



FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 Number 3
Summer 2008

Ancells Farm

I am sorry to have to tell the residents of Ancells Farm that my health has broken down and that I am finding it difficult to continue as your Senior Co-ordinator. I canvassed the two dozen or so local co-ordinators with a view to their taking on the job, but only seven people replied and all were negative. Because I feel strongly in the value of being a member of NHW, I have decided that I must try to continue with the basic administrative part of the job; i.e. counting out the packages of newsletters, but I must have help with the distribution of the newsletters around the Estate. At the time of writing this has thankfully been promised.

We have lost two of our distributors; one of them looked after Tamworth Drive and the other Beveren Close and Argente Close. Would a resident in any of these roads please take on the distribution of the newsletters for their road? It is only four times a year, and it simply involves putting individual NHW newsletters through the letterbox.

Since it is likely that my health will further deteriorate, I would ask all of you seriously to consider taking over my role. It is not too onerous, and I believe you would be invited to join the main Fleet & District Committee.

If there is a crime committed near you; e.g. a burglary, the Police usually call for a meeting of the surrounding residents to share local information and to make suggestions for extra security. Statistics show that there is a higher chance for a second offence to occur in the vicinity of the first. Please support the Police initiative in the event of this happening.

Harry Fraser-Mitchell
Senior Co-ordinator, Ancells Farm

Chairman's Report

Summer is upon us, we hope, but I will avoid the usual lengthy cautions about security. Just remember that around a quarter of all local offences occur through lack of care by the victim.

You will be aware that we have been assisted enormously by having a new secretary and treasurer take office. I take this opportunity to thank them personally for volunteering. We are all busy and giving up time for the community is not always a first priority, and whilst in print I should like to record our thanks to Debbie Steadman and Anne Lowe for their participation in our affairs over the last year.

We are in serious need of a Senior Co-ordinator for the Ancells Farm Estate. Harry Fraser-Mitchell (who has been unstinting in this post for many years) is not in the best of health, and we urgently need someone to take over the reins. Committee meetings and newsletter distribution are only four times a year. Surely someone out there has a few hours to spare for the good of us all.

A reminder that wherever possible we will refurbish NHW signs in poor condition, but we do need to know where they are: please tell us.

Although well advertised in the last newsletter, we are getting closer to our AGM on 18 September. Despite there being hundreds of NHW members, we are lucky to see 50 at this event. It is your opportunity to make yourself heard and to question the committee on any points you consider relevant. This is your AGM, not the committee's and we need your input. Could I please ask that at least all Senior Co-ordinators and local Co-ordinators attend, and bring as many friends as possible.

David Bunclark - Chairman

Telephone calls to the Police:

Emergency: 999 Crime-stoppers (free): 0800 555 111
Police Routine: 101 or 0845 045 4545

FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held at

**THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES
HART DISTRICT COUNCIL
HARLINGTON WAY
FLEET GU51 4AE**

on

Thursday 18 September 2008 at 7.30 pm

All members of the Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch are invited to attend the AGM. Any member who wishes to put forward an item for inclusion in the agenda or propose an amendment to the Constitution is requested to contact the Secretary in writing by: **Friday 29 August.**

POLICE & CRIME REPORT

Home Office figures confirm that Hart continues to have the lowest crime rate in Hampshire at 12.46 crimes per 1000 population. An increase in drug offences reflects the actions of our initiative to combat local drug dealers. Crack House closure legislation was used to evict one resident dealer in this period. Community intelligence indicates drugs dealers remain active in Hart and our targeting of dealers will continue. The imprisonment of a prolific local burglar has ended a recent spike in reports of these offences. The manager of the Community Safety Team, Caroline Ryan, is reviewing options for the future as long term funding remains a key issue. Plans for work over the summer regarding the 'Get With' youth project and the 'Coaching and Mentoring' programme for young people not in education or employment are advanced, and the work by Brian Pope's team on the Children and Young persons plan is progressing well.

Fleet area crime figures are available at: www.hampshire.police.uk/Internet/localpolicing/northeast/hart/fleet/ They show that total reported crime is down 0.7%; Public Disorder and Assaults down 35.8%; Criminal Damage down 17.9%; Vehicle Crime down 35.5%; Burglary down 33.3%, and an overall detection rate of 24.37%. Rather than for the Police, these figures show a victory for the community and all the agencies working together and, as mentioned, this reinforces the position of Hart as the safest place to live in Hampshire. The reason overall crime has not dropped as far as we would have liked is due in part to an increase in people driving off without paying for fuel and our continued war on drugs which, unless we targeted those involved in drugs, would never be reported as a crime. With your continued efforts to secure your homes and report suspicious activities we can continue to reduce crime.

The team has recently had successes with Caroline Webster arresting a Burglar responsible for burglaries in Church Crookham and Ewshot. Working with the Safer Streets Team and the local community we achieved another crack closure in New Barn Close which will result in the premises been locked down, thus allowing the Housing Association to reclaim the premises for housing the needy. Working with youth services we prevented an illegal rave in Fleet that had been advertised on the internet. Having identified the organisers, a few friendly words of advice and an explanation of the possible repercussions resulted in a change of heart which prevented a mass gathering and general disorder. For the residents of the Church Crookham Beat you now have a new PCSO, Karen East, who has been moved from Fleet services where she was rated by Welcome Break as the best PCSO on a nationwide basis. She has joined Caroline Webster. Please make every effort to welcome her into your community. PCSO Mhairi Stephens joins Bill Evans and PC Neil Prescott on Fleet Services and the Fleet North Beat having gained her experience in Bittern. Mhairi is enjoying the change of environment. Again, please help her establish herself in your community. Beat Surgeries are now becoming established events. If you would like to know when your next Beat Surgery is due, please access the Hampshire Website or contact your local beat officer. Please feel free to invite your local beat officer or PCSO along to any meetings or events you are running. They welcome invitations and they can either put together a short presentation or run a stall providing advice and information on all areas of police work and our work with the local communities.

There is a con-man operating in the Hart district. His line is that he will knock on your door and say that he was told by a member of a local church that you are a kind and Christian person and you might be able to loan him some money. You won't see your money again. Please call the police if he approaches you.

Number plates are been stolen from cars, with the obvious concern that these plates will be used to change the identities of vehicles to enable the avoidance of fines, charges or in the commission of crime. If you do have your plates stolen please report it so we can update the PNC. One method of prevention is to ensure that your plates are screwed and glued onto your vehicle. There are also number plates that shatter when tampered with. With the increase in temperatures please ensure that you do not compromise the security of your homes and cars by leaving windows and doors unsecured giving easy access to the opportunist thieves.

(Police & Crime Report continued on page 3)

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NHW volunteers wanted urgently - We always need more volunteers for NHW. The current vacancies are: Webmaster (to run our website), Senior Co-ordinator for Ancells Farm and Co-ordinators for various locations in our NHW district. Interested? Please contact us.

PhoneJoan

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A message from Ch Insp Mellors, Hart District Commander

Dear Neighbourhood Watch members,

I apologise for the impersonal nature of this message, however I feel it is important that you hear of these changes direct. My colleague Paul Brooks in Rushmoor has recently heard that he is to be promoted into another area of responsibility within the Force. This change is earlier than we expected and has caused some repercussions which will affect Hart District. Accordingly, I will take over as District Commander in Rushmoor from 14 July. Fortunately, Ch Insp Sarah Jackson will move from her present training role at Netley to District Commander in Hart in early July. Many of you will recall that Sarah was an Inspector locally until her promotion about 18 months ago. She has always been active in her support of Hart District and she is keen to resume her operational career in an area she is familiar with, amongst partners and residents many of whom she knows well. With respect to my last two years in the District, I am proud of the results the Partnership has achieved. It has been my pleasure to work with a highly professional Community Safety Team alongside partners, politicians and residents who are intent on maintaining our position as the safest area in the county. I doubt Sarah will change our key reassurance message! Thank you for your time and efforts in supporting the Constabulary through the Neighbourhood Watch initiative. Your contribution is significant and it is appreciated.

Best regards Norman (Norman Mellors, Hart District Commander)

(Police & Crime Report continued from page 2)

Please ensure you remove your valuables from your car, putting it in your boot or out of sight is not good enough. The miracles of Bluetooth technology mean that lap-tops, mobiles, etc can all be detected by the thief using their own mobile phone. Please also remember to remove the holder for your sat-nav and the attractive sucker mark left behind on your windscreen. Sadly it is a dead give away as to what might be in the car.

With the arrival of the annual holiday season, Janet Parker (our Station Enquiry Officer) has started an unoccupied houses file so that you can let the Police know when you are going on holiday and leave details. The most important thing is to let your trusted friends and neighbours, fellow members of your NHW, know that you are going away so that they can watch your house, move the post, water plants, cut grass, drawing curtains, etc. Investing in a few timer-switches and leaving the radio on a talk station, also linked to a timer-switch, will give your home the lived in appearance. However, before you go off on holiday do please remember to let your neighbour know what security measures you have put in place to prevent any false alarms or concerns while you are away.

Working for safer communities.

Sgt Dave Hill 2979 - Hart Safer Neighbourhood Team

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Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch

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Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch

Website:

www.fleetnhw.co.uk

The deadline for inputs to
the next Newsletter is:

30 September 2008

Please send any inputs to the
Editor (contact details above).

What is a 112 call?

In some telephone blind spots your mobile phone will display "112 calls only". So what is this 112 call? The designers of the GSM mobile phone network decided that there should be one emergency number that all world-wide networks would recognise. If the user's normal service provider was unobtainable; e.g. the user was in a blind spot or roaming, another provider would make the connection. They chose 112 as that number. The 112 number has now been adopted across most of Europe, not just the EU. In the UK and some other countries it is additional to the national emergency number (such as 999), while in other countries it is the national emergency number. So should you use 112 or 999? If you are in the UK it makes no difference. If you are outside the UK and you do not know the emergency number try 112 – if you are using a mobile phone 112 will probably work.

Martin Vlietstra (NHW Co-ordinator)

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