

BROMLEY HEATH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2013 EDITION

'Working Together, Keeping You Safe.'



Your Contact Person is

At Number.....

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Recognise anybody here? The 85th Kingswood Simba Pack were keen to complete their home safety badges. They invited Graeme of Queensholm Sector to discuss with them ways of making sure their homes were secure when going on holiday.

Many of us could learn from their thoughts
Do not leave laptops and other electrical goods on show.
Use light timers.

Avoid closed curtains during the day.

Ask a neighbour to clear post.

Remember to cancel the milk and newspaper deliveries.

Do not shout your goodbyes or make a show of packing your car.

Finally have a great holiday!



I wonder how many of our young people are getting involved in Neighbourhood Watch activities. Last newsletter I told you about Christopher Perrett's achievement with the police cadets. Are your children delivering the newsletters or maybe, helping elderly neighbours? Let us know for future issues of the Newsletter. Photographs of your children in action would be lovely but please confirm that you are happy for us to print them. To contact us please see the back page.

BHNW is moving into the 21st century and changing its constitution to fit with modern day life. See page 2 for details.

Remember it is Heathfest on 6th July 2013. See you there.

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Result!

I have mentioned before that Mark Garland our previous Editor and now King of the website is an avid cyclist. After two years of letter writing, lobbying and meetings he has been successful in his quest to have the central reservation widened at the junction of Bromley Heath Road and Quakers Road. The central reservation now accommodates the length of a bicycle. Previously one wheel would protrude into the traffic with the obvious risk of a car colliding with it. Mark has stated that all the hard work has been well worth it. Well done Mark and thank you!

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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Avon and Somerset Police have recently advised us that sporadic burglaries of Asian gold from private dwellings continue in our area. Other items of value are being left although costume jewellery and cash have been taken. These are daytime offences within short timeframes. The police have advised that offenders may have been driving up and down a road looking for a specific address and knocked on the front door to check the house is empty prior to the offence.

Please ensure all doors and windows are locked. If keeping jewellery at home

- store it in a safe of 'sold secure' standard www.soldsecure.com or www.securedbydesign.com for advice.
- Take photographs and descriptions.
- Register your valuables on www.immobilise.com
- Always use an alarm
- Consider installing CCTV cameras

Vans continue to be targeted for tools with the majority of offences taking place overnight in residential areas and during the day at retail premises.

Driver door locks have been drilled out or forced to gain access to tools and cash.

Crime reduction advice is to

- Park in a secure area
- Do not leave tools in the van and advertise the fact

Outside of our area a number of catalytic convertors have been stolen. Apparently they contain precious metals and can fetch up to £200 each.

Crime reduction advice

- Park in a manner which makes the catalytic convertor as inaccessible as possible
- Consider an etching kit
- Consider a 'cat' clamp or SMS alarm. Details can be found on the www.securedbydesign.com website

We all know that an open window or door is an invitation to the opportunist thief. If you leave your front windows open and sit in the back garden enjoying the sun you may not hear them enter.....

Did you know you are all invited to our AGM? Well you always have been but attendance has been poor due to busy lives. We have recognised the need to innovate and modernise so we are doing things differently this year. With the kind permission of the organising committee we are going to hold our AGM at Heathfest on the 6th of July.

Don't worry we won't be hijacking the event and you won't be asked to sit in rows by our pitch. However, we will be involving you in ratifying our reports, voting for our committee and a few other formalities all of which you will hardly notice.

To do this has meant a change to our constitution and to agree this we will need a show of hands on the day or you can contact us on line or by social media – see details on the last page of the newsletter. The changes are on the website now and they will be available on paper on the day.

We also need approval of the returning committee or you can nominate new residents to vacancies in the same way as described above.

The Avon and Somerset Police will be sharing our pitch. MS2 will kindly be providing sponsorship in the form of refreshments and nibbles.

Of course if the weather should conspire against us we will hold a fall back event in the autumn. Should this be the case we will notify you of that in our next edition.

If you think you may have been the victim of web scammers please report it to the police using the non-emergency number - 101 or contact your local trading standards department at South Gloucestershire Council.

Another little trick that is being utilised is at the cash machine. Please make sure that nobody is looking over your shoulder when you enter your PIN number. Shield the number with your hand to ensure that it cannot be seen by anybody. If the fraudster has seen your PIN number he or she will then distract you by talking to you as your card is returned through the slot, grab it, and run away to a waiting car. Before you can call for help he or she will be using your card elsewhere and emptying your bank account of all your hard earned cash. Remember you can go into the bank at a quiet time and ask the cashier to withdraw what you need.

Bill our Chair received a call from a resident letting him know that a relative on a visit had their car broken into overnight and valuable goods taken. It transpired that a sat nav holder was left on display and that drew the thief's attention. A few nights later the same resident spotted a hooded male eyeing up the car on the next door drive. It is a well-known fact that thieves return to areas where they have been successful. The initial reaction was to confront the thief but he ran off. Think very carefully about challenging. Ring 999 first. Do not turn on your lights or let the thief know you are there to maximise the potential of an on the spot arrest. Never leave anything on display in your vehicle.

Downend, Bromley Heath & Emersons Green Safer Stronger Community Group
Your local Safer Stronger Community Group needs you!

South Gloucestershire's 20 Safer Stronger Community Groups are all about working together to improve your local community. The groups also enable you to have your say about the services that your community receives.

These groups have been set up as part of the Neighbourhood Policing Model and South Gloucestershire Council's Community Engagement initiative. Their members include people who live and work in the area and representatives from the local police, Avon Fire & Rescue, Primary Care Trust, South Gloucestershire Council, the Town & Parish Council and other local organisations. The aim is to:

- work together to ensure that local communities are safe and pleasant places to live, work and play
- give local people a greater voice and influence over local decisions and the priorities of the service providers
- fund and support initiatives that help overcome issues raised by SSCG attendees, for example, Community Speed Watch equipment and activities that promote community cohesion and integration.

Meeting Dates

- Wednesday 26th June 2013 7.00pm
Downend Baptist Church, Salisbury Road, Downend BS16 5RA
- Tuesday 10th September 2013 7.00pm
Emersons Green Village Hall, Emerson Way, Emersons Green BS16 7AP
- Thursday 5th December 2013 7.00pm
Downend Baptist Church, Salisbury Road, Downend BS16 5RA
- If you would like to attend the meetings and require an interpreter to be present, please contact Brian Gaches on 01454 868760 or sarah.milne@southglos.gov.uk to make arrangements. They can supply Community Group minutes and publications in other community languages if required.

Speed Watch update

The good news is that our Chair Bill has a list of volunteers willing to give Speed Watch a go and make it viable. However, Bill needs a leader. It isn't necessary to be someone who gets out on the street. Rest assured there will be support from Bromley Heath Neighbourhood Watch, the South Gloucestershire Speed Watch Support Group and our Police Beat Team. This is a key community concern so please put yourself forward and get this off the ground. If you would like to volunteer or perhaps would like to speak to somebody further please contact Bill, the chair of the action/sub group on 956 3325 or email: contactus@bhnw.org.uk

Message from Editor

The summer is now well under way and the weather has been amazing. I am sure you have all been motivated to work in your gardens and spend more time in the open. Please remember though to lock away your tools and bikes after use.

Apparently a wheelie bin was used recently to scale a boundary wall. Please be conscious of this possibility and consider where you keep it.

I hope to see you all at Heathfest on the 6th July at the Queensholm field.

Have a lovely summer.

Rose Cane

The Crime figures for our area on the back page are compiled by the Home Office. There has been much debate over the accuracy of where the crimes have actually taken place recently. For example if the figures are to be believed Windsor Court seems to be a hot bed of crime. Thankfully that is not the case as the families living there will tell you. The last real crime reported there was back in 2009! The Home Office tell us that for some reason Windsor Court is a 'snap point'. This is explained as an arbitrary point to which crimes within a radius of approximately one mile are centred upon. Exactly why this is has not been explained. In the circumstances I think we can safely assume that the crimes have taken place in our area but possibly up to a mile from the road indicated. The committee will be following this up. We would also encourage residents to question this with the Home Office.

South Glos. Council Trading Standards have carried out a survey to gauge the effectiveness of the cold calling zones and how the public received them. Of those that responded 50% said they felt safer in their homes and 43% felt more confident when dealing with cold callers. Some respondents claimed not to have received the information booklets or door stickers. This could be for a number of reasons including moving into the zone after it was established. If you require replacement door stickers or information books please contact BHNW (details on the back page) or email South Glos. direct at trading_standards@southglos.gov.uk

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Want to make a contribution to your community without spending hours of your valuable time doing so? Come and join the Bromley Heath Neighbourhood Watch Team. We are looking for a Public Relations Officer and we need Co-ordinators for the sectors of Badminton and Heathfields. We are an easy going and friendly team. If you are unsure or just want more information please contact Bill Crocker on the telephone number below for an informal no obligation chat.

Crime in Bromley Heath

February – April 2013 (logged by postcode)

Please see further information regarding the collation of these statistics on page 3

Crime	On or Near
Anti-Social Behaviour	Wedgewood Road Queensholm Ave x 2 Queensholm Close Quakers Road Baugh Gardens Greenleaze Close Sandringham Ave Sandringham Park Fouracre Road x 2 Glendale Bromley Heath Ave
Burglary	Windsor Court Fouracre Road Baugh Gardens Queensholm Crescent
Criminal Damage	Baugh Road Fouracre Road
Vehicle Crime	Fouracre Crescent x 3
Violent Crime	Heath Road

Useful Numbers

Please tag calls as Neighbourhood Watch

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
Handy Van Service	01454 863857
Beat Mobiles	
PC. James Rochford	07919 628312
PC. Louise Rowe	07767676676
PC. Jo Kille	07919628625
PCSO Katrina Sheldrake	07795 503243
PCSO Sam Derrick	07825 388936
PCSO Tom McIntyre	07771344754
PCSO Ian Burton	07717815144

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

Definitions:

Anti-social Burglary includes personal and environmental entering a building with intention of stealing

Criminal damage to buildings and/or vehicles of bicycles or from the person

Theft theft from/of/or interference with

Vehicle crime against the person

Violent

Congratulations to Raj Our 'Parish Champion'

Left - Raj receiving his award at the Parish Celebration and below Raj presenting his latest sweet jar collection containing a very generous £200 to Bill on behalf of the BHNW. Thank you Raj!



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