



**Hillingdon
Neighbourhood
Watch**

www.hillingdonnhw.co.uk
Email: all@hillingtonnhw.co.uk
Tel: 020 8246 1869



Police Non Emergency: 101
Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

Ruislip Police Station: 020 82461825

February 2017 Newsletter

Data from MPS Hillingdon

Residential Burglaries =WEEK ENDING=

To contact your ward Local Neighbourhood Police Team, phone: **0208 721 followed by:**

- 2554 - Barnhill
- 2757 - Botwell
- 2551 - Brunel
- 2550 - Cavendish
- 2552 - Charville
- 2548 - E'cote & ERuis
- 2544 - Harefield
- 2557 - Heathrow
- 2553 - Hillingdon East
- 2543 - Ickenham
- 2549 - Manor
- 2545 - Northwood
- 2546 - Northwood Hills
- 2556 - Pinkwell
- 2011 - South Ruislip
- 2009 - Townfield
- 2782 - Uxbridge North
- 2758 - Uxbridge South
- 2018 - West Drayton
- 2547 - West Ruislip
- 2733 - Yeading
- 2713 - Yiewsley
- TOTALS**

25 Dec	1 Jan	8 Jan	15 Jan	22 Jan
0	3	0	2	0
1	2	2	0	1
4	0	2	2	1
7	4	4	2	3
0	1	5	1	2
3	6	5	2	2
0	2	0	0	0
2	2	1	0	3
1	6	4	2	1
1	4	3	1	2
0	5	4	5	0
4	1	2	2	1
4	4	5	2	1
2	1	2	2	2
1	2	1	2	2
0	0	1	2	2
0	2	5	1	2
1	1	5	0	2
3	3	3	1	3
0	2	2	1	1
1	5	2	4	0
1	1	1	1	1
36	57	59	35	32

Apology: Owing to circumstances beyond our control, paper copies of the **January Newsletter** were unavailable for distribution at the usual time. You will now be able to read this overleaf. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by the delay.

As the weather improves (hopefully!) doorstep traders will be out and about plying their wares and some may well be bogus. Remember that burglars won't go to the trouble of breaking in if they can just knock on the door and be invited in. You need to be vigilant by taking notice of the following advice:

- Don't be forced into making a quick decision on the doorstep.
- Get at least three quotes from reputable (and, if possible, recommended) companies who have reputations to maintain.
- Only deal with genuine verifiable 'phone numbers and addresses. Beware of companies that only use mobile numbers and accommodation addresses.
- Anyone who signs a contract on the doorstep following a visit that was not arranged (unsolicited) does have seven days in which to cancel it by law. All cancellation rights must be provided in writing to the customer at the time the contract is agreed (usually on the doorstep). It is an offence not to do so.
- If you do not wish to speak to the trader, don't open your door to them. It can be difficult to distinguish the good traders from the cowboys and it might be easier to keep the door closed. Never allow uninvited callers into your home.
- Refuse to be taken to the bank to withdraw money. If you ever feel intimidated by callers, close the door and call the Police.
- All watch members should have a blue/white sticker which is aimed at discouraging doorstep traders to call. If you do not have one, ask your Co-ordinator who can obtain supplies from our office.

Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch is supported by Hillingdon Community Trust and the London Borough of Hillingdon

Keep in Touch
Co-ordinators and neighbours, please keep in contact on the HNW telephone number above, via email or write to us at Ruislip Police Station, 5 The Oaks, Ruislip HA4 7LE. Our website also contains further information on topics in this newsletter www.hillingdonnhw.co.uk



Key boxes: A cautionary tale reached our ears recently regarding a burglary enabled by the burglar's ability to break into a key box and use the key to gain entry into the property. This poses quite a problem since many elderly and vulnerable residents have installed these boxes so that carers and others can gain access in an emergency. Our advice is to install such boxes out of sight to the general public and to carry out extensive research before purchasing a particular model. We are informed that You Tube carries a number of films which demonstrate just how quickly and easily some boxes can be opened without needing to know the combination.

Payment Diversion Scam: Fraudsters are emailing people who are expecting to pay a contractor for property repairs. The fraudsters will purport to be a tradesman who has recently completed work on a property and will use a similar email address to that of the genuine tradesman. They will ask for funds to be transferred by bank transfer. Once payment is made victims of the scam soon realise they have been deceived when the genuine tradesman requests payment for work carried out. Protect yourself by:

- Always checking that the email address is exactly the same as on previous correspondence with the genuine trader.
- Verifying the validity of the message with a 'phone call to the person you have employed.
- Checking the spelling and grammar as these can be signs that the message is not genuine.
- Noting that payments via bank transfer offer no financial protection. Consider using a credit card or PayPal, both of which offer protection and an avenue for recompense.
- If you are a fraud victim report it to www.actionfraud.police.uk/report-fraud, Tel:0300 1232 0140

Currently the newspapers are full of holiday supplements. If you are **booking a holiday** you are most likely to do so via an on-line website. Do be careful to:

- Book through a reputable company which is a member of a recognised travel authority.
- Call the owner/agent of a private villa/apartment to check its authenticity.
- Pay only by credit card and on a web page with **https://** prefix and padlock in browser window.

Welcome to new watches in Glenister Gardens (Townfield) and Sutherland Avenue (Botwell). Do look on our website for further useful information and offers open to watch members.

**BE AN ACTIVE GOOD NEIGHBOUR,
BE ON WATCH AND
BE ON A WATCH**