

GOSPORT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

WatchNews

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September - November 08

Invitation to Gosport Neighbourhood Watch Annual General Meeting

You are all invited to the Gosport Neighbourhood Watch Association Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 17th September, 7.30 p.m. at St. Mary's Parish Church Hall, Village Road, Alverstoke. We need members of the Neighbourhood Watch to show their support. Please get in touch if you would like any issues raised. EVERYONE WELCOME.

CAN YOU HELP? - If you have the occasional hour to spare to help the Gosport Neighbourhood Watch Association with distribution of newsletters, mail and leaflet drops or promote Neighbourhood Watch in general please give us a call.

We also need committee members, if interested and would like further details or a nomination form please contact our Secretary Bob on 023 92522439 email:combes@talktalk.net or Carole on 0239 3090 524 email watchnews@gosportnhw.co.uk.

If you are interested in helping to run your Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and would like further information please give us a call.

WEBSITE RELAUNCH

We are pleased to announce the launch of the website for the Gosport Neighbourhood Watch Association. The website can be viewed at: www.gosportnhw.co.uk

The website provides information on the committee, security advice and information on setting up new schemes. You can also reference back-issues of Watchnews and see the committee meeting minutes!

We hope you will enjoy surfing the site. Your comments and suggestions are most welcome, what would you like to see added? Interested in advertising your business on the website? For further Information or to provide feedback contact: webmaster@gosportnhw.co.uk.

"Neighbourhood Watch? No offense, but I value my privacy. I mind my own business and I expect my neighbours to do the same. What's wrong with that?"

Nothing at all. We all value our privacy. But Neighbourhood Watch is simply a program designed to prevent neighbourhood crime - it could be physical assaults, vandalism, whatever. One of the ways its members achieve this goal is by being alert to the behaviour of strangers. A Watch isn't meant to be a "social club", but it's a whole lot easier to identify strangers ONCE you get to know your neighbours. For this reason, Watch neighbourhoods do tend to be more cohesive, caring communities. So, bottom line, it really comes down to deciding what kind of a community you want to live in, and what level of participation makes it work for you.

Be careful of cold callers, or doorstep sales people by your WatchNews Editor Carole Rudin

On a recent occasion our driveway was empty of signs of life, I was home working on our current newsletter. There was a knock at the door which I answered and was confronted by a guy saying that he was from such and such a nursery company and that he was back in the area. He then disappeared without leaving a card, phone number or any point of contact.

Suspicious or what? Unfortunately I didn't see his vehicle and was not able to take a number.

Treat 'cold calling' door to door sales people or visiting strangers with caution. Genuine companies will provide proper documentation and means of identification for their staff:

- ask to see identification
- request a business card
- be wary about being asked to call a certain number for authentication, especially a mobile number
- is the person suitably dressed for the company they represent?
- is there a suitably marked vehicle in the vicinity, eg British Telecom?
- consider the general demeanour of the person
- don't be sidetracked with requests for a glass of water, use of the toilet, etc which could be a ruse for a person to get into your home
- take a vehicle registration number if possible.

Any suspicious callers should be reported to the police immediately.

NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERGEANTS

Bridgemary Area (Council wards of Bridgemary North & South, Rowner, Holbrook and Peel Common) PS David Knowles - The Dispersal Order around Gregson Avenue has been assessed after six months, as a success. Reported crime in public places fell by 23% in this period, compared with the same period in 2007, whilst specific kinds of incident such as criminal damage fell by 64%, and youth nuisance fell by 41%. The Bridge Team are pleased with this success, given that they have many other issues to concentrate on. The team are currently working on applications for Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) for a small number of persistent trouble makers who live in or close to the Dispersal Order area.

Other areas that have seen concentrated work recently are Carisbrooke Road and Rowner Road. Both of these contain busy shopping parades, where young people like to gather. The main focus of Police efforts have been to gather information on the problems that exist and then to find solutions to these problems. These shopping parades are currently receiving a great many Police patrol hours as a consequence.

Over the past 2 years, Bridgemary has experienced a fall in reported crime and disorder, which has been attributed to youth diversionary schemes. The idea is to provide free healthy, safe activities to young people, in return for them behaving themselves. In previous years, Football Frenzy and Busta Move Skateboarding and Dance has been used by young people to good effect. This year, Police, the Council and also Portsmouth Football Club have joined with the Football Foundation to bring a national scheme to Bridgemary. This is called KICKZ, and is a project which uses the power of football to divert youngsters away from crime. **KICKZ started on 23rd July at Holbrook Rec.** The sessions are as follows: Every Wednesday - Holbrook recreation ground, every Friday - Bridgemary School, Wych Lane. 5-6pm for 11-14 yr olds & 6-7pm for 15-19 yr olds. For more information call 02392 778557

Alver Valley - wards of Grange, Lee East and West - PS 2685 Gavin Steel - Since the last issue of the NHW news progress has been made in the advertising and publication of the anti social behaviour orders that the team have secured on four individuals responsible for graffiti and anti social behaviour in Lee On The Solent. In recent weeks leaflets were delivered to addresses in the areas of Lee where a majority of the offending behaviour took place and posters are to be displayed in nearby public locations such as the shops in Twyford Drive and Lee Community Centre.

The aim of the publicity is to reassure residents that the Safer Neighbourhood Team is tackling anti social behaviour and to give confidence to residents to report issues to us. The publicity will also assist us in enforcing any breaches of the conditions as residents become familiar with the restrictions placed upon the group.

In Rowner we are working on removing a small group of adults whose drunken state at all times of the day intimidate and harass residents and local people.

Alcohol is being seized and, directions to leave the area and not return within a specified time under new legislation are being used. Once the message gets around that their presence will not be tolerated I anticipate a much improved environment.

Elson Team Sgt 3151 Marcus Cator - Over the past few months Elson team have been concentrating their efforts on tackling anti-social behaviour within the area of The Crossways and Forton Park. We have successfully investigated and targeted a group of youths who have been responsible for various incidents from criminal damage to properties in the area through to assaults and intimidating behaviour. They are all due in court by the end of July and are being considered for Anti Social Behaviour Orders with the local Council. Since targeting these youths for their behaviour, reported incidents within The Crossways have reduced considerably. We intend to continue our focus on this area. Further to this the team have been focusing heavily on shoplifters, trying to disrupt individuals repeatedly targeting stores in our community.

Quite often these offenders are responsible for other offences or are the individuals responsible for the repeat anti-social behaviour in the area. The team have identified and arrested 13 persons of which 12 have been charged and sent to court. We have quite a few more to detain and investigate.

On the 18th June 2008 we held our first Key Individual Network (KIN's) meeting for our community. We had a great turnout and excellent feedback for this community meeting, from which several suggestions and concerns were raised to police and we are following these up.

Apart from this we are currently trying to identify the individuals responsible for riding mopeds in the area of Elson with complete disregard for the safety of the public. If you are aware of any riders acting inappropriately on their vehicles, please note their details and let Gosport Police know.

The Town & Anglesea Team PS 1765 Rob Kearley - The Town Centre PRIME (Problem resolution in a multiagency environment) has started in earnest with a presentation last month kicking off the proceedings. The initial presentation was delivered to many agencies & senior managers, councillors and also a representative from the houses of parliament, it raised awareness to serious and long term issues we have over alcohol related crime within the four main streets in Gosport. These streets are Stoke Road, Mumby Road, South Street and of course the High Street. The aim of the presentation is to work alongside the council and other partner agencies with a view to resolving the long term issues. Of course the Police can enforce many of the issues and are doing just that but the aim is to look at the longer term and set in place long term strategies such as education & awareness as well as enforcement in order to change the future. The future for the town is looking good will keep you up to date with progress.

Alverstoke & Privett – PS 2811 Ian Wilson - Inclement weather linked with continued high visibility patrols in key areas have resulted in 45% fewer calls regarding anti social behaviour from April to July. The team have continued to attend school fetes to engage with the local community and will be at the friends of Leesland Park gathering on 20th September. Local officers are also supporting the Councils Summer Passport and assisting in the delivery of youth activities over the holiday period. As I pen this the Stokes Bay Festival is in full swing, to date we have had no issues linked with the event. We will of course continue to police the area and ensure the event is run in line with the guidance that has been applied.

Our only crime issue currently seems to be an increase in the theft of cycles. Please ask your residents to make sure they lock their bikes if left unattended and also when left in sheds and garages.

On a personal note I am moving to a response team in Gosport starting on the 1st August. My replacement is Sergeant Nicola Prior. Nicola returns from leave on 1st September and can be contacted on nicola.prior@hampshire.pnn.police.uk the rest of the team all remain unchanged and contactable in the normal way.

IDENTITY AND CREDIT-CARD FRAUD

Sadly this type of crime is becoming more common. However, with a little care you can greatly reduce the chances of becoming a victim of these crimes.

- Never give personal information, passwords or bank details to strangers who contact you in person, by phone or e-mail. If in doubt, check with your bank or building society.
- Shred or otherwise destroy bank statements, cash-card and credit-card receipts and so on, before you put them in the rubbish bin. You can buy a shredder for under £10.
- Keep personal documents such as birth certificates and passports in a safe place.
- Never keep a written record of passwords and PIN numbers and do not tell anyone else your passwords or PIN numbers.
- Do not keep cheque books and cheque cards together.
- Keep an eye on your bank and credit-card statements and check out any suspicious entries.




If the worst happens A few simple actions can really help in recovering stolen property and reduce cheque or credit-card fraud.

- Photograph valuable items like jewellery, antiques and paintings. Give some idea of the scale by photographing the item next to a ruler.
- Keep a note of the make and model numbers of items for example, TV, hi-fi or PC.
- Use invisible (UV) marker pens to mark your possessions for example, TV, hi-fi or PC.
- Use invisible (UV) marker pens to mark your possessions for example, TV, hi-fi, with your postcode and house number. Renew the markings every year.
- Keep a record of phone numbers for all your bank, credit and store cards so you can cancel them immediately.
- If keys are stolen change all locks straight away.
- The Bobby Van, run by the police, upgrades security in the homes of victims of crime who do not have the money or skills to carry out the work themselves. For more information, contact your local police station or the police website at www.hampshire.police.uk.

SALE OF SECURITY EQUIPMENT - phone Carole on 023 9309 0524 or email sales@gosportnhw.co.uk. Full details available at www.gosportnhw.co.uk
TIM1007 - 24 Hour Timer: £2.00 Each, B1628, Security Door Bar/Guard: £1.50
Each, MA 20 - Mini Alarm with Keyboard: £8.50 Each, DMA313 - The Driveway Monitor Alert: £15.50 Each and SDA600 Sneak In Alarm: £3.50 Each.

As always, if you have any suspicions or serious concerns call the **Police** on 999 in an emergency otherwise 101 or 0845 0454545

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