



FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

www.fleetnhw.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 Number 3
Summer 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

I trust that we have all been enjoying the sunshine of late June early July. You will all have seen enough comment about summer security, but please pay particular attention to sheds, garages and other outhouses. They tend to get forgotten, but your mower, bikes and other possessions are just as important as your household goods.

We are still seeing a steady increase in membership across the area, and now have around 50% cover. Keeping our NHW signs up to date and clear remains a priority.

June saw a Hampshire county meeting of NHW Co-ordinators which was well received, and is another move to ensure a close working partnership between NHW, the Police and local authorities. Working together is the only way we can defeat the criminal and ensure we remain a low crime area.

You will now see reminders for our NHW AGM in September. Please put the date in your diary and try to attend. The special presentation this year will be from the Trading Standards Office which affects all of us with our everyday purchases and trading activities.

We continue to seek volunteers to deliver newsletters in some areas. Kings Road and Victoria Road are two areas of particular concern. The delivery of the newsletters only occurs four times a year, so please give us your support.

Please enjoy the rest of the summer and ensure that through your own efforts we stay crime free.

David M Bunclark - Chairman

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 17 September 2009 at 7.30 pm

All members of the Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch are invited to attend the AGM which will include a special presentation by the Trading Standards Office. Any NHW 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 28 August.**

POLICE & CRIME REPORT

Arson Alert - Wild Land Fires (From Phil McGuinness, Divisional Officer, DFRMO Group Manager (South))
The summer months have well and truly arrived with temperatures in excess of 28°C. The local MOD wild land is extremely dry and the recent hot weather has been a cause of concern to our Local Fire Authority partners (Hants Fire & Rescue). Since this April there have been 71 calls regarding MOD wild land fires surrounding the Aldershot Garrison; areas include: Quetta Park, Velmead, Fleet Pond, Thistle Down and, of particular concern, the wild land near to Church Crookham. These 71 calls have all been attributed to arson. Although we cannot say for absolute certainty who the culprit(s) are, a significant number of these fires have taken place after 3.30pm Mon-Fri, with a higher percentage occurring at weekends and during the school half-term. Therefore it could be assumed that the arsonist(s) is/are of school age. With the summer school holidays now approaching we are very concerned that we could see an increase in fires across the MOD wild land estate. The financial cost for fighting these fires currently stands at £19,500. The fire fighting costs are easy to account for; however, the costs of the other organisations involved in seeking to resolve this issue; i.e. the Police, the Land Wardens, Defence Estates, Hants District Council, DFRMO are as yet unknown. It is of course the tax payers who will ultimately foot the bill for fighting these fires. The environmental costs of these fires is harder to gauge; Gorse grows back relatively quickly however it is the Heather which is at particular risk. It can take up to twenty years to establish a wildlife habitat in and around the Heather and this can be lost within a few minutes of igniting the first flames. We are therefore seeking the help of local dog walkers using the MOD wild land estate to keep an eye out for any fire starters in and around the areas mentioned above. Note: you are not being asked to tackle any individual directly, that is a role for the Police. So if you do observe anything please contact them. The only way we are likely to capture these individuals is with help from members of the local military and civilian communities. One final point; if fire fighters are actively fighting fires on the MOD wild land estate then fire cover is reduced for the remainder of the area to deal with other potentially life threatening incidents. Although the Fire Authority will always provide a response, this response may be delayed due to fire appliances having to respond from further afield.

I (Sgt Dave Hill) would also ask Mums and Dads to be aware of their children's clothing: does it smell of smoke? Are there matches and lighters in pockets? Have the clothes been singed by fire? Have your children suffered unexplained burns? Please ask them if they know who is lighting the fires? If you have any concerns that your child is involved then please contact the Police. If you have any information which you wish to pass anonymously then please use the Crime Stopper number: 0800 555 111. *(Police & Crime Report continued on page 3)*

Urgent: Volunteers wanted to become Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators

Once again we are urgently on the lookout for more NHW Co-ordinators. If you are interested in supporting your local NHW community and would like to volunteer to be either a Senior Co-ordinator or a Co-ordinator, please give our Secretary a call (her contact details are on the back page of this newsletter).

For those Co-ordinators planning to leave the district, please tell your Senior Co-ordinator and try to recruit a replacement before you move house.

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(Police & Crime Report continued from page 2)

We continue to suffer burglaries that are committed as a direct result of the residents not using some very simple crime prevention methods. Where deadlocks or multi-point locks on double-glazed UPVC-style doors are fitted, please use them properly and do not leave the keys in the door or near the door. Take your keys to bed with you, if the worst thing happens and a fire starts in your home the keys will be next to your bed and you will hopefully be able to get your family out safely. Please take your car keys to bed with you as well. Leaving the keys to the most valuable piece of property most people own, other than their home, next to the front door will result in it being stolen by someone with a bit of wire.

The aim is to make life difficult for the opportunistic burglar so that they go somewhere else or get caught in the act. Please call the Police if you see something you are not happy about - let us check it out.

If you are going on holiday and you trust your neighbours, ask them to put the bin out as usual, clear the post, water the plants and, if you are going away for a long period, consider getting someone to tidy your garden. Please also consider putting a radio and lights on a timer switch, but please tell your neighbours so that they know that it is not someone who has broken in and decided to listen to radio 4!

The Police's Anti-Social Behaviour campaign began on 1st July with a multi-agency approach. Hart District Council, Hampshire County Council Children Services and the Police are all working together to distract the youth from ASB and crime by providing activities in the local community and by making sure that they are aware of all the facilities provided at the local leisure centres. Also to deter them from ASB through 'Hi Viz' patrols in key areas, targeting licensed premises which supply alcohol and those people who provide their children or young people with alcohol. It is our intention to make parents aware that just because their child is out of sight it does not mean that we the Police will not hold them responsible in some way for their child's behaviour. The dreaded telephone call or letter about your child's behaviour is not one of those treasured moments of being a parent. However, there are worse moments, such as a telephone call from hospital because your child was too drunk and was injured, or the call from the Custody Sergeant at Aldershot informing you that your child has been taken into custody and that you are needed to perform the role of an appropriate adult in the early hours of the morning.

Please keep you and your family safe.

*Sgt. David Hill, Fleet Safer Neighbourhoods Team
Fleet Police Station, Tel: 0845 045 45 45*

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

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School Crossing Patrols

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If you are interested and for more information please contact:

Robina Hatchett
Tel: 01962 874613

or visit:

www3.hants.gov.uk/hampshire-jobs

or:

www.hampshirejobs.org.uk

www.networkfleet.co.uk

Join the new **FREE** on-line community dedicated to Fleet

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www.networkfleet.co.uk is a new on-line community, in the style of "LinkedIn" and "Facebook", but with a local emphasis, connecting the area's businesses, residents and organisations. Registration is FREE, as the site's infrastructure is funded by on-line advertisements. The local Police have shown support for the site, which currently features a BBC video clip warning of "Vamoose" burglaries, a crime that has affected a couple of households in recent months. Members will also receive direct to their email inbox fast track Police warnings of local crime trends.

The website has a modest following at present, but the locally based developer hopes it will grow into a useful forum for local issues and so help the community shape its own future and thrive commercially, socially and environmentally.

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

Co-ordinators' Rep: George Beauchamp Tel: 01252-623366

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: **30 September 2009**

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