

WATCH OVER WOKING



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



St Nicholas, Pyrford c1140

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**Issue 6 was personalised for each Police Watch area and
distributed by Watch Coordinators to the residents
This “neutral” version contains all details common to each version**

Message from your Chairman

A change in the format in this Autumn edition: we will try to make it a little more relevant to the part of Woking in which you live. Tell me if you like it, please.

I make no apology for focussing quite a lot on the major changes afoot in the way Police and Crime are to be tackled across the country. This WILL affect all of us, so please read the articles and vote on November 15. You will also be able to read about our next meeting of Coordinators to be held in the following week on the 21st. I think will be enjoyable and interesting and I hope to see you all there.

Best wishes
Tony Kremer

Message from your Area Coordinator

Appearing in each version is a message from your coordinator

Who will be our new Police and Crime Commissioner?

On the 15 November 2012, for the first time ever, the public across England and Wales will elect a police and crime commissioner (PCC) who will be accountable for how crime is tackled in their police force area. Our PCC will aim to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service within Surrey.

Most people realise that the PCC will set the Police budget, decide the precept (the amount we pay within the Council tax), and then hold the Chief Constable and the Police Force accountable for their performance.

But it is a lot more than that: it's about crime too. The PCC will lay out a strategy for how crime and the consequences of crime will be tackled, what voluntary agencies will be commissioned to provide what services, and how much money they will get. That means that we in the Crime Prevention end of the spectrum will be looking to stress the important role we play, as will others right across both the justice system and the support networks - for victims, witnesses, youth offenders, etc.

So the race to become one of the 41 newly elected Police and Crime Commissioners has started in earnest. I have met 4 of the 6 candidates now, and in my opinion 2 or 3 are really strong. I recommend you look at this independent website: www.policeelections.com/. Remember, this is not a party political post – even though a Party sponsors some - and the candidate who will do the best for our area is the best candidate.

I have joined others in the voluntary sector in briefing them on how we tackle crime and disorder and of course I am using this opportunity to reinforce the message that the expansion of Neighbourhood Watch needs to be properly funded. Failure to do so could lead to a rise in crime, something that they will be accountable for to the people who have elected them.

There are going to be public meetings in the run-up to the elections, such as the one on 22nd Oct at 7:30pm at Camberley Working Men's Club and another on 25th Oct at 6.30pm in the Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall. Please make an effort to attend one in your area and ask them embarrassing questions.

Where are the facts?

If you sometimes wonder just how much crime there is in your area, why not use the national NhW network to tell you. Just follow this link, enter your own post code and see for yourself.

http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/your_local_area/community_information/?postcode=GU21

Surrey Crimestoppers



Crimestoppers is a UK-wide organisation you can ring anonymously with information that helps the Police and authorities catch criminals and reduce crime. The Surrey branch is actually based in Woking, so let's not let them down and stay quiet. They update their website all the time and it's worth adding to your "Favourites" list.

<http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/in-your-area/south-east/surrey>

Remember, the calls are anonymous.

Operation Candlelight

Operation Candlelight, which tackles burglary, launches on Monday, 22 October and runs until Friday, 21 December. This is in response to the spike in dwelling burglaries seen during the autumn and winter months likely to be caused by the longer, darker evenings which increase a burglar's opportunity to offend. Bus back advertising, direct mailing of burglary prevention cards to houses identified as being most at risk, roadshows and radio adverts are just some of the tactics being used to educate Surrey residents about dwelling burglaries and what they can do to avoid becoming a victim of this distressing crime. Overt and covert proactive police activity, targeting of known burglars and teaming up with Crimestoppers to appeal for information from members of the public who may know who is offending are also part of our strategy to relentlessly pursue criminals.

Chief Constable Lynne Owens

Police Alerts – too many? too few? too vague?

Remember the article a year ago in which we described how the Police go about selecting the crimes to pass on to us by email? Well, our CRA Mark Saunders asked us to find a new volunteer to do this task, and I am glad to say he is now training up Sandra. This may lead to some changes to the service, but first we must make sure Sandra understands the job as it stands now and maintains Mark's high standard.

Policing isn't all blues and twos and paperwork

What are the Police doing? Searching for a weapon following a serious crime? Looking for the Chief Constable's lost car keys? No, they're doing FOD* Protection where they check the road surface for loose objects and anything that could cause a puncture prior to the Olympic cycle race.



* Foreign Object Damage

Coordinators Workshop on 21st November

If you have joined one of our previous workshops, you will know that they are both informative and enjoyable and the next one will be even better. You are invited to Woking Council Offices at 7.30 for a 7.45 start, and we'll be covering the following topics:

- After the Election of the new Police & Crime Commissioner, what do we know about him/her? Where do we go next to build the right relationship? Discuss WAN's proposal to support the new Commissioner (from 7.45 till 8.15)
- Building a friendly, caring and supportive community using a computer and the Internet! A new service aimed at senior citizens. Hear from the founder of DropBy, Mary Baker (from 8.15 till 8.40)
- Meet Chris Lee, the new Sergeant covering Horsell, GWP and Knaphill and discuss what you would like from Surrey Police and how better we can work more closely together (from 8.40 till 9 pm)
- conflict management and the use of reasonable force: hear from PC Wayne Honour, a trainer in police safety (from 9 pm till 9.20)

Welcome to TS@lert! (by Claire Hodgson)

TS@lert is a new email system from Surrey Trading Standards which aims to quickly and directly alert businesses and consumers to scams or issues which may affect them. The idea is that we email key groups and organisations within Surrey who then in turn forward the messages to their residents, consumers, friends and families!

All of our alerts will be applicable to Surrey residents and businesses.

What are TS@lert messages?

- Example 'problems' may be rogue traders operating in your area, the latest scam or product recalls.
- Messages describe the 'problem', say what to do if affected and who to report the incident to and where to get help or further information.

Why not check out the website (www.surreycc.gov.uk/tradingstandards).

Tony Kremer adds:

We plan to send some of these alerts on through the WAN network. "No Cold Calling" sticker packs will be available at our meeting on 21 November. Please let me know how many you would like.

Your Police Panel meeting - use it or lose it!

Senior Officers in the Woking Safer Neighbourhood Team are actively reviewing the effectiveness of the quarterly Police Panels as they are generally not well attended by residents. Those who do attend find these a very valuable opportunity to discuss local issues directly face to face with the local Neighbourhood police and set their policing priorities. It is these local police who are the ones who are actually on the beat working to make our own area a safer place, so it's a good investment of about an hour of our time. These police also value the meeting as it gives them a forum to learn about their patch and possibly pick up snippets of valuable information. Generally speaking it is the older residents who attend the panels and the police would like to see younger folks there also so that they can get a perspective across all demographic groups. If these meetings are well attended then it will be very difficult for their cancellation to be justified. I know it's an old slogan but it really is a case of "**Use it or lose it!**"

In each version there is a map of the Watch area.

<map> <message from local team>

Meet your Neighbourhood Commander John Davies



I am the Woking Neighbourhood Inspector, and am proud to have a team of enthusiastic staff who are dedicated to working with the community and partners to keep Woking a safe and pleasant place to live.

One of my priorities is anti-social behaviour and violence caused by alcohol, particularly at weekends around Woking's pubs and clubs. My team is working to address this issue via Operation Dogmatic - an initiative launched last year in partnership with British Transport Police, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, Woking Borough Council, the British Army and Street Angels. As a result, I am pleased to report a 48% reduction in violent crime in Woking town centre.

Most recently, three notices were served under Section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act (2003). This gives officers the power to direct a person to leave an area where they pose a risk of contributing to disorder – and to instruct them not to return within a maximum of 48 hours. Failure to comply makes them liable for arrest. Op Dogmatic has also resulted in four arrests for various offences, including breaching a Section 27 notice, actual bodily harm, affray, and a public order offence.

My team will continue to work hard with you, and our partners, to tackle the small minority of individuals who make a nuisance of themselves to people who live and work in Woking.