



FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

www.fleetnhw.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

Volume 17 Number 3
Summer 2011

Calls to the Police

999

Emergencies & 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 & for issues
that have already occurred

Chairman's Report

I trust you are all summering well, and that the warm spell in April/May was not our only spell of good summer weather. Your committee would be enjoying the season more if we had a secretary. Is there no-one out there who could help us out? Male or female, no shorthand required, only six meetings a year, plus the odd contact from members. You would be serving the community and helping to keep this area one of the most crime free in the country. This does not happen by accident, but by all of us working together for the common good.

Last month in the Hart Shopping Centre, a few members of your NHW committee attended a two day presentation along with the Police and other Community Services to illustrate how we all work together to keep our area safe, and to seek maximum engagement and participation with the public.

Please don't forget to report any NHW signs that are in a poor state. They are our frontline message to potential criminals to warn them that we are on the lookout for each other.

One last and important comment: please don't ignore this year's AGM on the 15th September. It is your opportunity to have your say. Given that we deliver to some 6000 households, an attendance last year of only 40-50 members was pretty poor.

David 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 15 September 2011 at 7.30 pm

In addition to the normal agenda items, this year's meeting will include a presentation by Mr Owen Durrett JP on "The Magistracy". All members of the Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch are most welcome to attend the AGM. 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 Chairman in writing by: **Friday 26 August**.

POLICE & CRIME REPORT

The current news is about the closure of Fleet Police Station over the next few years. Before this happens your Safer Neighbourhood Team, currently based at Fleet Police Station, will be relocated to another location within Fleet. We are moving not leaving. We have had a few burglaries in the Hart area whereby the suspects have gained access to the premises via the letterbox. They insert a tool and release the door or hook out the keys. They usually target UPVC doors which have not been deadlocked properly by the occupiers or where the keys are near the front door. They will then steal high value property and use the car from the home for transport. Please take your keys to bed and deadlock your door properly. We recently arrested a young male and he has been charged with two offences connected to these burglaries. Enquiries are in hand to speak with his friends. We have also experienced an increase in thefts from motor vehicles. The majority had no damage caused to gain entry and all were carried out at night and outside the owners' home addresses. These thefts could have been prevented by the owners removing their valuables from their cars and taking them indoors! Summertime is here and the temptation to leave windows and doors open for a welcome breeze provides the opportunistic thief with numerous opportunities. Please don't make it easy for them.

Beat 1 - Fleet Town Centre: Following complaints about Oakley Park and ASB, patrols have been increased by Police and the Hampshire Community Support Officers (CSOs). Residents attended a meeting to air their views and we are meeting with the friends of Oakley Park and the Town Council. Alcohol has been seized from youths and letters sent to parents and schools. We find that some brands of energy drink are being confused with alcoholic drinks due to the packaging by members of the public. Parents of those under 18 yrs of age must ensure that their children are not accessing alcohol. We all have a responsibility to try to prevent young people being made vulnerable through alcohol abuse. We are patrolling and seizing alcohol from young people, only to be told that Mum or Dad gave it to them for a party. Section 149 of the Licensing Act 2003 makes it an offence for any child to buy or attempt to buy alcohol whether or not on licensed premises. It is an offence for a person to act as an agent for a child to purchase or attempt to purchase alcohol; e.g. if a child gives money to an adult to buy alcohol in an off-licence for consumption by the child. It is an offence for a person to buy or attempt to buy alcohol for consumption by a child on licensed premises; e.g. where Dad buys a drink for his son in a pub.

Beat 2 - Fleet West: Parking complaints linked to schools continue to be an issue. Many parents apparently are more interested in dumping their children and leaving, rather than parking safely and considerately to make sure that they do not put their own and other children at risk. Yellow lines have been painted on roads near schools and the Hart Parking Wardens are targeting schools at relevant times. Police have issued tickets and some educational advice regarding parking to several individuals. Working with Hart CCTV, Police caught a group of boys and girls aged 12 climbing on a building at Basingbourne Park. Some were dressed in school uniform and several of them caused deliberate damage to the roof and walls. After attending the Police Station to be interviewed with parents present, they have all written letters of apology to the Council. All the youths were accompanied by their parents to a meeting with the Council where the implications of their actions were explained. The parents, who supported the Police response and were very disappointed with their children's behaviour, all supported the option that the matter be dealt with by way of a 'Community Resolution' which the local Council, as the victim in the case, agreed to. Police and the CSOs will continue to target this area and CCTV will be used to support investigations into ASB and wilful damage.

Beat 3 - Church Crookham: ASB in Ridgeway Parade, Quetta Park and on Zebon Copse continues, with young people experimenting with alcohol and causing damage. If not arrested, any youths stopped will have a letter sent to their home and their school informed. The children are locals and their parents have a responsibility for their child's actions when they are unsupervised. If you can identify the youths involved in ASB please call.

(Police & Crime Report continued on page 4)



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Volunteers wanted - NHW Secretary and a Senior Coordinator

The role of Secretary on the NHW Committee is not too demanding but it is a important appointment and our organisation will certainly suffer if this position remains vacant for too much longer.

Ancells Farm is our largest distribution area which is admirably supported by 25 Coordinators. However, we urgently need a Senior Coordinator to administer and manage the overall distribution of the NHW newsletter.

If you are interested in either of these positions please give a member of the NHW Committee a call (our contact details are on page 4).

Notice-board

An important date for your diary Each year in September Barbara Clements (ex-NHW Secretary) runs a Macmillan Coffee Morning. This extremely deserving charity gives support to people living with Cancer. This year she is dedicating the event to Linda Adams, a good friend who died recently after fighting the illness for many years. Normally she holds the event in her house but, in anticipation of more support this year, she has hired Willis Hall, Sandy Lane, Church Crookham from 9.30am to 1.00pm on 30 September and would really like your support. Please join her and bring all your friends. Your donations, however small, will go towards a Macmillan nurse helping someone the way they helped Linda.

Mobile-phone scam There have been incidents of expensive mobile phones being delivered by courier to addresses in Fleet. Recipients are then contacted by phone to say that they have been wrongly delivered and someone will collect the items. This is a scam. If anyone calls in relation to mobile phones, try and get as many details as you can before contacting the Police and the phone provider.

Distraction thefts We have had incidents of criminals asking for assistance around shopping areas - usually car parks. While the member of the public is helping, their money/credit cards are being stolen from their cars. Shopping: never leave your bag on a trolley unattended. Putting shopping away in your car: always ensure your handbag/wallet is safe. If distracted: keep your handbag with you or lock it in the car before speaking to anyone. Giving directions: ensure you first lock personal items in the car. Filling up with fuel: lock the car while you pay. Use the zip: never leave purses/wallets on view. After helping someone: check that your purse/wallet is still there. If not call your bank/credit card companies/store card stores immediately and also call the Police as soon as possible.

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First consultation is free

The theft of lead from buildings is an escalating problem. We recommend that a post-code and house number/ name or some form of permanent mark is stamped on the lead so that any loss can be traced. Several people have been arrested recently for the theft of lead. Please ensure that access to lead roofs is made as difficult as possible. Consider growing prickly plants up the wall and installing lighting and CCTV and, of course, ensure that ladders are locked away.

Beat 4 - Elvetham Heath and Ancells Farm: The community priority is ASB and we continue to patrol to deter and catch those who are affecting the community's quality of life. Much of the ASB is thoughtless behaviour; e.g. playing football on a road near parked cars when there is a nearby open space, kicking footballs over fences, dropping litter when a bin has been provided, disturbing people by shouting and screaming. Clearly some ASB is malicious. It doesn't matter, if it disrupts the quality of life we, working with Hart District Council and other agencies, want to know so that we can reduce it. Parking and traffic related complaints continue to be an issue on Elvetham Heath. Many of the roads are listed as un-adopted (not maintained at public expense) so much of the Road Traffic Act is unenforceable. However, roads are being adopted and those who insist on parking their car on a pavement will be ticketed if they cause an obstruction. This is a quality of life issue for many residents who are inconvenienced by thoughtless parking. Please respect pedestrians and pavements.

Sgt Dave Hill is responsible for the Safer Neighbourhood Team. Areas covered in the Fleet Sector are:

Town Centre and Pondtail - PC Paul Franks, PC Dan Lehec and PCSO Dan Eaves

Fleet West - PC Natasha Farr and PCSO Nick Greenwood

Church Crookham - PC Caroline Webster and PCSO Adam Merrick

North Fleet, Fleet Services, Elvetham Heath and Ancells Farm - PC Neil Prescott, PCSO Bill Evans and PCSO Kat Coutts

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If you would like further information or have any questions please contact: **Lynn on 07748 498024** or e-mail **waterfall_therapies@yahoo.co.uk**

Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch Committee Members

- Chairman:** David Bunclark Tel: 01252-621684 email: chairman@fleetnhw.co.uk
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Treasurer: Kenneth Hammond Tel: 01252-694310 email: treasurer@fleetnhw.co.uk **Coordinators' Representative:** Vacant
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Webmaster: Andy Allen Tel: 01252-697256 email: webmaster@fleetnhw.co.uk **Ewshot:** Sue Freeman Tel: 01252-851534 (Not on Committee)
Ancells Farm: Vacant **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 2011**

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