

Watch Over Woking

The news-sheet of the Woking Association of Neighbourhood Watches (WAN)



ISSUE 11

Autumn 2014



So this is what our town centre will look like? The fire station is currently where the yellow building is.

Message from your Chairman

You may recall at the WAN AGM in July that I was very open about my concerns over the future of Neighbourhood Watch. Surrey residents are facing a significant reduction in the number of Police personnel assigned to neighbourhood policing. Also, these local teams are withdrawing from all non-essential duties and activities – such as attending meetings with Neighbourhood Watch and making contact even once a year with Watch Co-ordinators.

I decided that we could not sit idly by but needed to do something. I wrote to our MP, Jonathan Lord, who passed on my letter to the Chief Constable. She in turn asked the officer in charge of West Surrey, Chief Superintendent Helen Collins, to meet with me to find ways of refreshing the movement. In particular we looked a number of ideas that Mark Saunders, our Crime Reduction Advisor, put forward, and we would like to take all these forward too. I would be delighted if you could come to the next meeting of WAN Coordinators – see below – to hear about them and give me your views.

At the meeting I was also able to meet Woking's new Inspector Nolan Heather, and he has been asked to help us move forward and to report back to Helen Collins. Insp. Heather will be at the meeting too. In particular he will present a different set of statistics on local crimes, because we had also complained that the ones we were being given simply didn't add up!

To make the meeting even more useful we have invited specialists in burglary prevention tools and techniques to come along and present the options to us. So all round, this should be an extremely interesting meeting.

I hope to see you there

Tony Kremer

Chairman:

Tony Kremer

Email:

chair@wanw.org.uk

Website:

www.wanw.org.uk

Invitation

You are invited to the next meeting of the Woking Association of Neighbourhood Watches (WAN) where the theme is security and what we can do about improving it. It will be held on Wednesday 26th November, at St Marks Church, Bonsey Lane, Westfield, GU22 9PP 7:15 for 7:30 start, sharp, with a finish no later than 9:30pm.

Highlights:

- a welcome from the Chair and new ideas for further ways NhW can support the Police
- Meet Woking's new Neighbourhood Commander Inspector Nolan Heather who will present a different way of showing local crime statistics
- Representatives from two Woking companies will talk about physical house and personal security and will show what products are available for making you and your house secure, including the types of alarms available. They will bring examples of products
- AOB

Inspector Nolan Heather

John Davies having moved on to Surrey Heath, WAN welcomes back Nolan Heather. Inspector Heather joined Surrey Police in 1998 starting at Leatherhead. He tells us, "Once my probation finished I went onto CID based at Epsom and then became part of the Major Crime Investigation Team based at Guildford. I returned to uniform on promotion as a Sergeant based at Reigate in 2007 before moving to Guildford Custody Centre a couple of years later. In February 2012 I started as a Neighbourhood Sergeant at Woking until December 2013 when I moved to run the Prolific Offenders Team based back at Guildford. I'm delighted to return to Woking as your Neighbourhood Inspector and look forward to working with Neighbourhood Watch."



Nolan will be talking to us at the Co-ordinators' meeting on November 26th.

Operation Candlelight

As you know, we will be featuring Home and Personal Security at the Co-ordinators' meeting. Surrey Police are rerunning last year's very successful Autumn Burglary campaign called Operation Candlelight. The messages are:

LIGHT IT

- Install low wattage timed security lighting that stays on throughout the night
- Make sure your house looks occupied even when it isn't. Use an automatic timer switch to turn interior lights on and off

LOCK IT

- Keep your front and back doors shut and locked – even when you are at home
- Fit window locks and ensure French windows and patio doors are secure
- Never leave door keys, car keys or other valuables in reach of a letterbox or window
- Secure your garage and shed too – equipment kept in a garage or shed can be just as tempting for a burglar

REGISTER IT

- If you can, install a burglar alarm and set it every time you leave your home
- Register your property at www.immobilise.com it's free of charge and can increase your chances of being reunited with your property
- Install an app on your phone/tablet so that it can be traced

Security Products for NHW Residents

In addition to our traditional activity of keeping residents informed about local crime incidents, residential and personal security, WAN has been looking at how we could improve our services to you.

Following a number of meetings with Mark Saunders, Surrey Police Crime Prevention Design Advisor, we are following up on his idea of offering security products.

We have selected a small stock of products that we think will be of general interest to residents ranging from personal alarms, house locks and cycle security. These will be on display and available for sale at our WAN Co-ordinators' meeting.

The prices should be very good as we will be offering these at near cost. Your response will be interesting and suggestions on what products we could include will be of paramount interest if we are going to continue this initiative and even expand the stock selection.

This is in addition to the SelectaDNA kits which you can use for marking your high-value items such as jewellery, laptops, etc. These kits will mark around 50 items invisibly which acts as a deterrent to burglars if you display the warning signs by your doors. When we bulk-purchase these, we can reduce the normal price by about half and make them available to you for £18 each.

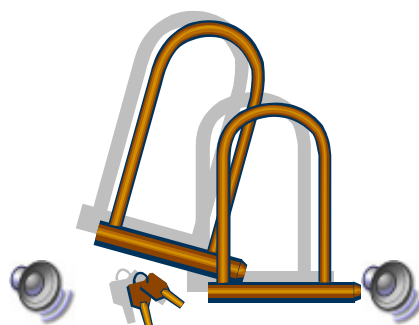
Dog owners beware! Dog thieves in operation

Message from Philip T in Hook Heath circulated via Streetlife:

Please can you let everyone you know who has anything to do with dogs know what is happening. My wife is a dog groomer and has just been told by one of her contacts, a dog walker, that dog thieves are operating on Horsell Common. There have been several attempts at dog thefts very recently. It's two apparently very large built women, one with distinctively bright blonde hair. One tries to distract the owner whilst the other takes the dog. Please be super vigilant as a MAN recently also did manage to steal a dog but eventually let him go after 2 or 3 weeks after the owner got his story in the papers and all over the internet and into the news.

To be forewarned is to be forearmed. And also if you are on your guard it may stop something nasty happening to you and your dog.

Last point, scaring them away from Horsell Common might make them try to operate in another dog walking area, so spread this far and wide please.



WAN to stockpile up on crime prevention aids

Our Crime Prevention Advisor Mark Saunders has suggested that we carry a stock of crime prevention aids for resale to Woking residents, and that is exactly what we now plan to do. Not to make a profit, but to provide a service.

So we need cash to get us started. Many will remember Ann Taylor who was a stalwart of NHW just a few days ago. Ann has kindly made a generous donation to WAN that has enabled us to get the ball rolling.

More details about what we plan to buy and prices will be shared with you at the Co-ordinators' Meeting.

Area Coordinator contact details

We hope to recruit an experienced coordinator in all 8 areas in Woking, but as you can see we still have a few vacancies:

Byfleet, West Byfleet, Pyrford	Fui Ling Bolton	ByfleetAC@wanw.org.uk
Horsell & Goldsworth Park	Alan Taylor	horsell_area_coordinator@wanw.org.uk
Town Centre	Martin Stilwell	Centre_Area_Coordinator@wanw.org.uk
Old Woking, Barnsbury, Kingfield & Westfield	Derek Bartholomew	old_woking_area_coordinator@wanw.org.uk
Mount Hermon, St Johns, Hook Heath, Mayford & Sutton Green	Vacancy	
Sheerwater	Paul Salt	Saltbox46@msn.com
Maybury	Vacancy	
St Johns, Knaphill, Brookwood	Vacancy	

News from the neighbourhood Police teams

Please go to the Woking Police web page for news regarding your local area.

Byfleet, West Byfleet, Pyrford	http://www.surrey.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/woking/WKBP
Horsell & Goldsworth Park	http://www.surrey.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/woking/WKGH
Town Centre	http://www.surrey.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/woking/WKWT
Old Woking, Barnsbury, Kingfield & Westfield	http://www.surrey.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/woking/WKOW
Sheerwater	http://www.surrey.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/woking/WKSH
Maybury	http://www.surrey.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/woking/WKMA
Mount Hermon, St Johns, Hook Heath, Mayford & Sutton Green	http://www.surrey.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/woking/WKMH
Knaphill, Brookwood	http://www.surrey.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/woking/WKNB

Call 101 for all non-emergency policing matters or **report online** at www.surrey.police.uk.

Call 999 if you have a genuine emergency requiring the attendance of the police (eg a crime is in progress or someone is in immediate danger).

Call the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 if you have information about a crime and don't want to leave your name.