



# BROMLEY HEATH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2005 EDITION

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

**Welcome to our Summer Edition, we hope you are enjoying the beautiful weather IN THIS ISSUE.....**

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## Nominated Neighbour Scheme

As part of the scheme, a resident who does not recognise a caller at the door can hand over a card showing the house number of a nominated neighbour.

The caller must talk to that person first, who can check his or her identity. Once the caller's identity has been confirmed the nominated person returns to the neighbour's house and stays with the caller while they conduct their business.

Police have seen an increase in the number of requests for Nominated Neighbour packs and more people are now prepared to report incidents.

Crime reduction officer PC Rob Saunders said: "The feedback we have received from neighbourhood watch groups and residents themselves has been tremendous. More people are now telling us they have turned away suspected bogus callers and not allowed them into their homes.

"We are encouraged by the impact nominated neighbour has had and urge people to take up the scheme which will help to make your community a no-go area for distraction burglars.

**Distraction burglary accounts for more than four per cent of all burglaries reported but only one tenth of distraction burglaries are actually reported.**

It is hoped that the SWEB Energy sponsored scheme will take head-on the scourge of the elderly and vulnerable – the distraction burglar.

**For a free pack contact the local crime reduction unit at Staple Hill Police station or BHNW**

**MS – 2 STORES ( FORMERLY SHAKTI )**

**Welcome to the new owners, Raj and Kam of MS - 2 Stores on Quakers Road!  
There's a grand store opening taking place soon with prizes, give a way's, tastings etc. – look out for it! A flier will come through the door with more details.**

**They are open from 8 to 8 Mon to Friday and 9.30 to 8 on Sat/Sundays.**

**Look out for their special offers which will change every 4 weeks!!**

## BHNW AGM & DISCUSSION EVENING

On Wednesday, May the 11<sup>th</sup>, an interesting and interested sample of local residents came together at B. H. Junior School to experience a joint Watch and Recreation Group (BHRAG) AGM and discussion evening! Here's a summary of events.

The business lasted about 20 minutes with both committees being returned; with special thanks to Reg of the Watch on his 'retirement' and a welcome to his replacement, Rose. As the chair said: 'Reg has been a great servant of the community'. He also pointed out that it's unusual to get people coming forward at such events – the personal touch works best. However, looking to the shy, it was suggested how they can come forward and volunteer, by using the contact details in the newsletter.

BHRAG confirmed the successful opening and running of the BMX/SKATEPARK in partnership with the parish council and by way of a special committee. The chair then flagged that a new group was operating as the friends of the BH playing fields and that fresh faces had come forward from the community to drive that initiative forward.

Bob Booth, a Police Crime Scene Investigator then gave an up to date and interesting insight into his work and how criminals are now being detected by amazing techniques for gathering evidence, eg shoe prints, the power of computers to store and compare information and the ability to identify individuals from minute DNA traces at crime scenes, on clothes etc. The message is: ***'Don't disturb anything if you are the unfortunate victim of a crime, as you may unwittingly destroy essential evidence, that is now easily collected'***.

Next it was time for discussion around the tables, fuelled by some cheese and wine! The most popular subject was traffic and road safety, parking etc. There was good feedback on acceptable cut off times for activities of all sorts and community problem solving identified some issues to get to grips with too!

We are working on all this useful feedback over the summer and will report back on it in the next issue of this newsletter.

### Mark's Beat Surgery's

A beat surgery is held at **Downend Baptist Church**, Salisbury Road, Downend. The next date is:

**4 August 2005, 2.00pm to 4.00pm.**

### CLARK'S DIY – Baugh Gardens

**Opening times: 8.30 - 6.00 Mon to Sat, 9.00 -1.00 Sun and Open Lunchtimes. Deliveries daily.**

**Kim and Paul are now well established and look forward to your next visit!**

**August Bank Holiday open 9.00 – 2.00**



## PCSO NUMBERS GROW

People living in South Glos are seeing some new faces walking the streets following the appointment of three new Police Community Support Officers. Downend beat is included and we welcome Justin Gay to the 'patch'.

The community support officers will provide an additional link between police and public; have full traffic warden powers and other limited powers.

Sergeant Andy Workman said: 2 PCSOs have been welcomed by local communities throughout the force area.

We receive tremendous feedback from residents who are pleased to see an increase in uniformed patrols. The three new PCSOs will be supporting the work of beat managers in the areas and are trained to gather evidence and prevent crime.

They will be working with neighbourhood watch schemes and community groups to identify issues of concern as well as educating people about crime prevention.

Police officers value the support of PCSOs who provide us with the opportunity to give a better quality of service to the public."

### 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

# YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK

## ARE YOUR TEENAGERS THE NEXT JUICY VICTIM FOR STREET ROBBERS?????



Robbery is a particularly unpleasant type of theft, which involves threats or violence of some kind. Several recent offences in our area have involved a group, usually two or three teenagers (16-20), approaching their victims (11-16 years of age), whether they are in small groups or alone. They threaten the victims with violence if they do not comply with their requests and then physically search the victims for valuable items.

The search of the average teenager can nowadays be a lucrative business. Many carry expensive items such as Mobile Phones, Ipod music systems, Mini Disc or Compact Disc Players, Cameras and Cash. They are often in possession of bikes, scooters, skateboards, etc that may only increase their attraction to would be robbers. To those offenders who want to risk the possibility of a hefty sentence that Robbery will incur, it can be highly profitable.

**The most important thing to stress regarding these lower scale robberies is that they are mainly preventable.**

Avon and Somerset Police are asking youngsters, particularly those aged 11-16 to think about the following advice, to stop them being the next victim.

- Do not wander around the street using or displaying your mobile phone, as you could be targeted
- Always use Prominent, well lit areas
- Be wary of your surroundings and always trust your instincts
- Make sure you always lock your phone
- Always use your pin number
- Record your IMEI number and keep it in a safe place.(IMEI number can be found by dialling \*#06#)
- Mark your phone with your postcode using a UV pen or permanent marker
- Mobile Phone details can be recorded on the MEND website, (Mobile Equipment National Database) free of charge on [www.menduk.org.uk](http://www.menduk.org.uk)
- Never get hurt trying to protect your property, YOU ARE PRICELESS, your property isn't
- Report incidents immediately to the police and try to give a description of the offender/vehicle and
- The police need to know about the incident as soon as possible, valuable evidence can be gained if they can attend the scene immediately.

### **When you are out and about:**

Stay with friends  
Plan your journey home  
Don't flash your wealth  
Carry a minimum of cash  
Stay near other people  
Keep to busy roads  
Stay alert  
Walk with confidence.



**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**

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**GARDENING SERVICES**

Proud of your garden but perhaps you need some help to look after it.....  
Or  
Are you a hardworking family with little time for basic maintenance?

Then I can help with:

- Mowing
- Weeding
- Planting Etc.

I'm experienced and can provide references, local and a friendly helpful service at reasonable cost.

Call Anthony on 0117 9563325 or Mobile 07929 588 385.

**IT'S HOLIDAY  
TIME!**

This is the time of year when greater numbers of us will go on holiday. Below are some timely hints on reducing the possibility of becoming a victim of crime while you are away:

- Make it look as if someone's in. Keep curtains open in the day and use timer switches to turn lights/radios etc on when it gets dark
- Cancel deliveries eg. newspapers and milk
- Tidy up the garden
- Consider where important things are stored eg some things in the house to safe storage and from the shed into the house
- Set your alarm if you have one and ensure someone you can trust knows how to deal with it when a spider strikes!

For more info ask for the leaflet – 'Peace of mind while you are away'.

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.



**Come in and help yourself – it's hot!**

Up go the temperatures and we open our windows. Then it's the retreat to the back garden to enjoy the weather!

We might as well put an advert out the front, inviting those opportunists in!

PLEASE BEWARE, they are out there in Bromley heath, at all times of the day and night - We've got the evidence! Next time you come in, you'll notice the front door open. They'll have hopped in through the window, or have put an arm in through a smaller one to open the bigger one, and strolled out with your valuables!

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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