



FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 Number 2
Spring 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

Chairman's Report

Summer is approaching, but I will avoid the usual comments at this time of the year about securing garden furniture and locking your windows, simply this. You spend years working hard to provide the comforts for your family and which enable an enjoyable lifestyle. Why allow 'Billy' the burglar to simply walk in and take what he fancies. Secure your property and the things you consider valuable, and please do not assume that the police will always be on hand to catch the culprit. It is your property and it is your responsibility.

I am happy to report that we now have a new Secretary and a new Senior Coordinator for Ancells Farm and I sincerely thank Christine Kavanagh and Lee Holloway for offering their services.

While I am in a thanking mode, and on behalf of all our NHW members, I would like to record our sincere thanks to Colin Greig (NHW Website) and to Harry Fraser-Mitchell (Senior Coordinator for Ancells Farm) for their unstinting service in recent years, and to Philip Donald for looking after the residents in Ewshot as their Senior Coordinator. To all three we send our best wishes for the future.

In conclusion I would highly recommend that you visit our website at www.fleetnhw.co.uk where you will find many current items of interest and importance.

David Bunclark - Chairman

POLICE & CRIME REPORT

Operation Nemesis reduces burglary in North and East Hampshire The number of victims of burglary in North and East Hampshire has reduced since the start of Operation Nemesis. In the four week period up to 28 December 2008 there were 160 dwelling burglaries. Since the start of Operation Nemesis in January, the next four week period saw a reduction to 106 burglaries, and the latest figures show that they have fallen to 75 in the period to 12 February. Officers across the North and East Operational Command Unit (OCU) are continuing to work hard to target burglars and there is still concern about car-key burglaries. Vehicles are being targeted by burglars who break into homes and take the keys in order to steal them. During January 12 car-key burglaries were reported and 15 have been reported during February. Detective Chief Inspector David Annets, Operation Nemesis leader for North and East OCU, said: "Vehicles are being targeted for a number of reasons. Firstly, high performance cars are the vehicles of choice for organised crime groups involved in other serious crimes. Secondly, they may be stolen in order to break down their component parts for resale or they may be taken as a means of conveying other stolen property from a house. Criminals believe that the speed of these vehicles makes it difficult for police to safely pursue them, and that by breaking down vehicles it makes it difficult for us to trace them. We have recently pursued a number of vehicles and arrested people involved in burglaries and we are working closely with the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure that they are dealt with accordingly. The ease of access to NE Hampshire from London and the rest of the country via the excellent road network means that those houses near the M3 corridor are more at risk, particularly in the Blackwater, Farnborough, Aldershot and Basingstoke areas. Homes with uPVC front doors are particularly at risk as many householders believe that they cannot be opened from the outside without a key. Unfortunately, these doors can be easily unlocked by burglars if they are not double locked with a key from the inside. When properly used they are among the

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most secure doors available. However, when not double locked a thief can easily put a tool through the letter-box to release the internal handle. Thieves can be in and out of a house within a minute, and the owners are unaware that they have been burgled until they wake up in the morning to find the car keys missing from the hall table and the car missing from the driveway. Please think about how you would manage in the morning if your car was not there. So keep keys out of sight and, if possible, in a lockable cupboard or drawer. We are using a number of tactics to counter this threat. Advertising has been set up with local garage forecourts and radio stations advising people of the threat, unmarked police cars are deployed on a regular basis to trace those responsible for these crimes and additional officers and PCSOs are conducting patrols in areas most at risk. For the foreseeable future officers will also be routinely stopping many high performance vehicles that they see travelling on the roads of NE Hampshire after midnight in order to deliver this crime safety message, and to check whether the vehicle has in fact been stolen."

For more information visit the local policing pages of Hampshire Constabulary at www.hampshire.police.uk.

Child Sex Offenders Disclosure Pilot launches across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight A Home Office scheme giving members of the public the opportunity to enquire whether an individual who has access to a child is a Registered Child Sex Offender is being rolled out across the whole of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The Child Sex Offenders Disclosure Pilot was launched in Southampton in September last year and from 16 March it will be expanding to include all of the Hampshire Constabulary area. So far there have been 23 enquiries, five applications and zero disclosures made under the pilot. Previously only people living in Southampton and enquiring about someone from Southampton have been eligible to apply for disclosure under the pilot. The force-wide roll out means that for the first time many more parents, carers, guardians and third parties (such as friends, neighbours and grandparents) will be able to make an application for disclosure about someone who has contact with a child/children. Under the pilot, those applying for information must live in Hampshire or the Isle of Wight and be making an application about someone who also lives within the two counties. Anyone wishing to make an application for disclosure must attend a police station in one of these two counties and all applications will be verified to ensure that they qualify. Disclosure cannot be guaranteed in every case, but the safeguarding of children will be the key determining factor and disclosure will usually be made to those people who are best placed to protect a child from harm; e.g. parents, carers or guardians. The leader of the Hampshire Constabulary Disclosure Pilot, Detective Chief Inspector Mark Ashthorpe, said: "It was always our intention to roll out the pilot across the two counties. The expansion means that anyone living in Hampshire or the Isle of Wight who has a child protection concern, or wants to simply find out if a person who has contact with a child they know poses a risk, can now apply under the pilot. As a force we work extremely

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Fleet Nature Reserves

Elvetham Heath, Basingbourne Heath & Fleet Pond

The arrival of Spring and, hopefully, improving weather is the time for many of our NHW members to benefit from and make full use of our local nature reserves; for example, to walk the dog or simply to relax in the fresh air after work. Unfortunately, these areas which are a source of enjoyment for so many of us are also the scenes of regular annual misuse and wanton damage. The Police have advised that they would be grateful to our members for reports of any anti-social behaviour or criminal acts on these local nature reserves.

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Ancells Farm

I am delighted to tell you that Mr Lee Holloway has come forward as a volunteer to be our new Senior Coordinator for Ancells Farm, and he will take over from me forthwith. Please give him all the support you can as he starts his task. Lee's contact details are on page 4 of this newsletter.

May I remind you that PC Neil Prescott and PCSO Bill Evans plus PCSO Mhairi Stephens are the police allocated to the Fleet North area (Ancells Farm and Elvetham Heath). Thankfully there has not been much to report this quarter: two cars were maliciously damaged and an unlocked bicycle was stolen, but all three of these incidents were certainly important to their owners.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your help over the past many years. I shall still be distributing my own batch of newsletters, so I am not quite completely out of touch as yet!

My best wishes to you all

Harry Fraser-Mitchell - Senior Coordinator, Ancells Farm

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hard to safeguard children in our communities. If anyone is concerned about an individual then please come forward and talk to us." The pilot scheme builds on existing processes to proactively manage Registered Sex Offenders by the force's Public Protection Unit under the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements. Disclosure to parents, carers and guardians of children who may be at risk is already taking place. Hampshire is one of four forces taking part in the year-long pilot, which ends in September. For further information about recognising the signs of child sex abuse call the 'Stop It Now!' helpline on 0808 1000 900.

Alcohol and Nuisance youths As the weather improves this is a plea to the parents of teenagers, do not allow or supply them alcohol. Already this year my officers have dealt with numerous young people who have consumed so much alcohol as to render them incapable of looking after themselves. Teenagers get into a huge amount of trouble when drunk. They behave in an anti-social way disturbing other people, damaging property and themselves. They also make themselves vulnerable from people who will take advantage of their drunken state. Ensure you know where they are going and who they are with, that they do not have large amounts of cash or any alcohol, and that they understand the dangers of alcohol. If they come home drunk, find out where the alcohol came from and tell the police. The shocking and sad thing is that parents in Fleet are giving their children wine and beer for parties or money to buy alcohol. We will continue to stop and challenge young people, seize alcohol and destroy it, targeting areas where young people drink in the woods and recreation areas of Fleet. We will also run covert operations to catch the people selling alcohol to underage people and prosecute those supplying the youth.

Sgt. David Hill, Fleet Safer Neighbourhoods Team

PhoneJoan

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Ewshot

Change of Senior Co-ordinator

After many years in the role, Mr Philip Donald has decided to hand over the duties of Senior Co-ordinator for Ewshot. On behalf of all our members, and particularly those living in the Ewshot area, we offer Philip our best wishes and sincere thanks for all his efforts in support of the Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch.

We are delighted to welcome Philip Donald's replacement, Ms Sue Freeman, who has kindly agreed to take over the duties of Senior Coordinator for Ewshot with immediate effect.

Changes to 101 Non-emergency Number From 1 April 2009 the 101 number will become a non-emergency number for contacting Hampshire Constabulary only, and will run alongside 0845 045 4545. The decision was made by Chief Constable Alex Marshall following the lack of cohesion within the 101 partnership in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight which had been in place since May 2006. Whilst some local authorities are supportive of the number and the partnership arrangements, others are less willing to contribute to the development of 101. In order to preserve the 101 number as an easily accessible and memorable three digit number for the public to call "when it is less urgent than 999", the operational decision was made to retain 101 as a police only non-emergency number. Members of the public can now call 101 for all non-emergency contact with Hampshire Constabulary, including anti-social behaviour issues currently within the 101 scope. The Switchboard and the Force Enquiry Centre will continue to deal with all calls that come through 101 or the 0845 number in the same way as previously. The current tasking system will remain, and any information relating to anti-social behaviour issues that is relevant to both police and local authorities will continue to be recorded and passed on so that partnership work can continue locally. However, where appropriate, callers will be advised that any follow-up enquiries should be made directly to the local authorities. **If the issue is a local authority only matter we will not take details but will guide the caller to the appropriate agency.** Other areas operating the 101 number include Sheffield & South Yorkshire Police, Cardiff & South Wales Police, and a number of London Boroughs.

Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch Committee Members

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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

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