

# BLACKHEATH CATOR ESTATE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

## Welcome to a new-look BCER Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter.

The origins of the Watch go back some 30 years and the Newsletter has been around for at least 20 of them.

The Watch is here to provide two-way communication between BCER residents and our local police force.

A team of volunteers, many of whom are very long serving, act as your Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators. Their role is to communicate with specific areas of the Cator estate.

Quarterly meetings between this group and local police officers provide opportunities to air concerns, exchange experiences and get up to date information and advice relating to local crime trends and policing issues.

Liaison with the local police units has been complicated in recent years by a reorganisation that split the Estate into two "Safer Neighbourhood Areas" north and south of the centre line of Blackheath Park. ('Blackheath Westcombe' to the north, 'Middle Park and Sutcliffe' to the south).

It is worth bearing in mind that the population of the Cator Estate is less than 15% of these two wards as a whole and that we are a relatively low crime area.

Crime rates in neighbouring areas are significantly higher. Violent crime, theft and antisocial behaviour are of much greater concern there and require far more attention from tightly stretched police resources.

It is for this reason we think it important to provide and maintain an active and constructive dialogue between our residents and the local police services.

It is unrealistic to expect that crime can be entirely eliminated from the Cator Estate but there is much we can do for ourselves to minimise its incidence and impact.

Neighbourhood Watch has a role in helping to achieve this. To be effective active support from residents with a range of skills will continue to be required. (See side panel).

As you will see, I have collated crime statistics from 20 years' worth of Newsletters to create a picture of crime trends over time. To provide further perspective I have also attempted to illustrate how we fared in the wider scheme of things in 2018.

Thank you for reading this far! I hope I've piqued your interest enough to encourage you to read on.

**Philip Smith, Editor**  
nw@blackheathpark.net

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** (PLEASE DON'T LOOK AWAY NOW!)



The Neighbourhood Watch is supported financially by BCER Ltd. This covers the costs of this publication and the quarterly meetings. However .....

**If this Neighbourhood Watch is to continue to serve a useful function here for another 30 years then we need your help to to bring us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century!**

One priority is to enhance our communication options both within the estate itself and with other Safer Neighbourhood initiatives nearby.

Communication with the Estate's Resident's Associations currently works reasonably well. It is far less successful in respect to the 60% of us who are not represented in this way.

*We are hoping that someone reading this will be willing to to advise us on the setting up and maintenance of an appropriate social media presence. The aim would be to improve our ability to share alerts relating to criminal activities as widely as possible as and when they arise.*

We would also appreciate expert help to develop a web site to provide a locally relevant starting point to access the wealth of advice, guidance and support available on all aspects of crime prevention and victim support

**Finally, just to keep going as we are, we need more Coordinators. If that role is not for you, simply offering to help distribute the Newsletter from time to time would be hugely appreciated.**

Right now, support from residents is required for deliveries in **Quaggy Walk, Blackheath Park, Paddock Close, Bernersmead and Morden Road.**

*If you feel you can help in any way, particularly if you live in one of these areas, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our Chairman, **David Marler**. He will be delighted to hear from you.*

( Contact details below).

**BLACKHEATH CATOR ESTATE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Funded by Blackheath Cator Estate Residents Ltd

**CHAIRMAN David Marler** Tel: 020 8318 5874 Email: dmarler@talktalk.net

**Online :** [blackheathcatoestate.co.uk/links.htm](http://blackheathcatoestate.co.uk/links.htm)



# CRIMEWATCH

July 2017 to March 2019

## Burglary

Blackheath Park x 3  
 Papillons x 2  
 The Priory x 2  
 Priory Park  
 Foxes Dale x 5  
 Futhorp Road  
 Sweyn Place  
 Morden Road  
 Morden Road Mews  
 The Plantation  
 Brooklands Park x 3  
 Manor Way x 2  
 Brookway x 2

## Attempted Burglary

Blackheath Park  
 Brookway x 2  
 The Priory x 2  
 Parkgate  
 Foxes Dale x 2

## Criminal Damage

The Hall  
 Foxes Dale  
 The Keep  
 The Priory  
 Fulthorp Road x 2

## Vehicle Theft

Foxes Dale  
 Parkgate  
 Parkgate (m/cycle)  
 Morden Road x 2  
 Morden Road Mews  
 \*The Lane  
 (\*attempted)

The Plantation  
 Manor Way  
 Meadowcourt

## Vehicle Damage

Brookway

## Theft From Vehicle

Blackheath Park x 9  
 Brooklands Park  
 Manor Way  
 The Keep x 2  
 Papillons x 2  
 The Lane  
 Foxes Dale  
 Morden Road  
 Fulthorp Road x 2  
 Pond Road  
 Corner Green

## Cycle Theft

The Hall  
 Foxes Dale

## Robbery

Blackheath Park x 2  
 Morden Road

## Assault/GBH

Fulthorp Road x 2

## Public Order

Blackheath Park

## Dangerous Dog

Pond Road

## Cannabis Warning

Blackheath Park  
 Fulthorp Road

## Harassment

Sweyn Place

## Fraud

The Keep

### As ever, burglary and vehicle crime dominate the statistics over the past seven quarters.

Incidents reported here range from the mean spirited theft (and later trashing) of a specially adapted vehicle to the blatant theft of a catalytic converter from a hybrid vehicle in Blackheath Park.

Houses undergoing building work, especially those with scaffolding, remain a magnet for opportunist thieves.

Each incident, big or small, leaves a trail of anger, violation, inconvenience and cost in its wake.

Seen in isolation these figures make uncomfortable reading. But are things getting worse? Are we experiencing an upsurge in criminal activity?

**It would seem not. Crime figures for the Cator Estate have been published in our Newsletters covering every quarter since June 1999 based on data supplied by our local police force.**

The graph (1. opposite) summarises the data for burglary and vehicle crime over 20 years.

Apart from the noticeable "spike" in the first quarter of 2003 (which came to an end with the arrest of a single prolific offender outside the Bowling Club in Brooklands Park) the overall trend, in line with national statistics for these categories, is downwards.

The main decline was quite abrupt. From 2011 onwards these crime numbers more or less halved.

Figures for the last 18 months indicate a continuing downward trend and are lower than the most recent ten year average as the data in the table illustrate (2. opposite).

The Bigger Picture in 2018 (opposite) shows the figures for the Borough of Greenwich and for the two relevant Safer Neighbourhood Areas of which the Cator Estate is a (small!) Part.

Despite increased crime rates in the Borough as a whole, burglary and vehicle theft were lower than the previous year at Neighbourhood level though theft from, and criminal damage to, vehicles saw a significant rise. The Cator Estate itself, whilst suffering a spate of car thefts, experienced a greater overall reduction in reported crime than its immediately surrounding areas.

Reassuring, perhaps, but not grounds for complacency.

Disconcertingly there have already been several burglaries on the estate in 2019. We hope this will prove a "blip" and not a sign of an upward trend.

The requirement for common sense precautions (see back page) and neighbourly vigilance won't go away any time soon.

### CONTACTING 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**

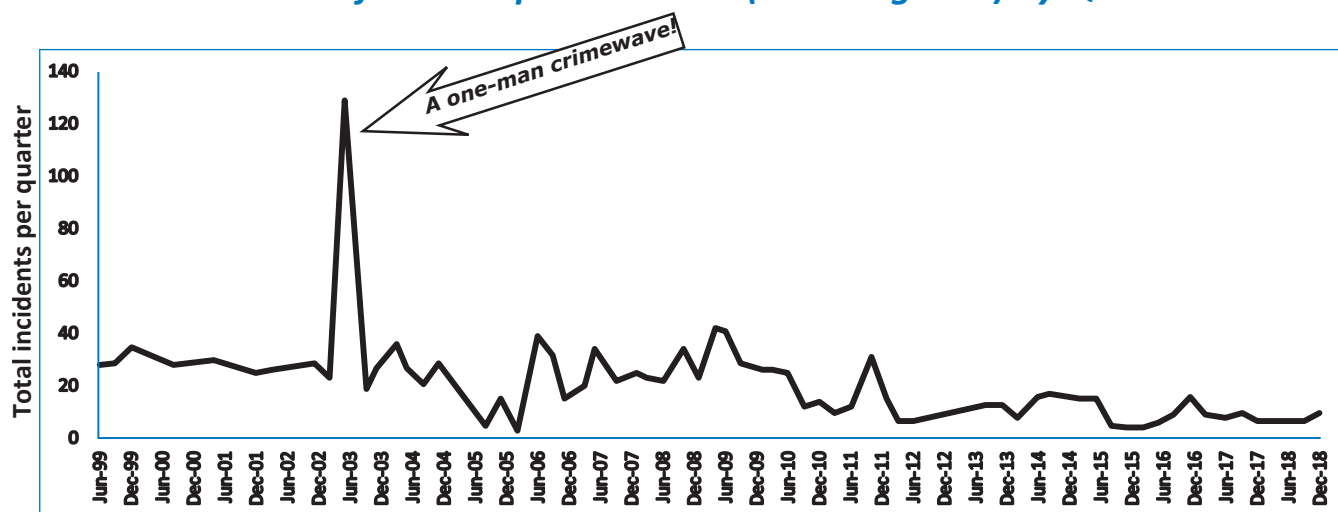
**Middle Park and Sutcliffe 020 8649 3538**

**Emergency? Dial 999**

**Not so urgent? Dial 101**

## Blackheath Cator Estate Crime Statistics June 1999 to December 2018

### 1. Plot of Total Reported Crime (All Categories) by Quarter



### 2. Selected Crime Categories Over Time 1999 - 2018

Criminal Activity	1999 - 2009		2010 - 2018		June '17 to Dec '18	
	Incidents	Average/Quarter	Incidents	Average/Quarter	Incidents	Average/Quarter
Burglaries and attempts (Residential)	331	10.3	160	5.0	25	4.2
Burglaries and attempts (Garages/sheds)	147	4.6	43	1.3	0	0.0
Theft from or damage to vehicles	396	12.4	108	3.4	13	2.2
Theft of vehicles (including motor cycles)	80	2.5	28	0.9	8	1.3
Theft of bicycles	25	0.8	52	1.6	2	0.3

### The Bigger Picture in 2018

#### Selected Crime Categories at Borough, Neighbourhood and Estate Level

Criminal Activity	Royal Borough of Greenwich	Blackheath Westcombe with Middle Park & Sutcliffe	Blackheath Cator Estate
Burglary - Residential	3,398 (+ 16%)	449 (- 9%)	17 (- 11 %)
Theft from, or damage to, vehicles	3518 (+ 15%)	448 (+ 26%)	9 (- 10 %)
Theft of vehicles (including motor cycles)	2148 (+ 11%)	573 (- 1.8%)	5 (+ 67%)
Theft of bicycles	698 (- 1.7 %)	56 (- 4.5%)	0 (- 100 %)

Total number of recorded crimes in each category (% Change from 2017 in brackets)

Source of Borough and Ward data:  
Source of Blackheath Cator Estate data:

[www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/met/crime-data-dashboard/](http://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/met/crime-data-dashboard/)  
Neighbourhood Watch Newsletters 1999 - 2018 (Police data)

**Peter Moss** produced fifty lively Newsletters between 1999 and 2012. They reflect the concerns and changing crime patterns (and publishing software!) over this period but the underlying messages and advice remain remarkably consistent throughout. Here are three items from the archive.

(From the archive: Winter 2009)

## ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE INSURED?



**Ten reasons why your insurance company may refuse to pay out**

1. If you leave windows open or unlocked where locks are fitted.
  2. If a burglar is able to gain unforced access to your home.
  3. If your locks are described incorrectly on your policy.
  4. If you have a burglar alarm but don't use it.
  5. If you don't report the crime to police.
  6. If you don't secure valuables in the garden that are not specifically covered by the policy (barbeques, lawn mowers etc).
  7. If you don't secure tools or garden implements that are then used to break into the house.
  8. If you fail to notify your insurer that builders are on-site.
  9. If you leave your home unoccupied for more than 30 consecutive days.
  10. If you use your home as a place of business without notifying your insurer.
- Insurers want to keep their customers happy. If you are unsure of your cover give them a ring - they are usually helpful and obliging.**

(From the archive: Autumn 2008)

## HOW TO MAKE YOUR HOME MORE SECURE . . . .

**In 3 out of 10 burglaries, thieves do not have to use force. They get in through an open door or window.**

**The following 'top tips' have been drawn up by police and the Home Office to help reduce the risk of burglary:**

1. **Windows** - in just under one third (30%) of burglaries with entry, the thief gained access through an unlocked door or open window. Make sure doors and windows are locked particularly when leaving the house.
2. **Lighting** - leave a light on in a room to give the impression there is someone at home. 58% of burglaries take place in the evening or night and 34% occur at the weekend. Time switches can be fitted to operate radios and lights when you are out.
3. **Burglar Alarms** - visible burglar alarms make burglars think twice. Those connected to a monitoring service are the best, get specialist advice and several quotes.
4. **Keys** - never leave a spare key in a convenient hiding place such as under the doormat or in a flowerpot - a thief will look there first. If you've moved into a new house, consider changing the back and front door locks - other people may have keys that fit. Never leave keys near a window or door (thieves are increasingly stealing car keys so they can take cars, often using a hook or magnet on a stick pushed through the letterbox).
5. **Secure all doors** - if your front and back doors are not secure, neither is your home. Thieves are most likely to target doors when attempting to break in (67%). Check the condition of the frames, hinges and glass panels. Fit devices such as chains and door viewers. Patio doors will also need special fitted locks.
6. **Garages and Sheds** - are often left unlocked and may be full of tools ideal for breaking into the rest of the house. Half of burglaries in 2001-02 involved some form of property damage. Fit sheds and garages with strong padlocks and ideally an alarm. Always lock ladders in the garage or shed to stop a thief using them.
7. **Curtains**. Don't leave your curtains in the 'half-drawn' position when you go away. This is a sure sign to a thief that no one's at home.
8. **Good Neighbours** - if you see anyone acting suspiciously in your neighbourhood, call the police on 999.

**? QUESTION: HOW CAN I PREVENT THEFT FROM MY CAR?**

**ANSWER:** Don't leave anything inside.