

WATCH OVER WOKING

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The News-sheet of the Woking Association of Neighbourhood Watches

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Spring edition of Watch over Woking. This is mostly reporting back from the WAN Coordinators meeting on 9 March. This was an excellent session, though it would have been better attended if we had avoided a Friday evening. We will do so in future!

There are three aspects I want to talk about here: first, some fresh ideas from the meeting, listening to how other Watches are operated. Then the Area Coordinator idea floated at the AGM: we now can describe the role fully, and ask for volunteers in those areas not covered, and finally a new approach to recruiting new Watches which we are calling "filling in the gaps".

We were also told to "up" our profile, and I am glad to accept this challenge! I hope you will read more about the NhW movement in the press in future. And we were asked to hold not one but two of the non-AGM meetings a year where Coordinators can discuss matters of interest, so we'll aim to have a summer AGM, an Autumn Special Meeting and a Spring one, and three Watch over Woking newsletters in between.

Best regards Tony Kremer, Chair

AREA COORDINATOR IDEA TAKES OFF

At last Summer's AGM we launched the idea of Area Coordinators (AC), where we nominate a Coordinator to oversee activities in each of the 9 Police areas. So far we have Byfleet, Horsell, Goldsworth Park and Westfield covered. We very much want to find recruits for the others now.

At the March 9 meeting we fleshed out the role of the ACs, which we see as follows:

- hold the contact details of the Watches, and monitor how well they are working. If extra help is needed, for example to collect email addresses, the AC can let WAN know, or even better, get some help from local Watches for an evening or two
- develop a close relationship with the local Neighbourhood Police team, understand their priorities and beats
- publicise and attend Panel meetings, and now and then arrange to meet with the other Coordinators before or after the Panel meeting itself, to discuss areas of common interest. (For courtesy please let your PCSO know when you want to do this.)

If you are attracted to this idea, do drop us an email at WANSEC@wanw.org.uk or phone Tony on 01483 764351.

FILLING IN THE GAPS

One of the latest ideas WAN wants to tell you about is directly related to the AC idea. We believe that Watches would each be more secure if there were no uncovered roads in between them - no gaps in the coverage.

So we want ACs to monitor the coverage using maps that WAN will provide which show the coverage quite clearly. Then the AC and his or her Coordinators can decide what the priority roads for recruitment are. With these priority roads in mind, you can set to working with the local PCSO/PCs and WAN to knock on doors. Don't be nervous - we do have some volunteers that are happy to do this, ideally with you alongside to see how easy and enjoyable a task it is.

The current Street-a-Week recruitment programme is continuing, but these are on roads selected by the Police as priorities. Now as well we want to fill in the gaps, turning our Watch recruitment to roads where YOU believe the priorities should be.

What do you think of this new approach?

RECRUITMENT DRIVE GAINS GROUND

We are all delighted that the Street-a-Week campaign is proving to be successful. We can see a net growth across Woking over the past 2 years of about 15%. We have moved up from 227 watches to 260 (as at 14 March), covering an estimated 9,276 households. This growth is pretty much right across Woking. Congratulations to all who have helped so far! Why not join us recruiting new Watches?

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE (PLI)

In the unlikely event that a third party is injured by any WAN or Watch activity, please be assured that we are covered by PLI. If you want more information, please do contact us.



"Hello! Hello! What have we here then?"

Episodes on the Canal

"Come Out! Before the ice gives way"



The Woking Association of Neighbourhood Watches provides a coordinated network of volunteer community spirited residents who are dedicated to the prevention of crime within the Borough of Woking

News from Woking Police



Woking Town and Insecure Bicycles PCSO Emma Boulwood

As the spring approaches and the days become brighter and longer, it's an encouraging sight to see most people have dusted off the winter cobwebs from their bicycles for a healthy journey into the town centre. The Safer Neighbourhood team would like to encourage our cyclists, to ensure they are taking the extra precautions to counter the seasonal increase in cycle thefts.

Local officers advise cyclists to ensure that their property is security marked either using our UV marker pens which can be purchased at our regular crime prevention stands or registered onto the Immobilise database. And when in the town ensure your bike is secured to a designated cycle rack using a heavy duty lock (preferably a D lock) and ensuring that all removable items such as lights and panniers are not left on the bike whilst unattended. We also encourage people to remain vigilant whilst using the racks and to report anything suspicious on our non emergency number 101, or if you believe a theft is occurring at the time dial 999.

Knaphill/Brookwood's Tackling Damage to Cars by PC Craig Robinson

In the past year our area has seen an increase in the number of cars damaged, typically by deep scratches to paintwork and pierced tyres.

The local policing team have been working hard to detect who is behind these crimes and deter people from engaging in such activity. In order to continue our work we encourage you to call in any suspicious activity on 101. We also encourage people to be mindful of their own vehicles, making sure to park them in a safe place or garage.

The team are pleased to welcome PCSO Adam Kilner who has joined PC Craig Robinson, PCSO Sultan Khan and PCSO Naz Raja. Adam is looking forward to his role and meeting local residents so please feel free to introduce yourself to him if you see him out and about.

Horsell is Tackling Burglary by PC Josh Parish

It's been a busy few months for the Horsell team. From the end of 2011 to the start of 2012 there were a series of burglaries across the area. The team worked very closely with our partner agencies and with our response and investigation teams and following a combination of plain clothed and hi visibility patrols and co-ordinated investigations a male was caught in the act and was recently sentenced and imprisoned at the start of the year.

The Horsell team were particularly impressed with the level of support that was given by the residents of the roads where the burglaries had happened. The residents refused to be despondent and really helped the team by proactively keeping an eye out for their neighbours and reporting every suspicious car and person who visited their roads. This led to the revitalisation of several Neighbourhood Watches and the start of several more. The level of intelligence from the local community is vital for us in our efforts to lower incidents of crime and anti social behaviour and the support given during this burglary series really did make the difference. The Horsell team is very keen to set up further watches and link in with WAN and this will be a focus for the team in coming months.

Sheerwater's International Woman's Day by PCSO Mital Patel

The Safer Neighbourhood Team, and Woking Sure Start Centre got together to organise a ladies' event for International Woman's Day at the Parkview Centre on the 8th March. The aim was for women from all nationalities and backgrounds to get together and enjoy a day full of fun, laughter, and relaxation.

The event was a huge success this year, with many stalls and attractions including Bollywood and Salsa Dancing, Thai Chi lessons, and self defence techniques.

Ladies were also given a free health check covering blood pressure, diabetes, and BMI checks. There was also a great choice of beauty therapy and massages available.

Speeding in Mount Hermon, St. John's, Hook Heath, Sutton Green & Mayford by PCSO Gemma Henty

Anti-social driving - in particular speeding - is often brought to our attention. In response we have created Neighbourhood priorities for some of the worst affect areas and regularly monitor these roads.

In late January a 6 hour operation took place in Saunders Lane, Sutton Green and Westfield Road with great success. In total 21 drivers were issued fixed penalty notices and received a £60 fine and 3 points on their licence. 29 Drivers were given on the spot Drive Smart actions to educate drivers about the potential consequences of speeding and irresponsible driving. 8 verbal warnings were issued and 1 motorist who was caught speeding in both locations later received a summons to attend Court.

You may have noticed changes to the team in recent months. PCSO Gemma Henty took over from PCSO Leanne Roberts in October and PCSO Craig Hawkes joins the team shortly taking over from PCSO Carina Jewell.

Maybury/Mount Hermon East' Drive SMART Campaign *by PCSO Amanda Proctor*



At our panel meetings and Street-a-Week visits, our residents highlighted (amongst other things) speeding and anti social driving as one of their main priorities.

During one cold February evening the Safer Neighbourhood Team, assisted by Roads Policing Team, conducted an evening of speed enforcement under the Drive SMART banner in the area of Heathside Road. Using speed recording equipment and spotters we targeted vehicles committing moving traffic offences and speeding. During the 4 hour operation 14 vehicles were stopped and the drivers spoken to, with 11 of them opting to receive Drive SMART education over prosecution. By entering into the Drive Smart initiative we re-educate drivers by showing them shockingly graphic images of road traffic collisions caused by anti social driving.

3 drivers were issued with Fixed Penalty Notices, which consists of 3 points and a £60 fine.

A number of drivers were further reported for other offences including out of date MOT and no insurance.

If you have speed issues in your street, come along to a Panel Meeting, details can be found on the Surrey Police website and also on our newsletter which will go out to all local residents soon; this information can be found on the back page. If you would like to actively deter speeding and help combat this problem, please contact us about Community Speed Watch.

Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford Tackling Theft from Cars by PCSO Lesley Foster

As you know there has been an issue with theft from motor vehicles. In West Byfleet and Byfleet we have been doing plain clothes and high visibility foot patrols in the affected areas. We've done leaflet drops to raise awareness on security and have involved local agencies (Joint Action Group Woking Council) in many events. We've obtained and executed warrants, targeted insecure vehicles and made the owners aware (as the majority of the thefts have been from insecure vehicles and items which have been left on display.) We will continue to work hard in this area but we need your help. Please ensure you secure your vehicle to help us deter criminals. If you witness any suspicious or criminal activity or see someone attempting to force entry to a vehicle, please call Surrey Police on 999.

We are pleased to welcome PCSO Dino Gomez to the team at Byfleet who will be replacing Tom Pickett. Tom has moved to Maybury so not very far away. Dino has been a PCSO with Surrey police for five years, starting as a youth PCSO for two years in Camberley then in the same role for a year in Woking. For the past two years, Dino has been the PCSO for Woking Town. Dino will be focusing on the West Byfleet and Pyrford area and will be a great asset to the team.

Old Woking, Kingfield, Westfield and Barnsbury's Neighbourhood Priorities *by PCSO Matt Webb*

We currently have 3 Neighbourhood ZJ priorities running, all relating to Anti-social behaviour. These are:

- on Ash Road around the shops and bus stop
- on Rydens Way and the construction site
- around St Peters Recreation ground and Ford Road.

If you have any information please do not hesitate to call us on **101** in non emergencies or **999** in emergencies. All information is given in the strictest of confidence. Alternatively you can call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**.

Over the last couple of months we have had a few changes in team members. At the end of February PC Robbie Mitchelson left to pursue a career in the Uniform Proactive Team, still based in Woking but covering the whole of Surrey. In his place steps PC Mike Boulwood, joining us from the response strand based in the north of Surrey and looking forward to being proactive in his new role as the NSO for the area. The team also welcomes PCSO Pamela Davies. Pamela comes to Surrey Police from a previous role in public relations and will be working alongside PC Mike Boulwood and PCSO Matt Webb.

Goldsworth Park and Insecure Bicycles by PCSO David Stewart

It's not just in town that your bicycle is at risk. Over the past few months this Team has noticed numerous pedal bikes left insecure outside the front of properties in Goldsworth Park which provides thieves with an ideal opportunity. When this happens a local officer tries to speak to the owner and offer crime prevention advice. Wherever possible please store your bike in a locked garage or shed, keeping it out of view at all times.

Goldsworth Park is also pleased to welcome PCSO Paul Roberts who joins PC Emma Barrett and PCSO David Stewart to add additional depth and experience to the policing of the area. Paul is looking forward to meeting local residents so please feel free to introduce yourself to him when you see him out and about.