

BROMLEY HEATH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2010 EDITION

'Working Together, Keeping You Safe.'



Your Contact Person is

At Number.....

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.....And much more!

Summer's finally here, and we thought it would never arrive! Our 2010 AGM (20mins) / Discussion Evening was also a real success, with more people attending and a great set of speakers – so a big thank you to all who attended and all who were involved. More on this inside...



Telephone/Mail Preference Service Scam

In our last edition we advertised the TPS/MPS - which are free services where you can record your preference not to receive unsolicited sales or marketing calls or mail. These are excellent services which can significantly reduce the amount of calls/mail, and can be really useful for protecting the vulnerable from many scams. A recent scam targeting our area is where residents are called from people pretending to be from BT or the TPS, offering a "lifetime membership" (which doesn't exist) for a £2-£50 fee.

The TPS is a **free** service, and once you're registered remains active indefinitely unless you change your phone number or provider. The TPS will never call unannounced, and will never ask for your payment details. For more information on the scam, refer to: <http://www.mpsonline.org.uk/tps/news1.html>

Contact People – Our Unsung Army of Volunteers

Did you know we've approximately 150 good people across BHNW doing their stuff as contact people? We thought it was high time that this brief article be written, to recognise their good work on behalf of the community and pass on the vast majority's thanks for what they do – Well Done!



Crime in the Bromley Heath Area (March-May)

Burglary In A Dwelling	Oakdale Road
Burglary In A Non Dwelling	Badminton Road, Sandringham Park, Queensholm Drive
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	Badminton Road

Over the recent past we recognise that some have 'retired' and acknowledge 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 nearly 25 years ago! Our thanks and gratitude, thoughts, condolences and good wishes go out to the individuals and families concerned.

MS2 A Premier local store

Many thanks again to Raj and Kam at MS2 on Quakers Road for their generous and kind support and part sponsorship of this year's annual meeting and discussion evening.

We got a great deal from them, why not pop in and check out their stock and great offers?



Very few contact areas are without a volunteer, as in many cases, the outgoing person recruits their successor. Where there are vacancies we've usually done 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 elsewhere on the newsletter for details) and we'd be happy to chat the role over with you?

MS2 Stores – 75 Quakers Road, 9575904

**Police Dogs
(aka. Bitey and Sniffy)**

Our first speaker was Adam Paton from Avon and Somerset's "Mounted and Dogs" Section in Bower Ashton. He'd kindly brought along two of his four-legged colleagues – Diesel (a black rescue Labrador) and Jed (a German Shepherd).



Adam explained that although we'd given Jed the tongue-in-cheek name of "Bitey", that biting is something that his dogs are rarely asked to do. He explained that a large amount of their work is made up of searching/tracking, and that could include searching buildings/open spaces for people, drugs or even discarded tools. A small part of their work can be around security at events, or chasing and assisting in the apprehension of criminals.

Lesley Ashley (Fouracre Coordinator) commented that Adam referred to himself as "Dad" with respect of the dogs, and Adam explained that Diesel and Jed both live with him as part of the family in their own kennel in the garden, and that this is really important for securing a bond between him and the dogs, otherwise they cannot work effectively together.

The attendees were then allowed to meet the guests, and were treated to a demonstration. Diesel quickly found a single gram of crack-cocaine (sealed in a

plastic bag) in the school's dining area that had been deliberately hidden by Adam earlier. For more info, go to http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/units_and_department_s/operations/dog_section/, which among other things has a great article on a typical day for Adam and his wet-nosed friends.



Our elected committee for 2010-2011:

Bill Crocker	Chair	----- Coordinators
Ron Coleman	Treasurer	
Maria Gawler	Secretary	
Rich Balding	Public Relations Officer	
Mark Garland	Newsletter/Website Ed.	
Lesley Ashley	Fouracre	
Richard Old	Church Rd	
Martyn Thomas	Bury Hill View	
Rose Cane	Oakdale	
Peter Tucker	Badminton	
Lynda & Chris Stone	Heath Upper	
Tim Davies	Heath Lower	
Malcolm Coles	Heathfields	
Barry Shore	Quakers	
Graeme Dundas	Queensholm	
Mike Baker	Bromleaze	
Mark Venables	Sandringham	

**THE MANOR COTTAGE
Residential Care Home for the Elderly**



**Please Telephone us for a Brochure:
0117 9560161**

Beckspool Road, Frenchay,
Bristol, BS16 1NT

Speed Watch

Justin Gay (PCSO) introduced Speed Watch to everyone – a scheme which gives local people, with a little time, the ability to actively get involved in road safety.

Police carry out the training on how to use the speed detection equipment.

Offenders will be sent an educational letter and persistent offenders will be visited by a Police Officer. Two volunteers who had recently set up a Speed Watch in their village described their issues/successes to date.

For further information and a 10 minute video, go to http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/units_and_departments/operations/rpu/speedwatch/ Interested? Let us know using our contact details.



Community Plan

Graeme Riley – Chair of the Community Plan and Questionnaire – explained to attendees about the Community Plan. With the support of the Parish Council, residents across the area have been sent a questionnaire which aims to find out how people would like Downend and Bromley Heath to be in 5 to 10 years time. Responses will be used to draw up a Community Plan which will be published and will set priorities for the Parish Council and others to work towards. Go to <http://www.downendbromleyheath.org/Community-Plan.html> for more information, or to fill in the online version.



Pavement Obstruction

Insp. Kevin Thatcher spoke to outline his plans for dealing with pavement obstruction. He explained that it involved balancing pavement obstruction against obstructing the road for emergency services (if all cars parking on pavements were forced to park completely in the road, most roads would become completely blocked). A possible solution (trials elsewhere) is a white line on the pavement – wide enough for a pushchair - up to which a car can park legally. For more information, contact 0845 456 7000.





Revelations

What's happening for children, young people and families at Badminton Road Methodist Church

If you have never popped into our Church – then why not call in, you would be guaranteed of a warm welcome. We are developing new ideas that opens up the Church to the whole community – we are reaching out and we need **YOU!**

Busy Bees Toddler group: Thursday's @10a.m – 11.30a.m.
Green Shoots meets the first Saturday of every month@4.30p.m.
Mid week Cafe: Every Wednesday in term time: 9.30a.m. – 11.30a.m.
Sunday teas: 2.30p.m. – 4.30p.m.
Messy Play Returns! Weds 28th July, Weds 4th, 11th & 18th August @ 10a.m. to 12p.m.
To be confirmed - half day art & drama playscheme sessions.

For more information about any of these or to find out about what else we do, please phone Jenny Bourne on 01173 309071 or go to www.badmintonroadmethodist.org.uk

PACT – Partners and Communities Together

The next meeting for the Downend, Bromley Heath and Emersons Green area will be on the 13th September at the Emersons Green Primary School, starting at 7pm. Current priorities (agreed 10th June):

- Anti-social behaviour in the Church Farm Road junction with Old Lane.
- Lincombe Road – concerns over road being used as a “rat run”.
- Westerleigh Road outside Downend School – pedestrian use and crossing.

Cycle Track Incidents

Within a month, we've seen reports of two incidents on the cycle track near to Bromley Heath. The victim, a cyclist/walker, has been approached by approximately 6 youths who then punch them in the stomach and attempt to steal property before making off. Police are appealing for information.

Car Keying

Two incidents of car keying were reported in May, and one in July with victims' cars being scratched deeply over the bonnet and side panels. The cars were often parked on driveways. Residents are encouraged to use garages wherever possible. At an earlier AGM, the police representative asked the audience how many people in attendance kept £14000 worth of their property on the road/driveway and less than £1000 worth of rubbish in their garage?

Friends Of Bromley Heath Playing Fields

Kevin Chapman says “Hopefully by the time you get to read this the work on the tennis courts will have been completed with the improved playing surface and new nets. It took a long time in coming, but will be worth the wait. Funding for the new footpath has been completed and a contractor has been appointed. As soon as we get the all clear from the South Gloucestershire wildlife officer, work will commence. There have been concerns about litter, especially around the skateboard park, but South Gloucestershire seem to be keeping this under control at the moment, and hopefully this will continue throughout the summer”. For more information, contact BromleyHeathPark@aol.com or 9570251.

Who's Who: Graeme Dundas



What role do you do?

I am the coordinator for the Queensholm Sector.

How long have you been in this role?

I have had this role for about 5-6 years now.

How did you get involved?

At one of the Bromley Heath Festivals, I walked up to the BHNW stand and offered to deliver leaflets, and volunteered to be the coordinator for my area.

What are your current priorities?

My priorities are to get information regarding local crime cascaded out quickly to my Contact Points. I also help by providing advice for the Watch on DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) issues – for example I have been examining our website for accessibility and checking that our new one in development meets the needs of the visually impaired.

Anything you'd like to say to the readers?

I stand to be corrected but I am possibly the only visually impaired coordinator for a Neighbourhood Watch. I am often around and not only take on issues related to my own area but find that by talking to people I can often gain a lot of information about what is going on around the Bromley Heath area. One project that I am currently trying to get off the ground is to get a School Crossing for both the Bromley Heath Infants and Junior schools, as recently there have been a few near accidents. This has come to light because we no longer have a School Crossing Person. Children walk/scoot across the road often following someone else's child before their Mum/Dad/Guardian tells them it is safe to cross. I ask you to please give your support to this issue.

Stolen Catalytic Converters

The Police inform us that they are seeing a rise in the theft of catalytic converters from MPV type or pick up vehicles, as these are raised off the ground and do not need jacking up. The current locations of these thefts are large public car parks such as Asda, the Mall and Parkway Railway Station.

Valuables In Cars

- “Don't give thieves a chance to prey – leave *nothing* out on display!” This is regardless of value - people steal first and think of value later.
- Take all belongings with you when you leave the car - if you can't, lock them in the boot *before* you start your journey.
- Always park in a well-lit, open place.
- Take care with leaving windows open in the heat.

Fancy getting involved and doing your bit to keep your community safe? It needn't be a big commitment - even if just half hour every 3 months to deliver newsletters, we'd love to hear from you...

Are you a local business? Would you like to advertise in this newsletter whilst also helping to keep your community safe? Reasonable rates available, and you could be reaching ~6000 potential new customers. If interested, please get in touch.

Open/Unlocked Windows

Did you know that more than a third of domestic burglaries are carried out when windows and doors have been left open/unlocked?

Remember to always keep your premises secure; and take care not to leave items like car keys, bank statements and laptops on display.

Most thieves are opportunistic so by taking some practical steps, you can reduce your chances of falling victim.

Heathfest!

Well done to the new Bromley Heath Volunteers for re-establishing the Festival.



Good on you!

The festival was a great success – it was a real pleasure to see so many people coming together and having fun and the weather couldn't have been better.

This is also a great example of what can be achieved by willing people coming forward with a common aim and to benefit the community, and one that we are proud to have supported.

Now for next year...

Stickers - Revisited

In our Summer newsletter last year we mentioned how pleased we are that giving every home in the BHNW community at least a new free sticker each, had led to a dramatic increase in them being proudly displayed across the area. In some parts it's nearly 100% coverage - very well done to those neighbours! We suspect that's down to a factor or number of factors like:



- a pro-active local BHNW contact point.
- crime impacting on a neighbour, or in the neighbourhood focusing the mind.
- value understanding of simple visual messages.
- identification with community strength and our 'Working together, keeping you safe' strap line and ethos.

So, if you haven't got yours stuck up yet, go on, give it a go and join in! A few patches seem to be quite thin on the ground in terms of cover. So, if you are missing your sticker - you know - the dog ate it, didn't get one, it melted in the sun, just ask for another.

DOWNEND BLINDS

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Call David or Jayne - Tel **0117 949 5374** or **01454 856 606**
20 Lulworth Crescent, Downend, Bristol, BS16 6SB

Top Tips for the Summer

- If going away, make your home look lived in, and be careful who you tell. Cut the lawns before you go; avoid closed curtains in the day; consider investing in timers to bring your lights on; and ask trusted neighbours to check on the property.
- Avoid leaving tools or ladders from DIY jobs around outside which could be used to break in.
- Anchor down those garden ornaments.
- Secure access to the rear of properties.

Caption Competition



Spring's winner was "Do my ears look big in this" sent in by Eloise Phillips (age 10). Well done! – A Neighbourhood Watch related prize on the way to you.

Useful Numbers

Neighbourhood beat manager's office	0117 9454137
Police Main Switchboard	0845 456 7000
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 Justin Gay	07795 503242
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?



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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.