who have been recent victims will know how unnerving and upsetting such intrusions can be and the inconvenience and expense that can follow.

Generally speaking, crime on the Cator estate is fairly low. We can all help to keep it that way by doing our best to deter the opportunists and keep the "professionals" guessing.

### IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING, BUT ...

**If you see or hear something that could be terrorist related, trust your instincts.**

**Call the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321**

**Specially trained officers will take it from there.**

**Your call could save lives.**

**BLACKHEATH CATOR ESTATE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Funded by Blackheath Cator Estate Residents Ltd

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