

Unite against the criminals

by ALISON McMEANS

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A SECURITY awareness meeting was held in the Greenwich Communications Centre on Trafalgar Road, on June 6

The purpose of the meeting was to raise awareness of the measures which can be implemented to prevent local business people becoming victims of crime.

Five people were invited to speak: Andy McVicar from the Greenwich Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team; Richard Whitbread a crime prevention design adviser from The Met; Sebastian Clifford from Box Security; Jerry Collier from Fast Systems Consultants; and Ian Cheshire, an emergency planning and resilience officer.

McVicar told the assembly about several suspects who had been apprehended in the area for burglary.

He said: 'Police do have a role to play but you do need to take responsibility for your own property.'

Crime prevention advisor Richard Whitbread said: "Each business has its own issues in terms of security and I am able to do site specific reviews of any premises.'

Collier spoke about contingency planning and said: "There is a benefit to

thinking about this before it happens — proactively thinking about your business."

He recommended coming up with a plan of action should a problem arise. He explained: "Look at what you use in your business and make a list of what resources you can keep off-site."

He also advised keeping all computer back-up files, not just accounts, off-site: "The three most important parts of IT preparation are back-up, back-up, back-up."



Director of the Greenwich Communication Centre and organiser of the security evening, Lorraine Turton

NOTICES

● BRINGING DOWN GOOGLE: A 27-year-old entrepreneur has started a search engine to challenge Google's dominance. When Adam Blair launched windizzi.com in April, he had more than 79,000 search queries in the first three weeks. The content, results, features and design of the site will be decided by the users. Even the company logo will be decided by users by vote. Users can also register as a founding member for free, which will entitle them to a small share in the company.

● MANAGING TO INSPIRE: A forum for women and entrepreneurship will take place on June 15. The theme is inspiring others. The networking and training event will begin at 9am at Greenwich University Old Royal Naval College. Successful business women will offer advice on all aspects of starting and running a business.

For more information, call 0208 301 8660.

● STEPPING OUT: A Greenwich company has won an award. Bullfrogs Clothing and Shoe shop, Nelson Road, was voted Best Young Fashion Footwear Retailer of the Year, at the Drapers' Footwear Awards, on May 16. The annual event is organised by fashion B2B magazine Drapers to celebrate the best retailers.