



# BROMLEY HEATH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER SPRING 2005: EDITION I

Your Contact Person is.....At Number.....

## HAPPY NEW YEAR! And welcome to this issue of the BHNW newsletter

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## New Community Group for Bromley Heath Playing Fields

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2005, at Bromley Heath Junior School, members of our community, representatives of BHNW and BHRAG, Mrs. Tina Rainey (S. Glos council officer) and Parish Council Representatives met to take forward this exciting new initiative.

**\*\*\*\*STOP PRESS\*\*\*\***Excellent news! Following a second meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> March, a committee has been formed of local volunteers to take things forward. Improvements can already be seen around the park and lookout for a greatly improved play area for toddlers and their slightly older siblings shortly. More details on this in later editions.

### MARK'S BEAT SURGERIES

Mark Leicester our Beat Manger is planning more Beat surgeries in Bromley Heath. Residents will be able to drop in for discussion or to raise concerns, at Downend Baptist Church., BHNW will advise of dates and times in the next issue. **WATCH THIS SPACE!**

### END OF AN ERA FOR GENERAL STORES

Vejay, Doli and their family are moving on to pastures new and will be handing over Shakti Stores to new management very soon.

We would like to wish them all the best for the future and say a big thank you for their services over the past few years.

### GOOD NEWS (NEWSAGENTS) BAUGH GARDENS

NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES (INCLUDING DELIVERY SERVICE). CONFECTIONERY, ICE-CREAM, GREETINGS CARDS, GIFTS AND TOBACCO.  
OPEN MON-SAT 6AM - 1PM - 2PM - 6PM (SAT 5PM)  
AND SUN 7AM- 12PM

### HAYMAN BUILDING DESIGNS

ARE YOU RUNNING OUT OF SPACE?  
DO YOU NEED EXTRA ROOM?  
~ NEW BUILDS ~ EXTENSIONS ~ LOFT CONVERSIONS ~

TEL 956 5845 MOB 0775 287 2112

## What's the Buzz on Scooters and Gopeds?

Many Children will have a goped or scooter at the top of their wish lists. But parents are being urged to consider the law before purchasing these goods.

It has been ruled that a motorised scooter, electric or power driven and variously known as goped or buzzboard, is a motor vehicle for the purposes of the Road Traffic Act 1988. This means:

It cannot be used on the highway, which includes, the road, pavement, cycle path, verges, public parks or any other public accessible area.

Trading standards officers are concerned that some retailers are misinterpreting what these scooters can be used for and promote these items as toys.

Police urge people to report retailers causing concern to the trading standards office

Bristol Office: 0117 922 3522

## CYCLISTS SLOW DOWN!!!!!!!!!!

An elderly woman was hospitalised recently, when a youngster on a bicycle collided with her as she walked out of a local driveway, onto the pavement.

Parents, please ensure that if your children are cycling on the pavements, that they are travelling at an appropriate speed, and have time to stop for pedestrians who have **right of way** on the footpaths.

Please refer to the community safety and behaviour charter for guidance.

# BHNW COMMUNITY SAFETY & BEHAVIOUR CHARTER

In the last issue we asked you for your thoughts on the Charter, Have we got it right? Or is it Rubbish?

ARE BHNW, THE PARISH COUNCIL AND SOUTH GLOS COUNCIL DUPLICATING EFFORTS REGARDING THE CHARTER? DOES THE WATCH ACTIVELY CONSULT WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL

Chair's response: We don't think so. Our document builds on these larger organisations' work, but is very much our local hard work.

Yes, the document needs some appendices to support it. We hope residents will come to our annual meeting, see topics elsewhere in the newsletter and help us clarify the detail.

CONCERN AROSE DUE TO "WISHY-WASHY" STATEMENTS IN THE CHARTER REGARDING THE INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH RESIDENT OF BROMLEY HEATH. SHOULD EVERY PERSON BE PROACTIVE? THE DRAFT DOES NOT INDICATE, SPECIFICALLY OR SAY HOW. SHOULD WE "WATCH THIS SPACE" FOR SPECIFICS?

"THOUGHTLESSNESS" AND "DISREGARD FOR OTHERS VIEWS OR FEELINGS" OVERLAP CONSIDERABLY.

By thoughtlessness, we mean activities carried out with no thought for one's neighbour. The remedy to this behaviour is concerned with making people more aware of the way their choice of lifestyle or activities affect other peoples' quality of life. Whereas disregard for other's views and feelings is a deliberate act.

One of the best initiatives going on today is the push to resolve issues at the lowest level, using mediation if necessary. BHNW sees a role in helping to contribute to this approach. However, we fully appreciate that there are other matters that our partners should deal with, and where our input would be different.

OBJECTION TO THE CONCEPT OF BEING DICTATED TO BY EITHER AN AUTHORITY OR A NEIGHBOUR, OVER SUCH MATTERS AS UNTRIMMED HEDGES OR EXCESSIVE NOISE ETC. IF ACTION IS WARRANTED, IT SHOULD BE BY A COMPETENT AUTHORITY E.G. POLICE, TRAFFIC WARDENS, COUNCIL OFFICIALS.

**Melanie Wills New Neighbourhood Watch Administrator for South Gloucestershire Police**

## Melanie Writes:

I am looking forward to working within this role as I believe that we should encourage a community spirit back into our neighbourhoods.

I believe that neighbourhood watch is an excellent scheme, as it not only helps reduce crime within our areas but also encourages neighbourliness and closer communities

Melanie is based at Staple Hill Police Station

## Useful Numbers

**Police Main Switchboard: 0845 456 7000**

**In Emergencies Only: 999**

**Street Care: 01454 868 000**

If you need assistance with stray Dogs, Litter, Lighting, Pavements, Graffiti

## Is your Household Insurance safe?

"There are signs up in my street, doesn't that mean, I live in a neighbourhood watch area?"

Neighbourhood watch stands for people actively engaging in the reduction of criminal activity in their locality and taking positive actions.

This could have implications on your home insurance! If you have told your insurers that you live in a neighbourhood watch area to get that discount, and your watch isn't fully functional, the insurers might not like it.

## To improve your watch

Contact your area contact point whose name and number is on the front page.

**BHNW would like to thank residents for all their help with the Charter. You will find your personal copy enclosed**

**We hope you will retain your copy and ensure all your family members have read it and hopefully will engage with it.**

BHNW would be delighted to welcome you to our successful and popular Discussion Evening/AGM. Which, will be held this year on 11<sup>th</sup> May at Bromley Heath Junior School.

## DIY SHOP SUCCESS!!!

Kim and Paul recently became the new management for the DIY Shop in Baugh Gardens and would like to thank everyone for such a great start. They are now offering **DAILY DELIVERIES**

**New Opening times below:**

**8.30-6.00 Mon to Sat**

**9.00-1.00 Sun**

**(Open Lunchtimes)**



# Householders and the use of force against intruders

Joint Public Statement from the Crown Prosecution Service and the Association of Chief Police Officers



## What is the purpose of this statement?

It is a rare and frightening prospect to be confronted by an intruder in your own home.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and Chief Constables are responding to public concern over the support offered by the law and confusion about householders defending themselves. We want a criminal justice system that reaches fair decisions, has the confidence of law-abiding citizens and encourages them actively to support the police and prosecutors in the fight against crime.

Wherever possible you should call the police. The following summarises the position when you are faced with an intruder in your home, and provides a brief overview of how the police and CPS will deal with any such events.

## Does the law protect me? What is 'reasonable force'?

Anyone can use reasonable force to protect themselves or others, or to carry out an arrest or to prevent crime. You are not expected to make fine judgments over the level of force you use in the heat of the moment. So long as you only do what you honestly and instinctively believe is necessary in the heat of the moment, that would be the strongest evidence of you acting lawfully and in self defence. This is still the case if you use something to hand as a weapon.

As a general rule, the more extreme the circumstances and the fear felt, the more force you can lawfully use in self-defence.

## Do I have to wait to be attacked?

No, not if you are in your own home and in fear for yourself or others. In those circumstances the law does not require you to wait to be attacked before using defensive force yourself.

## What if the intruder dies?

If you have acted in reasonable self-defence, as described above, and the intruder dies you will still have acted lawfully. Indeed, there are several such cases where the householder has not been prosecuted.

However, if, for example:

- having knocked someone unconscious, you then decided to further hurt or kill them to punish them; or
- you knew of an intended intruder and set a trap to hurt or to kill them rather than involve the police,

you would be acting with very excessive and gratuitous force and could be prosecuted.

## What if I chase them as they run off?

This situation is different as you are no longer acting in self-defence and so the same degree of force may not be reasonable. However, you are still allowed to use reasonable force to recover your property and make a citizen's arrest. You should consider your own safety and, for example, whether the police have been called. A rugby tackle or a single blow would probably be reasonable. Acting out of malice and

## Will you believe the intruder rather than me?

The police weigh all the facts when investigating an incident. This includes the fact that the intruder caused the situation to arise in the first place. We hope that everyone understands that the police have a duty to investigate incidents involving a death or injury. Things are not always as they seem. On occasions people pretend a burglary has taken place to cover up other crimes such as a fight between drug dealers.

## How would the police and CPS handle the investigation and treat me?

In considering these cases Chief Constables and the Director of Public Prosecutions (Head of the CPS) are determined that they must be investigated and reviewed as swiftly and as sympathetically as possible. In some cases, for instance where the facts are very clear, or where less serious injuries are involved, the investigation will be concluded very quickly, without any need for arrest. In more complicated cases, such as where a death or serious injury occurs, more detailed enquiries will be necessary. The police may need to conduct a forensic examination and/or obtain your account of events.

To ensure such cases are dealt with as swiftly and sympathetically as possible, the police and CPS will take special measures namely:

- An experienced investigator will oversee the case; and
- If it goes as far as CPS considering the evidence, the case will be prioritised to ensure a senior lawyer makes a quick decision.

It is a fact that very few householders have ever been prosecuted for actions resulting from the use of force against intruders.

**For more information visit: [www.cps.gov.uk/publications/prosecution/householders](http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/prosecution/householders)**

**True Vision of reporting Hate Crime**

Avon and Somerset Constabulary is behind a new initiative aimed at encouraging victims of hate crime to come forward: The **"TRUE VISION"** project.

Hate Crime is any incident committed against a person or their property that is motivated by hatred or dislike of a person because of their gender, race, religion, disability or sexuality

It is recognised as one of the most unreported crimes and can have a devastating effect on those being targeted. True Vision is working closely with Support against racial incidents (SARI), THE Somerset Racial equality Council, Terrence Higgins Trust and Somerset Gay Health in getting the message across to those most likely to be victims

True Vision is distributing packs which contain useful information on personal safety, domestic violence and bullying, with a self-reporting form for hate crime.

For more information on True Vision visit [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk) or [www.report-it.co.uk](http://www.report-it.co.uk)

**New Legislation means better deal for Victims of Crime**

Criminal Justice Agencies in Avon and Somerset have welcomed the Governments new Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act, which received Royal Assent recently

"One of the top priorities for Avon and Somerset Criminal Justice Board (ASCJB) is to improve the service we offer to victims and witnesses of crime. We welcome the fact that the new act will set out the level of support, information and advice which victims and witnesses can expect from criminal justice agencies."

One of the measures of the new act will see the biggest overhaul of domestic violence Legislation for thirty years, including measures such as, making common assault an arrestable offence and making breach of non-molestation order a criminal offence, punishable by up to five years imprisonment.

**BHNW COMES INTO THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY!!!**

You can now send us your questions, feedback etc. to our email address: [BHNWatch@aol.com](mailto:BHNWatch@aol.com)

We also would like to know if you would like to receive your Quarterly newsletter by email and we would also be able to send all urgent communications received from the police quickly and effectively.

**B.H. INFANTS SCHOOL**

A school crossing patrol is needed. Have YOU got what it takes – Could YOU do this?

- Approx 5hrs per week
- £5.68 per hour
- AM & PM shifts and
- Job share possible.

Help us to ensure the safety of your local school children.

Please contact: Wendy Feltham on 01454 863611 of S. Glos Council.

**Secure your Computer Equipment**

**Don't lose your valuable computer equipment to the opportunist burglar**

**Choose your security product:**

**Property Marking:** Self explanatory does not prevent removal of you equipment but may discourage. Very helpful for police identifying your stolen goods. Average price £30.00

**Cable and Lock Devices:** Simple but effective, but offer little or no defence against the organised thief Average price £40.00

**Lock Down Systems:** Secures your computer to the surface with adhesive pads or bolts Effective. Average price £50.00

**Data Access Control:** Wide variety on offer from encrypted code software to physical denial of access to drives. Average Price £25.00

**Equipment Alarms:** Usually take the form of movement detectors and incorporate a sensor which will activate an audible alarm. Average price £65.00

INTERESTED IN BECOMING INVOLVED IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH? WANT FURTHER INFORMATION?

CONTACT THE WATCH CHAIR BILL CROCKER ON 956 3325 OR EMAIL [BHNWATCH@AOL.COM](mailto:BHNWATCH@AOL.COM)

OR SNIP OFF THIS SLIP WITH YOUR MESSAGE AND DELIVER IT TO YOUR CONTACT POINT

**Name:.....Address.....**

**Tel Number.....**

**Comments:.....**

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