



FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

www.fleetnhw.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

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Notice-board

Scams Receiving warnings about possible scams, hoax emails and virus threats has become part of our modern life. Having received a warning, the problem we then face is: should we believe it? A simple way of checking whether or not a warning is true is to use one of the websites which specialise in validating such threats:

www.hoax-slayer.com is one of the best as it is comprehensive, easy to use and free. However, there are others, for example:

www.safefromscams.co.uk

www.aboutidentitytheft.co.uk

No Cold Calling Zones These zones have been set up with the help and advice of the Police and Hampshire Trading Standards to empower residents with the right to say 'no' to people going door-to-door. The scheme does not make it illegal to 'cold call'. However, it does help to instil the confidence to say 'no'. If you would like more information please call Trading Standards on Tel: 01962 833620 or email at: nccz@hants.gov.uk. Website:

www.hants.gov.uk/nocoldcalling

Remember: everyone in your road or street must agree before a no cold calling zone can be set up in your area.

Many thanks to all the NHW members who attended our AGM which was held at the Civic Offices, Hart District Council in Fleet on 16 September. In addition to the regular agenda, the meeting included a presentation on the 'Safer Hart' Community Safety Partnership. This edition provides our members with extracts from the meeting. A full record of the Minutes of the AGM is available on the website at www.fleetnhw.co.uk. For those without a PC, computers are available at the Fleet Library.

Annual General Meeting - 16 September 2010

Chairman's Report

After the usual welcoming comments and agreeing the 2009 Minutes, the Chairman reported that, with the forecast reduction in police manpower, it would be more important than ever for individuals to assume additional responsibility for their own security, and help ensure that lawbreakers did not feel that they could assume an easy ride.

Those of us in NHW see membership growing slowly. We would of course like to arrive at a position of 100% cover, but this is always unlikely as some households simply do not wish to join, feeling their security is not currently compromised. We presently deliver newsletters to about 6,000 households or around 40% of the dwellings in our area.

Although membership may be considered by some as unnecessary, it is worth bearing in mind that those within NHW give their time freely to help ensure the safety of the community. If we were to extend this within our immediate area, cutting the grass verge outside the house, etc, our neighbourhood would remain in pristine condition. Some may comment about doing something ourselves that we pay the council and police to do, but clearly we cannot expect to have council employees or police in every road, and when the cutbacks come we will see fewer signs of officialdom.

The question of scams has been raised several times during the year and some, especially the elderly and those living alone, have suffered. Please try to assist or at least be aware of those near you who are most likely to be victims. 'No Cold Calling' signs are useful and have made a difference, but nothing can replace some personal contact by a friend or neighbour.

The Chairman concluded by saying that although we did not have the powers of a police officer we did retain the powers of observation. He urged members to report suspicious or annoying behaviour and not to just assume that someone else would take responsibility. If we wanted our community to flourish and be a safer place for our families and friends, then we must all play our part.

(AGM summary continues on page 2)

Calls to the Police:

999 Emergencies and crimes in progress

0800 555 111 Crimestoppers - 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

Annual General Meeting - Police Presentation by Sergeant David Hill

Sir Robert Peel said in 1829 "The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with it." The reason I became a police officer in 1991 was to protect and help people, arrest villains and change the world for a better place. I won't lie, I have failed. We still suffer the same problems as we did in 1991. However, we have had some small victories as the summer ASB campaign comes to an end. Taking the crime data for 1 May to 31 August 2009 and comparing it to the same period this year, Hart has seen a reduction of nearly 27% in recorded instances of criminal damage and a 20% reduction in recorded instances of rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour. That means less people have become victims. To date this year in Fleet all crime is down by 6.7%. Violent crime is down by 6.3%. Vehicle crime down by 27%. Burglary down by 27.3%. Damage over the year is down by 8.9%. This came about through the commitment of your local police in Fleet and the District Targeted Patrol Team based in Yateley who provide 24/7 cover. Plus the agencies that we work with, including: Hampshire County Council, youth workers, the Fire Brigade, Hart District Council Community Team, Hart CCTV, the community support workers from both Hampshire and Hart, local schools, the NHS, Social Services, Probation, charitable organisations, Housing Associations and, most importantly, the community who are our eyes and ears and who actually have a responsibility just like everyone else. During my three years in Hart I have seen a variety of surveys reporting that we live and work in one of the richest, best, nicest, etc places in the UK! I shiver every time I read that, knowing that a small percentage of the population who commit all the crime are reading the same article and rubbing their hands in glee, yet crime is still low. Our crime rate is among the lowest in the county. Without the community telling us what is happening, providing us with information or evidence to act on, taking responsibility for their cars and homes, looking after their loved ones and possessions, we would not see the reductions in crime that we have experienced. This means taking your keys to bed, locking doors properly, locking your cars every time you leave them and parking in garages or safe places, securing property inside sheds and locking doors and watching out for your neighbours. If you want advice contact me or your Beat Officer. My team this year have arrested burglars, drug dealers and users, violent criminals, drunks, thieves, arsonists and fraudsters. We have talked suicidal people off buildings and helped people with mental health issues access services. We attended accidents, fires and even a certain air show. We have completed operations targeting people riding bikes on footpaths; delivered 'No Cold Calling' packs; given talks in schools about drugs, ASB and the justice system; taken scouts and cubs around police stations showing them cells and sending them home with ink covered hands from fingerprinting; supported youth discos; assisted in events to teach children 'stranger danger', cycle repairs and fishing; briefed

(AGM - Police Presentation continued on page 3)

Senior Coordinator and Coordinator changes

Mr Richard Dexter has retired recently as the Senior Coordinator for Area B-2 and he has handed over his NHW duties to Mr Allan Mitchell. To Richard, who has supported the NHW for many years, we offer our sincere thanks and best wishes, and to Allan: welcome and thank you for volunteering.

Sadly we report the death of one our Coordinators, Mrs H Goodman. We offer our condolences to her family and thanks for all the support she gave to our NHW. Dr Roy Seaman has kindly agreed to take over Mrs Goodman's role as a NHW Coordinator.

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(AGM - Police Presentation continued from page 2)

teachers on the dangers of legal highs; stood on crime scene cordons; targeted speeding drivers with the Roads Policing Unit; patrolled areas affected by ASB, drugs, suspicious activity, burglaries, criminal damage and drunken idiots; seized drugs, 100s of cans of beer, bottles of spirits and alcopops; conducted covert test purchase operations on licensed premises, and supported Pub Watch who now have 40 individuals banned from the pubs in Fleet. We visited the vulnerable and offered our support; delivered meals to the elderly during the snow; conducted Beat Surgeries; attended Parish Council meetings, NHW meetings, community and multi-agency meetings, and meetings with local businesses. We have updated our web pages on a monthly basis to provide information on the priorities set by the community; sent out newsletters; watched hours of CCTV and taken pages of statements; interviewed suspects; searched homes for crime-related property; searched streets, parks, woods and buildings for missing persons aged from 3 to 93; chased fleeing suspects; dispersed rowdy individuals and banned them from Fleet town centre for 48 hours; completed crime prevention surveys in homes and business premises, and spent hours in court giving evidence. I even gave a talk to a group of young people about drugs and alcohol who had been locked into a 'Big Brother' style house for 72 hours by their youth workers. Now that was a captive audience! Everything the Police do is related to investigating and reducing crime, protecting the vulnerable and saving life. I trust that you now understand some of what we do for you, but all this must be directed and prioritised. Although we have our core duties to protect life, protect property, and reduce and investigate crime, I am actually seeking more work, more actions that will improve the community we live and work in. What I want to know are the community's priorities. I can't do everything but with the resources of other agencies I believe we can help make a difference. You don't have to come up with them now, but please either contact me or your Beat Officer by letter, email or telephone to tell us if something is not right in your community and you think that it might be a matter for the police. We all know that the next few years will present challenges that will stretch us, but with these challenges will come new ideas and innovation. Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the NHW, particularly the coordinators and senior coordinators who deliver the newsletters and the committee members for your work and dedication in helping making Hart a safer place.

Sgt Hill answered questions concerning frequent speeding on several of the local roads and possible measures to deter the speeding drivers; and also on the crime figures for 'Fleet Services' and their relationship to the overall crime figures for the Hart region.

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

www.hampshire.police.uk/Internet/stats/northeast/hartdist/fleet/index.htm

Sgt. Dave Hill 2979, Fleet Safer Neighbourhood Team, Fleet Police Station

Tel: 08450454545

www.hampshire.police.uk/Internet/localpolicing/northeast/hart/fleet/3HLSNT1.htm

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Closed: Sunday and Public Holidays

Consumer advice:

Tel: 08454 04 05 06

Email: Please use the form on the Consumer Direct web site at:
www.consumerdirect.gov.uk

Business advice/other enquiries:

Tel: 01962 833620

Fax: 01962 843915

Email: rsadvice@hants.gov.uk

Out of hours emergency:

e.g. oil or animal health emergency

Tel: 01962 833622

Please do not use this number for routine calls or enquiries

Annual General Meeting - Presentation on "Safer Hart" Community Safety Partnership

The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) placed a statutory obligation on Local Authorities and other agencies to set up Community Safety Partnerships (CSP). The purpose of the CSP was to introduce partnership working, encouraging agencies to work together in their local communities to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. The management group ensures the aims of the partnership are met. Community Safety Priorities for 2010/11 are:

- Anti-social behaviour (ASB) (including criminal damage)
- Domestic Abuse
- Burglary
- Community Engagement (including fear and perceptions of crime)

ASB can be reported via the following means:

- 101 (Single non-emergency number)
- Via our ASB Officer on 01252 774256
- Via the web at www.saferhart.co.uk
- Via email at taq@hart.gov.uk
- By the completion of diary sheets available from our website

Safer Hart information: Tel: 01252 774029 or Website at: www.saferhart.co.uk

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

Coordinators' Representative: Vacant

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

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

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

Ancells Farm: Lee Holloway Tel: 01252-656371

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

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

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

Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch Website: www.fleetnhw.co.uk

Please send inputs to the Editor. Deadline for the next edition: **31 December 2010**

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