

BROMLEY HEATH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER SPRING 2012 EDITION

'Working Together, Keeping You Safe.'



Your Contact Person is

At Number.....

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.....And much more!

Come to our Community Engagement Evening 2012

Tues 29th May, 730pm - 930pm
Bromley Heath Junior School

After last year's excellent 25th Birthday Event, which was enjoyed by so many, we were slightly concerned that we wouldn't be able to top it this year. However, we've done it again!

As well as the usual chance to meet all your neighbours, in an informal setting, we have lined up some amazing speakers:

Be Careful Out There! - What are 'they' up to?

Advice including avoiding online scammers and protecting the vulnerable on the doorstep – keeping ourselves safe and helping others using recovered funds.

Mark Pullin of South Gloucestershire Council Trading Standards.

Tell Us About It? - Report crime to help detection.

Gordon Chisholm of Crimestoppers and Insp. Deryck Rees

Justice and Payback! - Successful conviction - assets recovered and what happens to them?

Dr K. Cogram of the Proceeds of Crime Police team

For committee nominations, votes for existing members, or to come forward yourself, please contact our secretary Julie on 0117 9078597 or 0781 6364980.

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Top Tips for the Spring

- Be careful as the weather improves with leaving open windows unattended, especially if they can be used to access the property.
- Secure garden boundaries - including side access - using high fencing, locked garden gates, thorny hedges and security lighting.
- Always keep outbuildings locked and secure.
- Register valuable items, especially cycles, on www.immobilise.com
- Remember to remove keys from locked windows and to keep them out of sight in a safe place.

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 speak with your contact person (details above) or use the contact details on the back page to let us know and we'll get one to you.



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Badminton Road Methodist Church



Over the past few years Badminton Road Methodist Church has really turned into something of a 'Messy phenomenon' – alongside our regular Sunday morning worship there has grown a whole new community, a community that comes along and takes part in all sorts of 'messy' activities. It has been a really exciting time and we cannot wait for the next chapter to unfold. We are considering how we can expand our unique 'messy' brand into other clubs and activities – a messy after school club, more messy space sessions and the continued growth of Messy Church – all very exciting!

But for those of you who do not know about our work – here is a brief overview!
Messy Space on Tuesday mornings for our preschool audience is proving hugely popular – it seems children and adults alike can't get enough of the mess, glitter and glue.
Messy Play is still a hugely popular play date and, for us, it is wonderful to welcome back familiar faces that we have seen over the years. The summer will bring forth more sessions, still on Wednesday mornings - including our giant painting, ice cream factory and loads more things to do! Messy Church has just bowled us over! We have been thrilled and delighted with the number of people who come along. We enjoy it so very much – it is hard not to get caught up in the enthusiasm. Last Saturday we 'did' Easter – it was eggs galore and wonderful worship with lively songs all proving very popular as did the delicious food! Messy Church really is for everyone, and as I have said many times before – it is probably not what you would expect; it is a long way from a stereotypical church service! Please do think about coming along – I don't think that you would be disappointed.

Finally...we have also updated our webpage and we are now 'twittering' or 'tweeting' (not sure which is the right phrase), and we are on Facebook – so you can follow us and catch up with all the things that are going on. Alternatively you can phone me, Jenny (Families and Community worker) on 0117 3309071, or email jenny@badmintonroadmethodist.org.uk for further information or to talk about anything. Our webpage www.badmintonroadmethodist.org.uk Or follow us on: www.facebook.com/MethodistsBR Or Twitter: MethodistsBR

A Message from Constable Rochford

"Our team would like to reassure residents in the Downend area that the recent spike in crime has been, predominantly, due to the targeting of sheds and garages by offenders. Dwelling burglaries remain rare in the area.



The Beat Team have made a concerted effort to tackle this spike, which has resulted in the decline of offences. We worked into the early hours over most of the last 6 weeks and stopped anyone who appeared suspicious. This has, no doubt, had the result in sending out a message to potential offenders that the local police are out in force in plain clothes, as well as uniform, on mountain bikes, off road motorcycles, cars and vans, and of course, foot patrol. We also had the Police helicopter assist us on a number of occasions and conduct regular high altitude checks of the area.

If necessary we will conduct further such operations. On a positive note, the number of non-dwelling break-ins to garages and sheds has significantly reduced. I would urge residents to review their security at this time of year, especially with regard to tools/cycles. The immobilise.com site is excellent for recording identification marks and helps us lock up more offenders."

MS-2 - A Premier Local Store

Raj and the team are again pleased to announce that they are sponsoring BHNW's annual Community Engagement evening on the 29th May 2012.

They look forward to seeing you on the evening and tempting you with some wine tasting, soft drinks, cheese and other nibbles! These will of course give a flavour of what's on offer at the store on Quakers Road.

Great news for the shop too, as coming in the summer, is a National Lottery outlet. Raj is very excited about the new facility and knows it will be a popular addition to the existing range of services provided.



Spend over £25, and get a chance to win £100,000!

MS-2 is now offering Collect+

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



MS2 Stores - 75 Quakers Rd, 9575904

"Unsung Heroes"

Last time, we reported that we'd presented Bill Crocker with a certificate for having been our Chairman for 10 years and that we'd nominated him and Ron Coleman for the South Gloucestershire Council Chair's Community Awards (designed to "recognise and celebrate the valuable contribution local unpaid volunteers make to life in South Gloucestershire").



We're delighted to say that they both won! In March, they both attended a meeting in Filton where they were presented with their awards and a paperweight. They even got a mention in the Post, who used the term "Unsung Heroes".

Well done both of you – well deserved.

Heathfest 2012

Sat 7th July from 1pm – 6pm



As Angela Athay-Hunt, Heathfest

2012 Co-Chair explains: "For the third year running Bromley Heath Community Festival (Heathfest) will be taking over Bromley Heath playing fields from 1pm – 6pm with an even wider, fresher range of attractions! From live music to Zorb balls, dog training demos to pony rides and of course the wonderful 37th Kingswood Marching Band all topped off with a range of food and drink.

Heathfest is organised and run entirely by a volunteer team of local parents who firmly believe in celebrating the community we are all part of as well as, hopefully, drawing together local residents. As one local resident put it, 'I have had a really good chat with someone who lives two doors away from me but because I work full time we have just been on nodding terms for the past few years.'

Fancy sparing a few hours and being a marshal on the day? Contact - heathfest@gmail.com or join our Facebook group".

Welcome PC Wayne Hodge

Last time, we reported that James Willoughby-Smith has left the Downend and Siston Beat and has been replaced by PC 2808 Wayne Hodge.



We caught up with Wayne and asked him to tell us a bit about himself, and he said "I have 6yrs service as a PC. I started my career working in South Bristol, working from Bishopsworth Police Station and then Broadbury Road Police Station. I worked as a Beat Manager on Knowle and Filwood for 2yrs before transferring to Staple Hill Police Station to serve the communities of South Gloucestershire. I worked on a squad for the past 2 years tackling offences of assault specifically. I enjoy neighbourhood policing and working long term with the communities to tackle its problems and providing a reassuring presence. I am a family man with 2 children and enjoy spending my time keeping fit". We've heard great things about you Wayne and we look forward to working with you.

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Watch THaT Speed

One of the top items of feedback from residents in D&BH to the Community Plan questionnaire was to express their concerns about the speed of traffic on our roads.

THaT (the Traffic, Highways and Transport action/sub group) is

tasked with taking forward those particular targets in the published community plan. Its first priority has been to consider forming a voluntary Speedwatch, in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council, Neighbourhood Police and BHNW.

After looking at what Speedwatch has achieved elsewhere and how one is set up and managed, 4 volunteers have already come forward to be trained and start helping to make that difference in our community. More are needed to get it off the ground, make it sustainable, effective and to share the duties. To tempt you further, some key points and information about Speedwatch:

- Motorists who speed through residential neighbourhoods are very often unaware of the impact their actions have on local residents, or the danger they pose
- It is often found that offenders are themselves local to the neighbourhood
- A Community Speedwatch can be set up in any village, small town, or urban area, governed by either a 30 or 40 miles per hour speed limit
- Community Speedwatch is a partnership with an aim to tackle the problem of speeding motorists, therefore improving the quality of life of residents
- A Speedwatch consists of local residents, who are willing to volunteer a small amount of time to monitor speeds with speed detection equipment
- Persistent offenders will receive a second warning letter, and on a third occasion, offenders can expect further action by Police.
- At present there are in excess of 100 Community Speed Watch schemes successfully running within the Avon and Somerset area.

Could you be one of the team? If so contact Bill Crocker, the Chair of the action/sub group on 956 3325 or email us (details on the back of the newsletter).



Computer Running Slow?

We're still getting a number of reports of scam calls claiming to be from a PC Helpdesk, where their server has detected that your computer is running slow. We first reported this last Spring and they're still about – be on guard when answering the phone.

Further 'No Cold Calling Zones'

Last year, thanks to the efforts of one of our committee, Rose Cane, we managed to get Oakdale Avenue and Oakdale Court designated as 'No Cold Calling Zones', backed by South Gloucestershire Council Trading Standards. Uninvited callers are not just an irritation, as this is also a technique used by distraction burglars pretending to be legitimate tradesmen. Regular readers will know this is a big problem in our area. Rose is now working with South Gloucestershire Council to get Sandringham Avenue and Badminton Walk designated as 'No Cold Calling Zones'. Residents should expect consultation letters soon, and if after reading the letters over 20% of residents object then the zone will not go ahead. Residents in established zones are reminded to immediately inform any Cold Callers that they have mistakenly entered a zone, as this can protect neighbours from further calls.



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SSCG - Safer Stronger Community Groups

Abbreviated new priorities (agreed 1st March):

- Road Surface in Oakdale Road, Sandringham Ave and outside Quakers Road shops
- Jubilee Crescent/Blackhorse Road - Speeding
- Downend School – obstructions at drop off/pick up
- Poor and obstructive parking - Emersons Way
- Anti-social Behaviour near the library in Emersons Way
- Anti-social Behaviour at Downend Day Centre - Overndale Road

New priorities will be agreed for the Downend, Bromley Heath and Emersons Green area on the 24th May 2012 at the Downend Baptist Church at 7pm.

Farewell – Ed.

As reported last time, Mark Garland, our current newsletter editor, will be moving to a new role to focus on our Website and to establish a Facebook and Twitter presence. If you have any thoughts of what you'd like to see online, let us know.

This very edition is his last and we're currently looking for a new editor to start from May. We've had one or two interested parties but as yet nobody has signed up.

Mark added "I volunteered as the Newsletter Editor as I felt I wanted to 'give something back' to the Community and this role meant that I could put my IT skills to use. Whilst it can be a reasonable amount of work, and I have found it challenging when deadlines are close, I have certainly found it rewarding and would recommend anyone to give it a go."

Interested? Get in touch!

GONE - Graffiti/Tagged Once-Neutralised Efficiently

Last time, we reported that we'd been successful in bidding for £750 from Safer Stronger Community Groups, and we've had welcome and kind support from the Downend and Bromley Heath Parish Council to the tune of £1000. This funding allows us to start tackling some of the graffiti that blights our area – and removing existing graffiti is important as it reduces the chances of more appearing. If you know of some within our boundary, do please let us know and we'll do our best to get it removed.

Crime in the Bromley Heath Area (Dec-Feb)

Burglary	Wedgewood Road, Badminton Road (Leap Valley end), Scantlebury Close, Queensholm Crescent (Quakers end), Quakers Close
Other Thefts	Queensholm Close, Heath Road
Antisocial Behaviour	Glendale, Badminton Walk (Cleeve end), Baugh Gardens x2, Greenleaze Close x2, Bromley Heath Road (near Heathfields), Bromley Heath Playing Fields x2, Quakers Road (shops area)
Criminal Damage and Arson	Heath Walk, Badminton Road (Leap Valley end)
Vehicle Crime	Bury Hill View x 2, Oakdale Road
Violent Crime	Glendale, Bury Hill View, Badminton Road (Leap Valley end), Queensholm Close
Robbery	Glendale
Other Crime	Greystones

101 Reminder

Just a quick reminder for residents that **101** is the number to use for non-emergencies (replacing the old 0845 number), and 999 should always be used in an emergency.

Call Tagging

On the numbers below, we always ask that residents "tag" calls to Neighbourhood Watch, and we've had some feedback that people might not know what this means. In short, should you have cause to phone the Police (and we're thinking non-emergencies here!), you just need to ask the operator to 'mark' or 'tag' the call to Neighbourhood Watch. This then shows up in the Police statistics, and helps us show the Police how effective we are being at helping them.

Useful Numbers

Neighbourhood beat manager's office	0117 9454137
Police Main Switchboard	101
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. Wayne Hodge	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?



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.