



Cressida Road

Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter September 2013

(Co-ordinator Tom Forde)

Burglaries

These offences are somewhat up on the figures for a similar period last year.

Two recent offences, where builders tools were stolen, the offender, I am pleased to say, is now behind bars. It was thanks to your vigilance that he was captured.

Someone suggested that a good way to scare off burglars is to write the words **Job Centre** over your front door. A better way of course is to utilise the Smartwater www.smartwater.com property marking kit that has been issued to each household by the Hillrise Safer Neighbourhoods Police Team. Smartwater has a unique identifying code that can be used in a criminal trial to identify stolen property. It provides irrefutable evidence that will secure a criminal conviction. Burglars tend to avoid homes where smartwater has been used and where smartwater stickers are displayed on the doors and windows of such dwellings.

Crime figures and crime prevention advice can be obtained by contacting the Hillrise Safer Neighbourhood Police Team on:

[www.http://content.met.police.uk/Team/Islington/Hillrise](http://content.met.police.uk/Team/Islington/Hillrise)

Cowboy Builders

This is the time of year when so-called tradesmen knock on doors offering to carry out repairs to roofs or to do small jobs of painting etc. Don't entertain them. Many of these gents learn the basics in prison or whilst on parole. Then they set themselves up as professional builders. Have you ever thought? Your burglar of today could be your cold call builder of tomorrow?

Conservation Matters

One of the great success stories of the *Shakespeare Roads Association* (Cressida Road, Lysander Grove, Miranda Road, Prospero and Parolles Roads) was the achievement of conservation status. The conservation legislation has discouraged the DIY/Cowboy Brigade from causing damage to the original features of our homes. If changes are made without planning permission, such as the installation of plastic/aluminium windows, the painting or plastering of brickwork or the replacement of slates with concrete tiles, the value and appearance of the property is reduced considerably. What is even worse, the value neighbouring properties is also affected. It is always wise to obtain planning advice before making any alterations to dwellings. Contravention of conservation regulations often results in expensive enforcement orders being made.

Cont'd.....

Rubbish

From time to time an old fridge or seattee appears on street corners although recently I did see an old mattress, in fact two mattresses - dumped by the double bends. This is a break with tradition. It is in Camden that one usually sees the dumped mattress and in Islington the seattee – or was that the other way around? I keep forgetting. We know that this rubbish is not left by any of the Cressida Road residents. We are much too clean and civic minded to resort to such behaviour. Dumped rubbish is always an eyesore and can be a health hazard, as are the dog stools that appear on the public pavements and in the park. One is reminded again of a verse from the poem by fellow Irishman, Oliver Goldsmith.

Elegy on the Death of a Mad Dog.

*And in that Town (Islington) a dog was found,
As many dogs there be,
Both mongrel, puppy, whelp and hound,
And curs of low degree.*

Goldsmith of course was talking about good and evil. He was relating to the heroine in the novel Clarissa - similar in a way to the message of our neighbourhood watch scheme.

There are many breeds of dogs in Islington but they are not the problem. It is the irresponsible behaviour of dog owners, who frequently fail to clean up their dogs' doings, that is the real issue. Islington Council has been promoting a campaign to discourage dog mess called "Shop a Dropper" and they have formed a new Dog Squad to deal with this problem.

This new squad will identify dog-mess hotspots, and residents are being encouraged to "shop a dropper" and report dog owners who refuse to clear up.

Anyone caught failing to clear up after their pet will be given an £80 fine. If they don't pay, they will be taken to court, risking a criminal record and higher fines and costs.

Islington residents who want to report a dog-fouling hotspot or to "shop a dropper" can tell the Dog Squad about someone who regularly lets their dog foul – by calling 020 7527 7272.

For more information see www.islington.gov.uk/dogsquad or on Twitter #thedogsquad

Finally, I must commend the many residents who have spent so much money on carrying out high quality improvements to their homes. Well done - keep up the good work.

I must dash now; I can hear a dog barking somewhere.

Tom Forde
Co-ordinator