

# Croydon Eye

SUMMER 2018



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

## A Big Thank You...

**T**hank you so much to those of you who have donated to Croydon Neighbourhood Watch since our appeal in the last Croydon Eye.

Thanks to your generosity and continued help and support from our 400 volunteers, we are now fortunately in a position where we can remain up and running for the next 12 months.

We still need sustainable, long term funding in order to remain operational in the future and we will continue to endeavour to secure this from Trusts, Charitable Commissions and local businesses as well as our own fundraising efforts.

It has been a busy few months with the new data regulation; GDPR and the re-warding in Croydon which has changed many ward boundaries and names of wards in the borough.

We have been working alongside the National Neighbourhood Watch who are also aware of the challenges we face and we are trying to build on our successes but also work on areas where we need to be better.

We want to be a credible, reliable and relevant community resource but most of all we are passionate about looking after our communities and trying to keep them as safe as possible.

We hope you enjoy this summer edition of our newsletter and find it useful, but if you don't, please email us and let us know what you think we could be doing better.

We have included input from the local police force and Croydon Trading Standards as well as tips to keep your house and home safe this summer.

Lastly, we wish you and your families a safe, happy and long summer holidays!



Our Chairman, Brian Udell (on the right) at our Fundraising Lunch

### Local Policing Update

Due to the recent re-warding, the email address and contact details of your local police, the Safer Neighbourhood Team or SNT, may have changed. If you are unsure of this or would like more information, please get in touch with us and we will try to help.

The plans to merge the police forces of Croydon, Sutton and Bromley into one Borough Command Unit (BCU) have been pushed back to early 2019. Crime statistics in the area where you live can be found online at [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk).

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## Neighbourhood Policing

CRAIG KNIGHT - CHIEF INSPECTOR  
SOUTH AREA NEIGHBOURHOODS

**H**ello everyone. I have the honour of leading the Neighbourhood policing teams at Croydon, Bromley and Sutton and wanted to say thank you for all your hard work and offer my thoughts on this summer and how you can all help keep your community safe.



As we progress into late summer our gardens, houses and cars become opportunities for crime. Make sure your windows are closed when you're not in, valuables are not on display from outside and in this balmy weather when you are asleep your windows and doors downstairs are secure.

Cars need to be locked and windows even if left slightly open, can offer easy targets. If you have a dog, of course don't leave them in the car in this hot weather.

We tend to see an increased number of doorstep callers offering roof work, gardening, driveways and so on as the evenings become lighter. Take the advice of trading standards and police and don't buy at the door or invite anyone in unless it's an appointment you have made with a reputable trades person.

Keep those valuable garden tools in sheds and garages locked away when not in use and think about an alarm on any outbuildings.

Items in cars, however low value, are easy targets. Remember that thieves don't care if it's an easy win.

If you go away, ask neighbours you trust to keep an eye on things. Make sure parcels and letters are not easily viewed or stolen and use your house alarm and overnight light timers.

If you see something suspicious don't think we already know. Go online or dial 101 and tell us. Give as much detail as you can. Descriptions, vehicle registrations, time and place, anything you think may help us. Your eyes and ears often make that vital difference in catching offenders and preventing crime and antisocial behaviour.

Finally, thank you. Police rely on strong communities and the difference you all make is enormous. Please don't underestimate how important you all are in keeping your communities safe and feeling safe. Police and partners are ever grateful for the hard work and diligence you all display.

Thank you and have a fantastic summer.

# Community Matters...

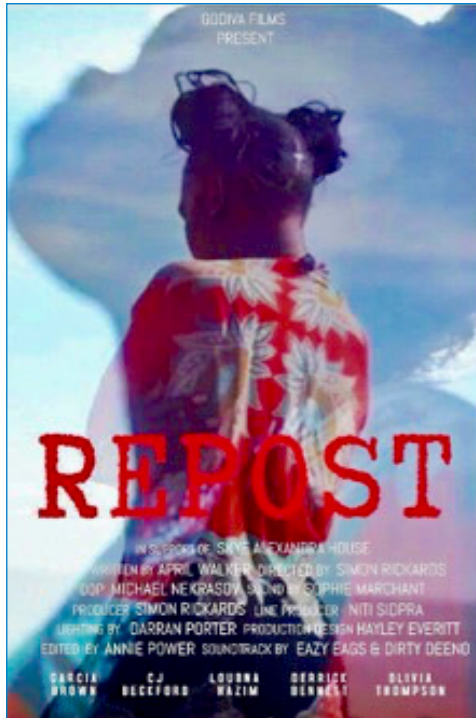
Croydon NHW has been trying to reach out to other charities in the community to learn about the work that they do and see where we can help and support each other.

Last month we met up with Sherica Spence, founder of Skye Alexandra House. Skye Alexandra House was founded in 2014 to help vulnerable young women in Croydon. Latest Met Police figures show a 49% increase over the past couple of years in London of crimes connected with child sexual exploitation. New NHS figures show that the number of children and young people self-harming has risen dramatically in the past 10 years.

Many young women in Croydon have sadly often experienced abuse; sexual, mental or physical. Many have also got involved in gangs, crime and drugs.

Often when faced with one or several of these issues, young people are forced to function without the necessary skills to cope with situations they face in life. Without the necessary coping skills, young people are then often unknowingly vulnerable to abuse from others, such as parents, family associates, peers and strangers.

Skye Alexandra House provides a safe haven,



training and support to remove young girls from these vulnerable situations and provide them with the guidance to make good decisions and lead fulfilled lives. Sherica and her small team are immensely passionate about the support, growth and personal development of girls and young women. Since their inception, they have supported over a thousand girls and raised awareness across the London boroughs and beyond.

Their latest project to raise awareness of the issues young women are facing is a short feature film called 'Repost'. The film was showcased at The Thornton Heath Arts Festival and has generated publicity appearing on BBC London News.

The film is already being used as an interactive learning and training tool for secondary schools and colleges.

If you would like to find out more and discuss a future booking for a school or youth group or would just like to find out more about and support the charity, please get in touch via their website:

[www.skyealexandrahouse.co.uk](http://www.skyealexandrahouse.co.uk)

## Doorstep Traders and Cold Callers Advice from Croydon Trading Standards

The warm weather seems to have brought with it an increase in cold callers at the door; offering to do all sorts of work e.g. gardening, tree cutting, general roof repairs.


In general, these types of cold callers are not legitimate tradesmen, they do not have the skills or safety equipment to do the job properly and you run the risk of being defrauded and having damage caused to your property.

In addition, Croydon Trading Standards have noticed an increase in previous victims being retargeted. Croydon Trading Standards have made contact with people they feel may be at risk from being targeted again to remind them of the risks they face when dealing with doorstep tradesmen. If you know a person who has been a victim of doorstep crime previously, please consider checking on them.

### HOW TO PREVENT BEING TARGETED:


- DO NOT open the door to cold callers and DO NOT employ the services of cold caller
- NEVER agree to let any doorstep caller do work there and then, even if they tell you it is an emergency repair
- ALWAYS ask for ID and do not let the caller in unless you have verified their identity with their employer
- SHUT the door and ring your insurance company if you have any concerns over alleged roof damage due to wind/rain etc. They may agree to send an assessor to check. You can also find a reputable company to carry out a safety check using [www.trustmark.org.uk](http://www.trustmark.org.uk)
- TRY TO ENSURE front gardens and the front of your property look tidy and well kept as untidy gardens and dated paintwork encourage cold callers to knock at a house to offer their services
- REMEMBER – It is your home. You should not feel pressured to let anyone in or to do any work against your wishes.

IF IN DOUBT – KEEP THEM OUT!

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