



# FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 Number 4  
Autumn 2009

### Calls to the Police:

**999**

Emergencies and crimes in progress

**0800 555 111**

Crime stoppers - free, anonymous  
crime-related calls

**101**

Non-emergency and anti-social  
behaviour issues: vandalism and  
graffiti, noise nuisance, threatening  
and abusive behaviour, abandoned  
vehicles, dumping and fly-tipping,  
drunk and rowdy groups,  
drug related anti-social behaviour

**0845 045 4545**

Routine Police matters and for crime  
related issues that have  
already occurred

### Notice-board

#### Household Security

Door stickers with a note which  
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#### NHW Newsletters by email

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days a week). You can register  
free of charge to stop unsolicited  
direct marketing telephone calls.

Many thanks to the 45 members who attended our AGM which was held at the Civic Offices, Hart District Council in Fleet on 17 September. Apart from the regular agenda items, the meeting included a presentation by the Trading Standards. This edition provides our readership with extracts from the main items on the agenda. A full record of the Minutes of the AGM is available on the website at [www.fleetnhw.co.uk](http://www.fleetnhw.co.uk). Note: For those without a PC, computers are available at the Fleet Library.

### Annual General Meeting - 17 September 2009

#### Chairman's Report

After welcoming those present, introducing the guest speaker and agreeing the 2008 Minutes, the Chairman advised that there had been several changes to the committee over the year. Andy Allen had replaced Colin Greig as webmaster, Christine Kavanagh had replaced Serena Loveless as Secretary and Lee Holloway had taken over from Harry Fraser-Mitchell as the Senior Coordinator for Ancells Farm. The Chairman explained that 6,000 properties received the newsletter. This represented about 13,000 people. Several members had volunteered recently to deliver newsletters and this was most welcome as, for various reasons, there was always a large turnover of volunteers. He stated that 40 people had recently become members. He advised members to inform the committee if they became aware of any damaged NHW signs, noting that 35 signs had been replaced over the past year. The Chairman reported that the newly planted trees in Calthorpe Park had recently been damaged and he urged anyone who could help identify those responsible to contact the police. He warned that despite numerous reminders people were still leaving sheds unlocked and household and car keys readily accessible in their homes. The Chairman concluded by stating that our area continued to suffer from doorstep crime and scams; however, this topic would be discussed further by our guest speaker from Trading Standards.

#### Trading Standards Presentation

Mr Mills from the Hampshire County Council's Protecting Older People Team began his presentation by explaining that their work was not confined to older people as the team was also responsible for reducing doorstep crime. He outlined how 'No Cold Calling' zones had been set up with help from the Police, Hart DC and others. He said that most cold callers were genuine but a small number were not and they could be very convincing. For example, a 'water board official' might arrive in a van and show a form of identity, stating that he needed to check the water pressure. While he persuaded you to check taps in another room he then had the opportunity to burgle your house. If he didn't get the opportunity he could pass details to an accomplice who would call later on some other pretext. Another form of bogus caller was the rogue trader who persuaded the householder to part with money in return for a service and then returned to demand more money. The service, if completed at all, was often of a poor standard. Mr Mills encouraged members to be less trusting, more cautious and avoid keeping large sums of money in the house. Many incidents of doorstep crime were not reported, either because the victim did not recognise them as crimes or the victim was too embarrassed to report what had happened. Trading Standards had helped raise awareness among banks and building

*(Trading Standards Presentation continued on page 4)*

# POLICE & CRIME REPORT

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

Sgt Hill reported that Hampshire had a new Chief Constable whose three goals were:

- ◆ Providing an excellent service.
- ◆ Catching criminals.
- ◆ An active presence in every neighbourhood.

A one team approach would deliver these goals. For example, Operation Nemesis was a three month campaign involving the whole force targeting those individuals responsible for burglary. Non-operational officers were brought out of offices onto the streets to prevent, disrupt and detect burglaries. Indeed, that morning several suspects had been arrested in early raids for burglaries that had occurred in Fleet earlier this year. The Chief Constable's current campaign against anti-social behaviour was drawing to a close. It had seen every non-operational member of staff, from trainers to administration staff and senior management, performing a role to try to reduce the incidents of anti-social behaviour. Beat officers had followed a Patrol Plan that ensured areas that were subject to problems were targeted at the relevant times in accordance with the community's priorities. They had also been working closely with Hampshire Youth Services on projects such as summer activities and fishing trips, and with Aldershot Town Football Club to provide soccer on Wednesday evenings. These activities provided an opportunity to engage with young people and deter them from anti-social behaviour. Community priorities were identified by residents calling to report problems and by completing questionnaires that were made available at Beat surgeries, crime prevention meetings or delivered to households. He gave examples of some of the community priorities that the Police Beat officers were currently targeting in the following areas:

**Fleet Town Centre and Pondtail:** Anti-social behaviour in the area of Albert Street as a result of the night time economy; anti-social behaviour in the Fleet Pond area plus arson and associated problems; and underage drinking in The Views, Oakley Park and Fleet Pond areas.

**Fleet West and Courtmoor:** Anti-social behaviour and underage drinking, especially in The Lea, Wickham Place, Basingbourne Park and Calthorpe Park areas; neighbourly disputes in Wickham Place; and anti-social driving in residential areas, including Basingbourne Road, Hitches Lane and Greenways.

**Church Crookham:** Speeding traffic and anti-social driving, in particular in the area of Aldershot Road; juvenile nuisance in various areas, including Velmead Junior School, the Velmead Community Centre and Ridgeway Parade; and anti-social behaviour at the Peter Driver playing fields.

*(Police & Crime Report continued on page 3)*

## Volunteers wanted to become Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators

Many thanks to those members who have volunteered recently to become NHW Coordinators. We are most grateful for your support; however, we still need more. So if you are interested in supporting your local NHW and would like to volunteer to be either a Senior Co-ordinator or a Coordinator, please give our Secretary a call (her contact details are on the back page of this newsletter). For those Coordinators planning to leave the district, please tell your Senior Coordinator and try to recruit a replacement before you move house.

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(Police & Crime Report continued from page 2)

**North Fleet:** Arson attacks in Elvetham Heath Nature Reserve; anti-social behaviour and littering on the playing fields at The Key and Elvetham Heath; and burglaries on Elvetham Heath and Ancells Farm.

Fleet Safer Neighbourhoods Team had continued to work with external agencies in an attempt to deal with these issues, including Hart District Council, Hampshire Children's Services, Hampshire Highways, Trading Standards and Local Schools. Working with Trading Standards 'No Cold Calling' zones had been introduced on Elvetham Heath and Ancells Farm. Beat surgeries had continued at garden centres, libraries and shopping centres to enable officers to pass on crime prevention information and community safety messages. This was in addition to the investigation and resolution of long term local issues, on-going crime investigations, and high visibility patrols and community reassurance; all of which form the core of Police business. As part of the high visibility patrols the Police planned to deliver a crime prevention pack to every home. The PCSOs had been conducting cycling proficiency lessons in schools in a bid to combat, through education, the problems of people cycling on footpaths. When people were seen cycling on pavements they were given advice and tickets where appropriate.

The Police would continue to target problem areas to prevent crime and reduce the number of victims, and to deal robustly with those identified as suspects. Sgt Hill encouraged residents to continue calling regarding anything they considered suspicious so that the Police could investigate the incident. He urged the community to carry on acting as our eyes and ears. Sgt Hill concluded by stating that if there was one message he wished everyone would take away from the AGM it was: **Please take the time tonight and every night to lock up your homes and possessions properly.** There was no point having a front door with multiple deadlocks if they were not used. He also advised that keys should be taken to bed. Of the 22 burglaries that had occurred in Fleet this year, a large number of them could have been prevented had the householders followed this basic advice. In many of the burglaries the criminals had put a tool through the letterbox and simply pulled the door handle down. As a result they were able to release the lock or reach the keys. These criminals had deliberately targeted households with easy access doors and high value vehicles. Lastly, he reminded members that HART district was still the safest place to live in Hampshire and one of the safest in the country. He encouraged us all to work together to ensure that it continued to improve.

Sgt Hill answered questions concerning frequent and significant litter in Albert St after the regular pub and club night time activities; thoughtless and dangerous parking in Clarence Rd; household security, particularly papers, etc left poking out of letterboxes; and cycling on pavements.

The Police performance for the Hart region for the year is available at:

[www.hampshire.police.uk/Internet/stats/northeast/hartdist/fleet/index.htm](http://www.hampshire.police.uk/Internet/stats/northeast/hartdist/fleet/index.htm)

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## Senior Coordinators retire

The following Senior Coordinators have retired recently:

Mr Steve Cook (Area D)

Mr George Beauchamp (Area F-2)

Ms Pat MacKenzie has kindly agreed to take over Area D and, hopefully, we have volunteers who have agreed to share newsletter distribution in the large Area F-2. To Steve and George, who have both supported our NHW for many years, we offer sincere thanks and best wishes. To their successors: welcome and our thanks to you for volunteering.

Our thanks also to the many NHW Coordinators who have recently had to handed over their duties.

*(Trading Standards Presentation continued from page 1)*

societies and he gave an example of a rogue trader who took his victim to a bank to withdraw a large amount of cash; fortunately, the bank became suspicious and raised the alarm. He also drew members attention to the Trading Standards website at [www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk) which, among other items, featured a 'Buy with Confidence' directory with a list of traders who had been vetted. He advised that if there was a complaint or query about a 'Buy with Confidence' trader and it could not be sorted out, then the customer should call 'Consumer Direct' (Tel: 08454 04 05 06), a Government organisation where guidance was available as to whether the customer was entitled to a repair, replacement or monetary compensation. Another useful point of contact if agreement could not be reached was the Buy With Confidence Team on Tel: 01962 833620.

Mr Mills encouraged members to read the 'Safe and Sound' booklet which offered general consumer and safety advice for residents in Hampshire. He explained that members could request a 'No Cold Calling Zone' sign for their road, street, etc; however, clearly all residents in the proposed zone needed to agree the requirement. He advised that of the residents who had 'No Cold Calling Zone' signs, approximately 83% felt safer as a result.

A member asked if Trading Standards was duplicating the NHW's efforts to promote 'No Cold Calling Zones'. In response Mr Mills said that the work of Trading Standards was complementary to the activities of the NHW.

### Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch Committee Members

Chairman: David Bunclark Tel: 01252-621684 email: chairman@fleetnhw.co.uk

Secretary: Christine Kavanagh Tel: 01252-811490 email: secretary@fleetnhw.co.uk

Treasurer: Kenneth Hammond Tel: 01252-694310 email: treasurer@fleetnhw.co.uk

Editor and Advertising: Alan MacGregor Tel: 01252-626524 email: editor@fleetnhw.co.uk

Webmaster: Andy Allen Tel: 01252-697256 email: webmaster@fleetnhw.co.uk

Ancells Farm: Lee Holloway Tel: 01252-656371

Hart DC Reps: Caroline Ryan Tel: 01252-774476 email: caroline.ryan@hart.gov.uk

Coordinators' Representative: Vacant

Ewshot: Sue Freeman Tel: 01252-851534 (Not on Committee)

Police: Sergeant David Hill Tel: 0845-045-4545

Councillor Jenny Radley email: jenny.radley@hart.gov.uk

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

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