



# FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

[www.fleetnhw.co.uk](http://www.fleetnhw.co.uk)

## NEWSLETTER

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Autumn 2013

### Contacting the Police

#### Call 999 in an emergency

For a crime in progress; danger to life; someone suspected of a crime is nearby; or violence is being used or threatened.

#### 101 for non-emergency calls

To report crimes that do not require an urgent response; to tell the police about a crime in your area; for advice, feedback and information on police matters; to speak to or arrange a visit from a local police officer; to make enquiries of beat surgeries or local police events; and to get an update on a crime as a victim.

101 is available at all times. Calls from a landline or mobile cost 15p regardless of the call duration.

#### 0800 555 111 Crimestoppers

Free & anonymous crime-related calls

### Senior Coordinator wanted for NHW Area H (Dinorben Avenue)

The Senior Coordinator, Mr Jeff Morgan; has recently moved. On behalf of our members we offer him our thanks and send him and his family our best wishes.

As a result of Jeff's move we are now seeking a volunteer to take over as the Senior Coordinator for NHW Area H. Area H is made up of: Dinorben Avenue, Dinorben Beeches and Dinorben Close, Lawrence Road, Denning Close, Glen Road, Carthona Drive, Grantly Drive and Chinnok Close. There are 13 existing Coordinators to assist in the distribution of the newsletters. So the role of Senior Coordinator is not too demanding and it is only four times a year. If you are interested in supporting NHW and would like to volunteer please give our Secretary a call (details on P4).

Our thanks to the members who attended the AGM on 19 September at the Civic Offices, Hart District Council in Fleet. In addition to the normal agenda items, the meeting included a presentation on 'Royal Air Force Odiham'. This edition provides our readers with extracts from the AGM.

### Annual General Meeting - 19 September 2013

#### Chairman's Report

Another year has gone by, and here we are again, still solvent without having to ask any of you for another contribution, although we do retain that option as increasing numbers push up the newsletter costs. Over the last twelve months we have increased our membership by about 100 households or 1.5%. This may not seem too significant, but bear in mind that we already cover about half the households in our area, so growing our membership substantially becomes ever more difficult. However, we continue to look for members, so if you are aware of streets in your area not signed up, see if you can find someone to act as a coordinator for their road. We can easily organise starter packs and street signs.

We continue to mention scams and the need to look after your own and the property of others, but be assured, as soon as one scam is removed, another will take its place. A particularly nasty one currently advertised on local television is distraction robbery. Being asked for directions as you get out of your car, your attention being taken away from your vehicle, and whilst you are looking elsewhere, an accomplice is in the vehicle to remove your bag, laptop or other valuables left on the seats. Be aware.

The office of the Police & Crime Commissioner has been awarded a budget, some of which is to improve awareness of Neighbourhood Watch. As a result of our representation, NE Hampshire has been allocated £5000, to which Hart Council have added £2000. With this extra funding you may notice a number of changes in the coming months. Starter packs will change. Instead of any number of individual leaflets within a folder, we are aiming to organise a brochure to cover the same areas of concern that will operate in the whole of the NE Hampshire area. The main reason for this is Home Office cutbacks. Many of the leaflets are no longer available, making it ever more difficult to make up a credible pack of useful information. With luck, the new brochures will be available by next spring. There will also be hi-viz jackets available for those who need them for deliveries, and for use by those assisting presentations to better identify NHW volunteers.

I am pleased to report that your committee has volunteered to stand for another year. I am also thankful that a volunteer has come forward for Ancells Farm, but we still need a senior coordinator for the Dinorben area. Please take note of the continued police reports confirming sheds and outhouses too often left insecure. Take your house and car keys indoors and do not leave important items in the car overnight.

Continue to identify NHW signs requiring attention. They are the visible signs of our presence. NE Hampshire remains a low crime area with our district having one of the lowest crime rates in the country, but this only happens with vigilance from the police, local authority and ourselves. Do not underrate our influence. The more we all work together the longer we can keep ourselves crime free, but it is your responsibility as well as ours. With continued vigilance we can persuade the criminal to go elsewhere.

*David Bunclark - Chairman*

## Annual General Meeting 2013 - Police Presentation by Sergeant David Hill

I am the Sgt for Fleet and I look after the Safer Neighbourhoods Team based at Fleet Police station. I have been the Safer Neighbourhood Team Sgt since November 07. The team consists of 3 PCs and 5 Pcsos. Pc Griffiths works with Pc Farr on the Fleet Town beat with Pcsos Greenwood, French and Coutts. Elvetham Heath has Pc Lehec and Pcsos Evans. Church Crookham has Pcsos Merrick and he is supported by Pc Lehec. We have had a change in senior management with Inspector Chris White now in post covering Hart and a new Chief Inspector, Annabel Berry, for the Hart and Rushmoor District.

The prevention of crime is key and making crimes more difficult to commit, the property less attractive and the risks too high for the criminal in Fleet are areas that we in partnership must work on. By following simple crime prevention methods, like locking doors properly, using the locks fitted on doors and windows, fitting lights and alarms (and using them) and looking out for neighbours we can make it more difficult for the criminal. Also by marking your valuables and registering it on the website 'immobilise' we can make the property less attractive to the thief. 'Immobilise' currently helps police identify the owners of lost and stolen property nationally thousands of times a day. Loss and theft updates are immediately available to the Police nationally. It helps combat the sale of stolen gadgets and valuables by alerting the second-hand trade and publicly checkable stolen goods database, thereby devaluing stolen property. It can simplify insurance claims with certificates of ownership. These features are a FREE 'Immobilise' service.

Even just making sure that you keep hedges and shrubbery trimmed and allowing the natural surveillance from passers by can increase the risks to the thief, as do the patrols by our colleagues in the targeted patrol teams, roads policing units, armed response vehicles etc, and the knowledge that the community feel empowered to call 101 or 999 to report suspicious activity or crimes in progress. Even I managed to arrest a burglar this year for burglaries on Ancells Farm as a direct result of residents calling in to report suspicious behaviour.

Over the past 12 months Fleet has had 31 residential Burglaries. Last year we had 40 residential burglaries. Of those this year, 5 were to attached garages 14 were attempts which failed and we had one burglary via a cat flap for which 4 men have been charged and a car recovered, but we also suffered burglaries where simply locking a door properly or securing a window would have potentially prevented it happening. Similarly, if you display high value goods or clues that high value goods are present, then those actions can make your home, garage or car vulnerable to attack. Please remove the satnav and the holder from the car. If you have a high value car do not leave the keys next to a door, thieves will try and fish them out through the letter box or cat flap. Take them to bed. Rather than storing the usual household rubbish we all keep in our garages, put the car in there, consider a tracking device, fit security lights to the garage and consider cctv, even fitting a dummy camera can deter thieves. Leaving a cycle rack on your car gives a good clue to a thief that your garage or shed will have bikes worth stealing. If you look at your home what does it tell other people? What does it tell an opportunistic thief? You need to make it look secure, occupied and not worth the risk. With ownership comes responsibility. If anyone wants advice on how to secure their home all they have to do is ask. Hart is a low crime area, not a no crime area. We all need to work hard and commit to reducing crime and increasing awareness. With your support we will continue to disrupt criminal activity and target those who cause the most harm in our communities.

Fleet SNT officers are also used to support the communities surrounding us. During August we spent time in Aldershot targeting criminals who were stealing from vehicles. We are currently providing resources to target criminals in rural areas and Yateley. We continue to support projects run by Fleet Phoenix including summer

*(AGM - Police Presentation continued on Page 4)*

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**Annual General Meeting - Presentation on "Royal Air force Odiham"**

Squadron Leader Jones gave an informative presentation on the role and mission of RAF Odiham. The role was to provide battlefield capability for air and littoral manoeuvre, and the mission to deliver and sustain Chinook and special forces aviation operations worldwide. He explained that Odiham was part of the Joint Helicopter Command (JHC) formed in 1999 to bring together all the battlefield helicopters of the three armed services. JHC operates over 300 aircraft including RN Sea King and Lynx helicopters; RAF Chinook, Puma and Merlin helicopters; Army Apache, Lynx, Gazelle, Bell 212 helicopters and fixed wing aircraft of the Army Air Corps. RAF Odiham is the home base for 50 Chinooks and 12 Lynx. The Chinook is the workhorse of air battlefield and support operations and the Lynx works in tandem with the Chinook and offers firepower support. The Ministry of Defence took delivery of the first Chinook in 1981. Following the invasion of the Falkland Islands the Chinook began three decades of unbroken service on operations. The largest operational commitment is currently in Afghanistan in support of British, NATO and Afghan troops working to protect national security by helping the Afghans take control of their country. The station also supports tasks in the UK, including aircrew training, training with all three services, aid to civilian organisations and search and rescue. To meet these demands Odiham comprises several wings: Operations, Logistics, Base Support, Joint Special Forces and four helicopter squadrons. There are 1,700 Royal Air Force, 200 Army, 10 Royal Navy and 90 civilian personnel based at RAF Odiham.

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**Watch out and try to help your neighbours and your local Community**



**That's what our Neighbourhood Watch is all about**

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(AGM - Police Presentation continued from Page 2)

activities to distract young people from ASB.

We work with local schools to educate children from 3 -16 in subjects from road safety, stranger danger, drugs, substance abuse, underage sex, weapons and anti-social behaviour. This week we have been talking in schools about Alcohol harm and tomorrow we will be in Calthorpe Park for the opening of the cycle path and to educate people in crime prevention relating to bikes.

All my constables are now trained in the dark arts surrounding the speed enforcement laser. This has resulted in tickets been issued, cars seized and drivers disqualified because they were driving over the alcohol limit. Community speed watch is going to happen in Fleet. We have the volunteers in place, the equipment has been purchased and now we just need to get some checks completed and very soon they will be actively working to reduce speeds in residential areas of Fleet. We also work with the schools, highways departments and parking wardens of Hart District Council to reduce parking issues and improve road safety around the schools of Fleet. Pc Lehec has issued numerous parking tickets on Elvetham Heath to those who fail to understand that the pavements are for pedestrians not for car parking.

We continue to target Fleet town centre every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night, visiting pubs and clubs which has resulted in arrests for drugs, drunkenness and violence. Fleet Pub watch now has almost 50 people who are banned from the members' pubs and clubs in Fleet.

We provide you a twitter account @FleetPolice that you can follow and I seem to have gained a nickname "grumpy sergeant". Reports about crime are sent to senior coordinators every two weeks by the Pcsos. The Hampshire Police website provides details of forthcoming beat surgeries and community engagements and there is a facebook account. You can also see where the crimes are happening at [www.crimereports.co.uk](http://www.crimereports.co.uk)

We all know that Hampshire Police faces challenges due to the cuts in budget. These have forced my senior officers to seek reductions in staff, buildings and to challenge the way we work.

The Fleet Safer Neighbourhood Team is still based in the Fleet Police Station. However your nearest front counter facility is now the Police Station in Aldershot Our station is still due to be sold off but at present we have no fixed date. The overriding aim of the management has been to ensure that wherever possible the cuts do not affect the communities we serve.

I thank you all for your continued support of NHW and for helping to make Fleet a safer place.

Sgt Dave Hill

Fleet Safer Neighbourhoods Team

### Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch Committee Members

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**Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch website:** [www.fleetnhw.co.uk](http://www.fleetnhw.co.uk)

**Police (Fleet) website:** [www.hampshire.police.uk/internet/my-neighbourhood/northern/hart-and-rushmoor/fleet/fleet](http://www.hampshire.police.uk/internet/my-neighbourhood/northern/hart-and-rushmoor/fleet/fleet)

Please send inputs to the Editor. Deadline for the next edition: **31 December 2013**

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