

BROMLEY HEATH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2011 EDITION

'Working Together, Keeping You Safe.'



Your Contact Person is

At Number.....

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As we reflect on Summer and move into Autumn, we all need to remember the new threats that the darker evenings bring – especially remembering to set those electric timers. We also had a house fire on our patch, so we've included some useful tips and details of a free Home Fire Safety visit that is available to residents. Finally, we've got some success stories (that were only possible because of vigilant residents) that we are keen to share with you.

101 Replaces 0845 456 7000

From 19th September, for non-emergency Police calls, residents should use the easier-to-remember **101** rather than the old 0845 number (hearing impaired textphone is 18001 101). Calls will cost just 15p from landlines and mobiles regardless of call length or time of day. 999 should still be used for emergencies We've updated our "Useful Numbers" below so make sure you replace the one near your phone.

Community Discussion Evening 2012

Do you have any ideas for our meeting next May? Are you (or do you know) a good speaker on a topic related to what we do? Go on, get in touch!

Welcome Packs

If you are a new resident to Bromley Heath we do our best to drop a 'Welcome Pack' from your local Co-ordinator and Contact Point through the door. It's there to say 'Hello', let you know who we are, and explain what the Watch is all about and the area it covers. Unfortunately, we don't catch everyone, for a variety of reasons, so if you have moved in recently and not received a pack - **'Welcome'** and do please use the contact details on the back page to let us know and we'll get one to you.

MS-2 'at the heart of our community'

This Autumn, Raj and Cam look forward to welcoming old and new customers alike to their store on Quakers Road. Look out for their special offers. Why are they at the heart of our community? Well we have reported in past issues their ongoing generosity and sponsorship of BHNW, but that hasn't stopped them fund raising and donating to BH Infant School and they have again nearly filled that trusty sweet jar, with the aim of donating the contents to the successful Heathfest committee!



Don't forget that as well as offering an amazing range of goods on our doorstep, a wide range of supporting services are available too, and MS-2 is now supporting the new Health Lottery – so pop in and pick up your ticket.

MS-2 is now offering Collect+. Have parcels delivered to MS-2 and collect when convenient, or send trackable parcels to friends/relatives or eBay traders. Ask in store, or go to www.collectplus.co.uk for more info.



We are very grateful to the local businesses that advertise in this newsletter and hope that you will support them; however, we cannot endorse or recommend their services.

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MS2 Stores - 75 Quakers Rd, 9575904

Fire – Queensholm Drive

We were all shocked to learn of the recent fire in our patch, and our thoughts and offers of help go out to those affected.

We all must be aware of the risk of fire and what to do should it happen. Avon Fire and Rescue's website (www.avonfire.gov.uk) provides some excellent tips and advice. There is also a [free](#) Home Fire Safety visit available to everyone (call 0800 1693 999) where officers will visit and can supply and fit free smoke alarms. Even if you do not need this service, think whether it may benefit anyone you know.

Fire advice (from www.avonfire.gov.uk) includes:

- Get a smoke alarm -
 - It can give a precious few minutes of warning, enough to get you and your family out safely
 - They only cost around £5 and are easy to install
 - Test your alarm once a week, say, a Saturday morning. Vacuum gently at least twice a year and replace the batteries annually – or get the modern alarms with a 10 year battery
- Chip pans
 - Avoid if possible. Never fill more than a third
 - If the phone/doorbell rings, turn off the heat
 - If it catches fire, do not move it. Turn off heat, get out and stay out, and call the fire service.
- Night time fire safety
 - Switch off electrical appliances/portable heaters
 - Close all doors at night
 - Never smoke in bed
- Escape Plans
 - Plan what to do if a fire starts at night and the power fails, including how to get everyone out
- What to do if a fire starts?
 - If possible, close the door (and windows) of the room where the fire is, and close all doors behind you as you leave. Use your escape plan
 - Don't try to pick up valuables/possessions – the delay could be fatal
 - Never go back in, unless told it is safe
- What to do if cut off by the fire?
 - Shut the door and block gaps with (wet) towels
 - Escape through the window if possible



Badminton Road Methodist Church Making Connections – Building Communities



If you are reading this and you would like to do something creative - read on. If you would like to spend time somewhere as a family - then read on. If you would like to meet other people and talk - then read on. Do you like food? - then read on: this could be exactly what you need.

Messy Church is a time to celebrate together, get messy and creative, share stories, play games and come together to eat. It is for all ages and it is (I assure you) everything that you would not expect to find in a 'Church'. It is chaotic, loud and laughter fills the spaces – it is for all ages from the very young to the not so young, what is there not to enjoy?

We, at Badminton Road, felt that it was time that we brought 'Messy Church' to our community. Messy Play and Messy Space continue to be hugely popular – if you have come and enjoyed these sessions then I hope that you will come to Messy Church, please try it even if you 'have never been to Church' or you think that 'Church is not for you'; I hope that you will try it and see that it may be more than you first imagined.

Our **Messy Church 'Shoebbox celebration'**, which supports the Samaritans Purse, Operation Christmas Child appeal, is on **Saturday 19th November** starting at 4.30p.m. Our 'messy' celebration will show you just how much of a difference each shoe box can make in the life of a child. Please bring whatever you can, one gift or a whole box – it all makes a massive difference. Come and celebrate with us.

For more information about Samaritans Purse please go to www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk In December we are holding our **Messy Church 'Christingle'** on **Saturday 17th December at 4.30pm**. Come and make a Christingle, prepare for the Christmas festivities and join in with some carols all done in a Messy Church fashion.

Oh and if that wasn't enough our **Crib Service is once again on 24th December at 4pm**. Everyone is welcome, come and help us re-tell this wonderful Christmas story. Tinsel and 't'owels at the ready!

I do hope that you will come and try our 'Messy Church'. For more information about these or any of our activities, please email jenny@badmintonroadmethodist.org.uk

Quakers Road Post Office and Mace Stores



We've revised our opening hours for your convenience to:
Mon-Thurs 7am-10pm
Fri and Sat 7am-11pm
Sun 7am-9pm

Siayma and Muhammad welcome you to our newly refurbished Quakers Road Post Office and Mace Stores! We are local and now offering you better products, services and offers.

Do support your local post office and please feel free to pop in and ask about our post office products.

Community Discussion Evening 2011

Our meeting back in May was well attended, and in the last newsletter we simply ran out of space to report on it.

Residents were treated to a presentation by the CSI (Crime Scene Investigation) team who showed just how much can be recovered from a crime scene, including being able to identify exactly which screwdriver had been used to prise a window (from its unique shape) and how they could recover DNA from sweat, hair or saliva. Residents were amazed when the team then demonstrated how they can lift previously hidden dusty footprints from flooring. Everyone took away the importance of leaving a crime scene untouched and not contaminating the evidence before the CSI team can investigate.

Billy Burns captivated the attention of the hall when he spoke about being shot in 1983 as a Police Constable called to an armed bank robbery which ended up in Quakers Road. He also spoke of being able to help the shooter turn around his life. The residents particularly liked the gruesome pictures!

Finally, Chris Skidmore MP sent through some kind words, including: "I've seen what anti-social behaviour and crime can do to local neighbourhoods", "Watches like yours ensure that the vulnerable don't feel alone - because they can rest assured that the community is looking after them", "You should all feel very proud for the work that you have done for the Bromley Heath community, and the silent majority of people who you have made their lives feel safer."

GONE

- Graffiti/Tagged Once-Neutralised Efficiently

There are a number of cases of graffiti across our patch, and if not dealt with they tend to attract more. However, whether the graffiti is offensive or not, the Council are not obliged to remove it. Through PACT, BHNW has submitted a bid to the Safer and Stronger Community Fund for resources to help us help residents remove graffiti from their properties and our communities. We'll find out if we're successful in December, so watch this space!

Distraction Burglary Success Stories!

Unfortunately our area is often the target of Distraction Burglaries (where people call at your house pretending to be from legitimate companies but with a view to conning or stealing) and it is all too common for us to receive reports that residents have been affected – so much so that it is a regular newsletter item. However, we're delighted to report in this edition that BHNW and vigilant residents have foiled three schemes in the last few months!

The first incident was thwarted by an elderly lady who was approached by 3 people asking to check her electricity and gas meters. Being quick, she demanded ID, and when the callers could not produce it she did exactly the right thing and refused entry and reported it to the Police so that details could be circulated. Well done to you.

The second incident was from a company called Everlast Paving. BHNW were contacted by a resident who was concerned that callers from this company were using pressure selling and ripping off customers when offering to pressure-wash their drives etc. and then quoting for further work. The information was circulated with a leaflet drop organised by BHNW, and shortly after one of our committee spotted the van operating in the area. The Police were called, and after verifying the details asked the company to leave the area. Trading Standards were also informed and are actively investigating this company's practices.

Finally, and whilst not strictly distraction burglary, another illegal activity was stopped by a keen-eyed resident who noticed a car repeatedly parking up and meeting other cars in his quiet street. Spotting that this looked like drug dealing the resident was quick enough to note down the registration of the vehicle (without putting themselves in danger) and reported this to Police who were grateful for the information and sent the resident a letter of thanks.

These three cases show that you, as our residents, are the eyes and ears of the community. Without your vigilance, more people could have fallen foul. However, by working together and reporting these incidents, our community was protected.

Further information on distraction burglaries will almost certainly be in future editions, but if you need advice now please get in touch.

Cycle Thefts

We're receiving a high number of reports of bikes being stolen across the patch – even from inside sheds and garages. Please take a moment to review your shed/garage security. Excellent advice can be found in our Summer 2011 newsletter (available on our website if you've recycled yours), and don't forget to register your bike at immobilise.com or the bike marking stickers that are available from the Police.



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Communication Critical!

Contact Points -it wouldn't be a success without them.

A good neighbourhood watch scheme relies on committed and effective contact points – and that's what we've got here in Bromley Heath.

Across our area approximately 150 good people have volunteered to support their community and make it happen!

There are some contact areas without a volunteer. Not many, as in lots of cases the outgoing person recruits their successor. If that doesn't work we do a 'flyer' drop or two to recruit someone new.

If your newsletter comes through the door without local contact person details on the front, why not get in touch (see the bottom of the back page for details) and we'd be happy to chat the role over with you.

Recently some of our contacts have 'retired' and we've received the sad news in some cases that some of our volunteers have passed away in service - probably having been 'in' from the start of the Watch 25 years ago! Our thanks and gratitude, thoughts, condolences and good wishes go out to the individuals and families concerned.

THE MANOR COTTAGE Residential Care Home for the Elderly



Please Telephone us for a Brochure:

0117 9560161

Beckspool Road, Frenchay,
Bristol, BS16 1NT

School Grounds Damage

Sadly, over the Summer there were a few incidents of damage at the Bromley Heath Schools. These incidents were speedily reported and investigated by Police. In addition, BHNW helped to support a local resident who was determined to prevent future occurrences - by motivating the community through a letter campaign to be extra vigilant of people using the school grounds and to report anything they saw. Alongside this, two other members of the BHNW committee were working with the schools to help with a bid for improved fencing and gating. This is a great example of the community working together – well done to all those involved!

Should you spot anything suspicious please do report it as this is an example that it makes a difference.

Useful Numbers		
Neighbourhood beat manager's office		0117 9454137
Police Main Switchboard		101 (new)
In Emergencies Only		999
Emergency text for deaf, deafened, hard of hearing and speech impaired people		80999
Crimestoppers		0800 555 111
Street Care: (Litter, Lighting, Pavements, Graffiti, etc.)		01454 868 000
Stray Dogs (South Glos Council)		01454 868009
BHNW		0117 9563325
Beat Mobiles		
PC. James Rochford		07919 628312
PC. James Willoughby-Smith		07778 470354
PCSO Katrina Sheldrake		07795 503243
PCSO Ross Rugman		07825 388935
Please tag calls as NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH		

Why not cut these out and put them by your phone?

Melanie's Kitchen



"good food, real ingredients"
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Bristol, BS16 5UJ
0117 957 2662

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Bring in this advert to receive a free tea or coffee when you have a cake or a snack in our cosy cafe.

www.melanieskitchen.co.uk

Top Tips for the Autumn

- Don't forget to use automatic light timers
- Stay safe during Halloween and Bonfire night. We've put some Halloween advice on our website
- Thieves still work on Christmas day, avoid advertising your new gifts by leaving cardboard boxes outside
- Bad weather can encourage guttering/repair con men. Don't be pressure-sold!

Crime in the Bromley Heath Area (Jul-Aug)

Crime	Location
Burglary	Heath Walk, Wedgewood Road
Anti-social Behaviour	Bromley Heath Road, Bury Hill, Cleeve Lawns, Cleeve Road, Fouracre Road, Greenleave Close, Heath Walk x2, Queensholm Close, Queensholm Crescent, Wedgewood Road x2, Queensholm Drive, Heathfields, Cleeve Avenue
Vehicle Crime	Heath Road, Oakdale Court, Wedgewood Road, Cleeve Hill, Badminton Road
Violent Crime	Oakdale Court, Queensholm Close, Windsor Court
Other Crime	Bury Hill, Cleeve Lawns, Fouracre Avenue, Fouracre Road, Glendale x2, Queensholm Close, Sandringham Park, Heath Road, Windsor Court

PACT – Partners and Communities Together

Abbreviated current priorities (agreed 7th Sept):

- Anti-social behaviour-Emersons Green Skate Park
- Crossing (Traffic Island) on Bromley Heath Road
- "Boy Racers" on Oakdale Road
- Lack of dropped kerbs in Badminton Gardens

The next meeting for the Downend, Bromley Heath and Emersons Green area will be on the 6th Dec at the Badminton Road Methodist Church at 7pm.



For Professional Advice - Locally!

- Mortgages
- Protecting against Death, Serious Illness or Loss of Income
- Building & Contents Insurance
- Savings & Investments
- Pensions
- Writing a Will



For information –
Contact **Jason King – A resident of Bromley Heath**

On either **07557 367 357** or **0500 346 494**
email jasonking@acgmortgages.co.uk

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage



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Telephone: 0117 9563325

Email: contactus@bhnw.org.uk

Website: <http://www.bhnw.org.uk>

This newsletter is also available in other formats.