



FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

www.fleetnhw.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

Volume 16 Number 1
Winter 2009 - 2010

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

Chairman's Report

Here we are, another year gone and, fortunately for our area, a relatively crime free period. This will not console those amongst us who have been subjected to burglary, theft, vandalism or abuse, but it should help remind us all that most of the population can sleep safely and go about their business without fear.

I am sometimes asked what does the Neighbourhood Watch actually do. Well, we don't form vigilante groups to see off those whom we consider undesirable, but we do work closely with the Police, local authorities and the population at large to present any potential criminals with the basic knowledge that we are looking out for each other and that we will not tolerate their presence. However, no matter how much we support each other it remains a disturbing fact that around 20% of all local crime is virtually self-inflicted by those leaving keys available, cars unlocked, and valuable items too often on display.

Let us ensure that the year 2010 sets new standards in crime reduction, but to achieve that we must make sure we help ourselves by keeping security and awareness uppermost in our minds.

David Bunclark - Chairman

Volunteers for NHW If you are interested in supporting your local NHW and would like to volunteer to be either a Co-ordinator or perhaps help in some other way, please give our Secretary a call (her contact details are on the back page of this newsletter).

Notice-board

Household Security - An Apology

In the last edition we advertised that door stickers with a note which requested that distributors push all leaflets, newspapers, flyers, etc completely through the letterbox were available from Hart District Council reception. This information came from Trading Standards; however, after publication it proved to be wrong as HDC knew nothing about the scheme. We apologise for misleading our readers.

Helpline for people at risk

Vulnerable adults and older people who live alone may be at risk in their own homes due to lack of heat and food supplies. As more people returned to work following the recent severe weather, social care staff have been concerned that those living alone will feel even more isolated. Hampshire County Council is urging anyone who feels they are at risk from the cold and anyone who has been unable to leave their home to call Hantsdirect on 0845 603 5630. Staff are on standby to help.

News and Events in and around the Hart District

The Hart District Council website features local news items and local forthcoming events. The addresses are:
www.hart.gov.uk/index/news_and_events/news.htm
www.hart.gov.uk/index/news_and_events/events.htm To have an event listed email: webmaster@hart.gov.uk

Consultation at Hart

To find out the views of people regarding HDC and to enable them to give feedback about its services, there is a voluntary panel of residents who help by completing online surveys on various topics. The responses help HDC departments identify needs and make improvements to services. New members are always welcome and you can register at: www.hart.gov.uk/index/customer_services/consultation_at_hart.htm

POLICE & CRIME REPORT

Neighbourhood policing aims for the New Year:

- ◆ To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- ◆ To bring offenders to justice
- ◆ To improve public confidence

According to Sir Robert Peel: "The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with it". I fully support this premise; our primary role is the reduction of crime. The fewer crimes we have, the fewer victims there are. We will target the issues and areas that cause concern in our community. The current community priorities include parking issues, cycling on footpaths, road safety, Anti-Social Behaviour and the reduction of Burglary.

If you want an input into what your Beat Officer's priorities are, then please contact us via our website at: www.hampshire.police.uk/Internet/localpolicing/northeast/hart/fleet/3HLSNT1.htm (following the 'Your Voice Counts' link) or through emails or telephone calls to me or anyone else on the Beat Team.

Sir Robert Peel said: "The police are the public and the public are the police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence. I believe that his advice still holds true today and that for the good of your community we must work together. This is best achieved by telling your Beat Officers what is happening in your community, thus enabling the police to use their powers and contacts to deal with your local issues.

Over the past year we have reduced crime across the HART District, and according to <http://maps.police.uk> as of 17 Dec 09 the average number of crimes in HART over the last three months has decreased from 403.3 to 309 (23.4%) compared to the same period in 2008. Our local area crime figures for that same period are as follows:

- ◆ Fleet Central and Pondtail. A reduction from 59.7 to 42.3 (29.1%)
- ◆ Church Crookham. A reduction from 20 to 19 (5%)
- ◆ Fleet West. A reduction from 32.7 to 22.3 (31.6%)
- ◆ Fleet North. A reduction from 58.7 to 35.7 (39.2%)

(Police & Crime Report continued on page 3)

How to set up a new Neighbourhood Watch Group

Initial contact is made by the person who wishes to set up the new group. A meeting is arranged, usually one evening, and a NHW representative and the local Beat Officer attends to explain how we operate. The person who sets up the group (Co-ordinator) is asked to collect a one-off subscription (£2) from each household. Each household is given a starter pack and a NHW sign is provided for the group. The Co-ordinator is expected to distribute the quarterly newsletters to his/her group, but it is up to the members how involved they become with each other. Mainly we urge you to be neighbourly and to report anything suspicious to your Beat Officer.

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(Police & Crime Report continued from page 2)

As a result of the specific areas of concern that you have expressed to the Safer Neighbourhood Team, my officers have taken the following actions:

Patrols have been conducted with the Roads Policing Unit in order to seize uninsured vehicles, issue tickets to speeding drivers and to target drink drivers.

Officers have been liaising with Hart District Council to resolve parking issues in Fleet and it is understood that funding will be allocated in 2010.

Officers in Fleet have been targeting cyclists on the footpaths and 62 have been stopped for offences. This was 14% of the total cyclists seen, the majority of whom were complying with the law.

Officers have been helping at the local HYPE discos to ensure that a safe environment exists for the young people to have fun. It also provides Hampshire Children's Services and the Police an opportunity to engage with young people, to distract them from Anti-Social Behaviour and to educate them in safe practices and lifestyle choices.

Officers have been visiting local schools to explain the criminal justice system and the roles and responsibilities we all have as members of the community.

Officers with units from the HART District and Hampshire Constabulary have recently been involved in closing down an illegal cannabis factory in Fleet. Drugs with associated paraphernalia have been seized and several people arrested. Further enquiries and file preparation are in progress.

Officers have been working with Trading Standards to implement more 'No Cold Calling Zones' in the areas you have requested. If you would like further information please either email nccz@hants.gov.uk or call 01962 833620.

Crimestoppers: Please call 0800 555 111 if you want to report something anonymously or, if it is not urgent, please use the online form at: www.crimestoppers-uk.org Please remember that Domestic Abuse, Drunken Driving, and in fact anything that you think someone should know about can also be reported to Crimestoppers if you wish to remain anonymous.

Have a Happy New Year and let us all keep on working to reduce crime by being vigilant and by making the criminals' lives as hard as possible.

Sgt. Dave Hill 2979
Fleet Safer Neighbourhood Team
Fleet Police Station
08450454545

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

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Bad weather brings out the neighbourly spirit

A NHW Co-ordinator reported:

NHW and the neighbourly spirit is alive and well in Whin Holt, off Longmead, Fleet. After the heavy snow this week Whin Holt, like the rest of Fleet, was buried under 10" of snow. The residents arranged to tackle the inconvenience this morning, Saturday 9th January, and everyone responded to the call. It took 17 cheerful workers two hours to clear a width of road wide enough to enable the cars to get out onto Longmead.

Refreshment was kindly produced and happily consumed during and after the action. *Editor*

Trading Standards - Approved Traders

The aim of the Buy with Confidence scheme is to help consumers to avoid rip-offs and cowboys by providing a list of reputable local businesses in a range of different trades. Member companies have been independently checked by staff from the local authority Trading Standards Service against the scheme rules. The website is at: www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk

Trading Standards - Consumer Advice

Consumer Advice in Hampshire is now provided by Consumer Direct South East. However, complex enquiries or those requiring further action would be referred to Hampshire Trading Standards. Consumer Direct is both a telephone and online consumer advice service that is supported by local authorities in the South East and by the Office of Fair Trading. Their contact details are: By telephone: 08454 04 05 06 or 01622 626520
Via the website at: www.consumerdirect.gov.uk By letter or personal visit to:

Trading Standards
Montgomery House
Monarch Way
Winchester
Hampshire, SO22 5PW

Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch Committee Members

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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 March 2010**

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