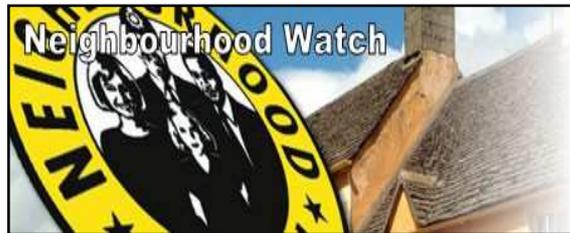


# BROMLEY HEATH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2012 EDITION

*'Working Together, Keeping You Safe.'*



Your Contact Person is .....

At Number.....

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## Community Engagement Evening Report Back

This year's event was on the 29<sup>th</sup> May at the BH Junior School. It was kindly sponsored again by MS2. They provided a great spread, liquid refreshments and a Jubilee cake – see their advert - What great supporters of our community they are! **Mark Pullin** from South Gloucestershire Council 'trading standards' dealt with scams of all sorts and entertained with a quiz. **Harriette Dottridge** told us about the excellent work of the charity 'Crimestoppers' and how to report concerns to them. Inspector **Deryck Rees** followed to confirm how to report to the Police. Our Chair, **Bill Crocker** reminded everybody that BHNW is also a conduit that the community can use. **Larry Bill** concluded with details of the work of the team at Police 'HQ' that recover assets from convicted criminals and gave some really interesting facts and figures on their success. Missed it? (Sadly many of you didn't make it prompting us to review our approach for next year.)

We said thanks and farewell to Barry Shore (**Quakers co-ordinator**) and welcome to Julie who kindly volunteered to replace him and to Becky who has agreed to be co-ordinator for **Heath Upper**. More on all this in our next edition.

**Do** visit our web site where you'll see copies of two of the presentations given at the community engagement evening. Also you can find a link to Crimestoppers.

### 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 is there to say 'Hello' and 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'** to you and your family 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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Downend and Siston Neighbourhood Team have an unexpected additional team member.

### Welcome to PCSO Jon Bourke

Jon knows the area well having been born in



Kingswood and still lives locally. He is involved in charity work running Downend and Mangotsfield karate club. The club is open to everyone. Jon told us that he had always wanted to work for the police and

having grown up in the area he feels that this is his way of giving something back to the community. He also told us that he is really enjoying the job - everyday bringing something different and interesting, meeting lots of different people and being recognised by the young children who give him a wave as they pass. He hopes to be a good role model for the young people in the community. Jon is based at Staple Hill Police Station and can be contacted on 101.

We look forward to working with you Jon.

**Have** the owners of the house next door to you 'let' it out to a third party? Would you know if it is being used as a cannabis factory? A few months ago one was discovered in the watch area.

I am told the signs of a cannabis factory include:

- Windows permanently covered from the inside
- Visits to the premises at unusual times of the day or night
- People visiting just to 'maintain' the house
- Daily or weekly calls at the house by people who stay for a short time
- Black bin bags or laundry bags being taken away
- Compost bags or gardening equipment left outside, usually at the rear of the premises
- Vents protruding through the roof or a rear window
- Strange pungent smells from the premises
- Unusual noises from equipment such as cooling fans

Never approach a house you are concerned could be a cannabis factory. Call 101 and give the post code if known or call Crimestoppers if you prefer.

*The Police crime statistics on page 3 have been logged by postcode. However, they have been sited on the police map that I have used as 'on or near' so please do not be alarmed if you appear to have considerable crimes in your road of which you are unaware.*

**Thank** you to the neighbour of the Bromley Heath Junior and Infant Schools who notified the police of trespassers on the school field recently. The school holidays are now upon us and I would be grateful for any further incidences to be reported to the police on 101 (999 if damage is happening) in an attempt to avoid further breaches of security.

**I was** reading an article recently which stated that thousands of people keep their spare cash hidden at home because of poor interest rates and lack of trust in banks.

It might appear to be more convenient sometimes to keep large amounts of spare cash at home but be aware of the risk you are taking.

Most home insurance policies will only cover cash stolen from the home up to a certain amount e.g. £250 or £500. Please check out your own policy to establish your personal amount.

Don't forget during the latter part of 2010 the level of deposit protection afforded under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme was increased to £85,000 should those banks covered by the scheme collapse.

### New Ed. - on trial!

As Mark reported in his final (not the final) newsletter he has moved onto a bigger and better role focussing on our website and establishing a Facebook and twitter presence.

I have been 'volunteered' to take on the role of editor and I do so with some trepidation. Some of you will already know me in my role as Business Manager at Bromley Heath Infant School and others will know me as a past resident of Oakdale Avenue and a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.

Well what have I let myself in for? Today I must finish the newsletter and yet it is sunny outside. My hope for you all is that by the time you receive the finished article the sun will have been shining for weeks!

Rose Cane

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### SSCG-Safer Stronger Communities Group (formally PACT)

Abbreviated current priorities (agreed 24<sup>th</sup> May):

- Anti-social behaviour-King George V playing field
- Inconsiderate parking outside all schools in all the areas and outside the Mezzo
- "Mobility scooters and bikes using pavements

The next meeting for the Downend, Bromley Heath and Emersons Green area will be on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sept at the Emersons Green Village Hall at 7pm.

## Freak or Unique Custom Tattoos

I had the pleasure of meeting Michael, owner/manager of the above business in Quakers Road at our last committee meeting.

Michael is a family man with a young child and lives just outside the Watch area. For the record his Gran has lived for many years in the Watch area! He attended University and gained a BA in Fine Arts and has shown his work at exhibitions. He is determined to make a success of his business and wants nothing more than to be part of the future of the Quakers Road shops. Michael tells me that his business is appointment based and each customer has an appointment to discuss the artwork they would like. Michael then spends time designing on paper and a further appointment is made for the tattoo to be done. Each tattoo is individual to each customer. Michael is not dependant on passing trade as he is already well known for his excellent work and has appointments booked in for the next two and a half months. Michael has two apprentices working for him, one female and one male.

The front window of the studio is purposely left clear to show that he has nothing to hide. He has a waiting area at the front and the tattooing is undertaken at the rear of the studio. Michael has a licence to trade and he has a clean bill of health regarding H&S issues. His planning permission has been requested retrospectively as, originally, he was led to believe that the business was A1 class.

On reflection we had a good group discussion with a wide range of views, for and against, being aired. It is apparent that some need time to accept such a business and perhaps never will while the majority remain neutral and wait to see how it progresses. Personally? I prefer to see a business rather than yet another boarded up shop.

Michael is happy for anyone to drop in to see his studio. We hope to arrange a joint meeting there sometime in the future.

## MS-2 - A Premier Local Store 75 Quakers Rd 9575904



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The team at MS2 were frustrated that they weren't able to put their plans into action to support Heathfest. There was also great concern for the welfare of Bromley Bear if it had gone ahead! (Bronchitis Bear – not good!)

However, are they down hearted? No! Already they are planning their next initiatives to support community action in BH and they are also looking forward to seeing us, the great BH consumers. Visit and take advantage of their summer offers for those lovely summer days and evenings that are now with us.

Call in and have a look round with no obligation.  
You'll be surprised what you find!

## Crime in the Bromley Heath Area (March-April)

Burglary &  
other thefts

Oakdale Court,  
Beverly Avenue,  
Greenleaze Close,  
Fouracre Crescent,  
Baugh Gardens,  
Cleeve Lodge,  
Pilgrim Way

Antisocial  
behaviour

Heathfields,  
Bury View,  
Greenleaze Close x3,  
Ascot Close,  
Quakers Road,  
Fouracre Avenue

Criminal  
damage

Quakers Close

**Our** previous Editor, an avid cyclist, hinted that we should have a page dedicated to bikes. Well we haven't enough space to dedicate a page but here is a column!

During May a householder disturbed a man climbing over his seven feet high gate. He had been in the garden with his wife when he saw the man climb over the gate. When challenged the man made a hasty exit in the company of a second man. It was then that the couple realised that a bike had been disturbed. Police arrested three men nearby on suspicion of attempted theft. Following the arrest Neighbourhood PC Wayne Hodge stated that fewer than 15 per cent of people whose bikes are stolen are able to give enough details to identify their bike and prove it has been stolen, should it be recovered. He urges everyone to mark their bikes with their postcodes and register the serial number on the free database [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

PC Hodge advised that bikes are being targeted by thieves who break into sheds and garages.



The advice is to make sure your bicycle is secure even within an outbuilding, by chaining it to an anchor point such as that shown. See below for other advice

- Fit an inexpensive alarm
- Ensure fences, gates and outbuildings are sturdy
- Plant prickly shrubs alongside fences, under windows and drainpipes
- Use gravel for garden paths
- Fit low energy security lights
- Use 'sold secure' standard locks on gates and outbuildings
- Use coach bolts to fit quality hinges. (Carriage bolts have a domed head)

## Top Tips for the Summer

If going on holiday:

- Be careful who you tell. You don't want it known that you are away
  - Take care not to attract attention by making an issue packing the car/taxi and saying 'goodbyes'
  - Make your home look as though you are still there (light timers, ask neighbours to put bins out and take in again, avoid closed curtains in the day, cancel newspapers and milk deliveries, cut lawns before going)
  - Don't have your home address showing on your luggage label for the outward journey. Put this inside your suitcase in case it is lost.
- Above all enjoy your holiday!

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

### 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
PCSO Jon Bourke	TBA

Please tag calls as NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

**Useful Numbers** I thought it would be useful to clarify when each of the telephone numbers below should be used.

**999** strictly for emergencies or crime happening now.  
**101** to report a crime, non - emergencies, reporting of suspicious behaviour unless the caller believes it is connected to a crime in progress.

**Crimestoppers** is a charity. It has been set up as phone line to gather information that is thought to be useful to the police but the caller wishes to remain anonymous. Not even the telephone number that the call is made from is recorded. **Beat mobiles** are for information/intelligence that might assist officers in the area covered by the beat. As previously advised **please remember to ask the operator to tag all calls to Neighbourhood Watch.**

Please always report a crime. You may feel that the police have more important crimes to deal with than yours or they cannot do anything anyway. The police want to hear from you so that they can profile hotspots of crime.

### Recognise this? Computer running slow?

Hopefully you will remember the warning of a scam from our last newsletter. Unfortunately a local resident has been scammed. This is a true story that happened recently. I have not given any personal details as naturally I want to protect the person's privacy.

The person involved was getting bombarded with calls from someone with an Indian accent. After rejecting 30-40 calls the person decided to listen to what the caller wanted. **BIG MISTAKE.**

The caller stated that he was a systems administrator and had detected that this person's system was running slow. He stated that it was due to running 2 anti -virus systems and gave the name of 2 well known systems. He said he would show a list of some 4000 items not covered by either anti-virus system and persuaded the person to let him demonstrate by gaining access to the computer. A list started to scroll down the screen. The person was then persuaded, seeing so many, to proceed with the service offered. A quarterly scan was offered for a small fee. The amount involved was £143 + £1overseas charge for 1 year and was paid with a debit card. A friend advised that this was a scam. The debit card was subsequently cancelled but the bank could not stop the payment. It was deducted from the account by NIAS E Business. This has caused an enormous amount of upset and work reloading the software with new passwords. Please be on your guard when answering the phone.



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