

# GOSPORT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

## WatchNews

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**Note for your diary** – Gosport Neighbourhood Watch Association **Annual General Meeting** Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September at Bogue Hall, Stoke Road, Gosport at 7.00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

### **CLEAN AND BRIGHT STREET SIGNS GIVES THE RIGHT MESSAGE**

Neighbourhood watch street signs should be a bright flash of yellow that catches your eye as you go about the Borough and makes you think – ‘here is a street that looks after itself and cares about what’s going on’. Unfortunately many of our signs have faded with age and are no longer a warning to ‘would-be’ criminals. In fact, I think these faded signs give the message to criminals ‘we don’t care anymore – so come and have a go’!

For just £3.40 we can supply you with a self adhesive cover to completely refresh your sign.

Check your signs today – then give your order to Carole on 023 92 583637 or [sales@gosportnhw.co.uk](mailto:sales@gosportnhw.co.uk) It’s a great investment – so what’s stopping you?

### **DON'T GET BITTEN BY A LOAN SHARK!**

After Christmas many people struggle with debt. Some are unfortunately targeted by loan sharks. They may not have fins or killer jaws, but loan sharks – or illegal moneylenders – are every bit as dangerous as their name suggests.

Trading Standards has launched the biggest crackdown on loan sharks that the South East has ever seen. A specialist team is helping to hunt illegal money lenders in your area, but they can’t succeed without your help!

If you or someone you know is a victim of a loan shark operating in your area, contact Trading Standards in strictest confidence: 24 hour confidential hotline – 0300 555 2222

Or text ‘load (space) shark (space) +your message’ to 60003. Alternatively email: [stoploansharks@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:stoploansharks@birmingham.gov.uk)

### **Useful Tips:**

Only borrow from legal lenders - Ask for proof the lender has a Consumer Credit Licence.

People lending without a licence are illegal - You are not breaking the law if you borrow from a loan shark, but you are likely to be ripped off and worse.

Illegal lenders are loan sharks - Your loan may keep growing even though you pay regularly. One loan shark customer had to pay £50 a week out of her benefits of £74. Another was charged 117,000% interest (APR).

Some loan sharks threaten you when you can't repay - These types of loans are unenforceable without a court order.

Report your lender if you don't think they have a licence - Trading Services will check to see if they are legal. Remember, you will not get into trouble with the authorities it is the loan shark who is behaving illegally.

You probably won't have to repay loans from an illegal lender - Contact the 24 hour helpline for guidance. (Article supplied by: Lin Fisher, Financial Inclusion Partnership Officer - South East Illegal Money Lending Team - Trading Standards Tel: 07825904587).

## **POLICE FOCUS ON BURGLARIES IN 'OPERATION NEMESIS'**

Chief Constable Alex Marshall announced a campaign to cut the number of burglaries and bring more burglars to justice in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Operation Nemesis marks the start of a campaign which will see all sections of the force unite against burglary and burglars. The campaign started, without publicity, on January 5. Since then, 147 suspects have been arrested.

Hampshire and IOW are far from the top of the table in the number of burglaries committed, but the Chief Constable made it clear that he wants to stop an increase and reduce the number of such crimes.

All sections of the force will work as one team during Operation Nemesis. All police officers will take part, including 60 officers who normally work at police headquarters in Winchester. They will be joined by many police staff who will support the frontline work.

Mr Marshall said: "We know that burglary is a horrible crime which has a significant emotional impact on the victim and a financial impact on individuals and companies.

Known burglars will be targeted, and intelligence will be gathered to identify burglars and their associates. Officers will maximise the use of tools at their disposal, from dog units and aircraft to search powers and various surveillance techniques.

"There is a great deal the public can do to protect themselves from burglary, but everyone can help the police by reporting suspicious people and actions. In response, we will take action to rid our communities of burglars," Mr Marshall said.

At the end of the three-month operation, results will be evaluated. Those tactics which were effective will be adopted force-wide to maintain the battle against burglary.

**THE HAMPSHIRE BOBBY TRUST** - is a Registered Charity committed to help elderly (over 60), vulnerable or disabled residents who have been victims of crime –reassuring and supporting them by fitting locks, door chains, spy holes, smoke detectors etc. and provide general security advice. Although their main aim is to support these folks after a burglary or similar distressing event – they may be able to help before any crime is committed.

If any of your neighbours are elderly, vulnerable or disabled and need help to make their homes more secure then please contact The Bobby Trust on 02392 899056.

## **BEATING THE BURGLARS – PREVENTING BURGLARIES**

The good news is that it doesn't take much to secure your house – and put off thieves.

- Check that all the doors and windows are locked
- Fit deadlocks to all outside doors
- Make sure the deadlock key isn't in an obvious place
- Fit key-operated locks to all the windows
- Install a visible burglar alarm, and turn it on
- Don't hide spare keys outside, or in the garage or shed.
- Leave lights and the radio on a timer for the evening.
- Make sure thieves can't get into the garden – there's a good fence, the side gate is padlocked and the shed is locked.
- Don't leave keys near to letter boxes – thieves fish for them.

**What to do if you have been burgled** - If you have been burgled, then the burglar may have left some forensic evidence at the points of entry to and exit from your home.

If you've cleared up after the burglary, or moved anything then you should keep everything that you move. Scene of Crime officers attend every residential burglary, and this evidence will be useful to them.

## **NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERGEANTS**

**Bridgemary Area (Council wards of Bridgemary North & South, Rowner, Holbrook and Peel Common) PS 3689 David West** - I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, I am Sergeant David West 3689 and I have now taken responsibility for the Safer Neighbourhood Team in Bridgemary, Gosport.

I am well aware of the success that has been achieved within this area and I hope to work with you to build upon those achievements and create an even safer community for the residents of Bridgemary, Rowner, Holbrook and Peel Common.

I intend to achieve this using three core principles, **Catch Criminals**, **Cut Crime** and provide good **Customer Care**.

I look forward to discussing any concerns you may hold and any initiatives you wish to pursue.

**Alverstoke & Privett PS140 Nicola Prior** – We are looking forward to the imminent launch date of Allotment Watch for the Gosport area. For those of you not aware, Allotment Watch involves council run sites across Gosport and the aim is to:

- Increase the security and prevention of allotment related crime.
- Offer support and reassurance to the wide range of people throughout the allotment community whilst gaining information to help reduce crime. The points of contact for Gosport Police will be PCSO Steve Lloyd and Crime Prevention Office Stewart Kybert.
- To generate a positive attitude towards the above aims by taking care, not only for your own property, but also that of neighbouring or nearby allotments and equipment.

Allotment Watch will be seen as an important extension of our local community crime prevention. It is designed to improve communication between plot holders, local residents and police. Regular patrols, meetings and the circulation of safety advice will ensure people are confident in reporting incidents and reducing crime.

We have noted an increase in rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour in Camdentown. This appears to be occurring between the area of Cambridge Road and Clyde Road and occurring evenings over the weekend. We have started targeting the area with high visibility patrols along the cycle track and surrounding vicinity. We also utilised our Force Support Unit, who worked jointly with us, to positively patrol the area. As a result, there were 2 arrests and over 30 stop & searches. We will be continuing with this positive approach over the coming month.

We have been reviewing our beat surgeries in the neighbourhood and I'm pleased to say we have a new location which is the Library, Bay House School. Please use this opportunity to meet us and talk about concerns or thoughts regarding your neighbourhood. The surgery is being held twice a month, the next one being 11/03/09. We look forward to seeing you.

**Alver Valley - wards of Grange, Lee East and West - PS 2685 Gavin Steel** – In the last news I mentioned street surgeries that will take place in Lee On The Solent High St where we are going to utilise the community safety van to offer a street surgery facility.

This was after a trial day in November which proved popular and got far more interest than the traditional beat surgeries. Between 1100 - 1300 hrs on 19th March, 16th April, 28th May, 25th June, 23rd July, 20th Aug, 17th Sept, 29th Oct and 26th Nov officers from the Alver Valley Safer Neighbourhood team will be available in Lee High St.

Other agencies have also expressed an interest to join us to advertise their services.

Crime overall continues to fall in the right direction. In Rowner a youth diversionary activity has started at the youth centre where a group of our ten most challenging individuals are being targeted by us and Youth Services in order to curb their anti social behaviour and to prompt them into accessing mainstream youth service activities. It is hoped that the mix of police enforcement and youth service activity will impact upon their behaviour.

**Elson Safer Neighbourhood Team Sgt 3151 Marcus Cator** - Elson team continue to work hard at disrupting anti-social behaviour, especially around The Crossways. Working with our partner agencies we have put together an opportunity on every other Friday night, to be set up at Whites Place car park with our Community Bus. The idea is to stop and chat to the youths in the area and try to identify their ideas about how best to tackle ongoing issues. This has had a successful start and we intend to run this throughout February to try and identify some ways of working with these groups.

Another point of concern is the setting light to refuse bins left outside people's premises. Please be vigilant and keep your refuse bins safe and within your premises boundaries. Several have recently been set alight causing significant risk to others and some serious damage to people's properties. In January we set up another "No Cold Calling Zone" with Trading Standards in Jervis Drive and the surrounding roads. This was welcomed by the community and will allow the partner agencies to support the community more proactively against unwanted sales at their front doors. Many thanks for your continued vigilance and support within our community."

**The Town & Anglesea Team PS 1765 Rob Kearley** - With the Christmas period well and truly over the Town centre team have had time to reflect on an extremely good year overall with a reduction of violent crime that has set us apart from our neighbouring districts. However as always there is plenty to do and my team have been working very hard with the business premises in the Town centre to set up the Gosport Shop Watch. This is basically a large proportion of the shops have joined forces with the Police to combat theft, and anti social behaviour in and around the High Street & Stoke Road.

A large proportion of the shops have a two way radio link with the police & CCTV and if any possible problem persons are seen then a short radio call warns not only the businesses but the Police & CCTV. Being part of the organisation entitles premises to information, pictures of the most prolific offenders which help's toward identification.

Our aim in Partnership will be to make the town a safer place to shop and to drive away this minority of persons who feel they have the right to steal from the shops and cause anti social behaviour in our town.

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**Dave Coles**  
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E: davecoles1@btconnect.com W: davecoles.co.uk  
Unit 6, Elmhurst Business Park Elmhurst Road, Gosport PO12 1UA



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