



Bristol District



Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter

June 2010

Any queries regarding the content of this Newsletter, please contact
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Summer Security – Be cool, Stay safe

Whilst I was a beat manager in South Bristol, I was on foot patrol on my ward during a hot summer's day, when I passed a house which had the side door wide open and the crooning of Rod Stewart blaring out full volume for all to hear.

Thinking to check on the welfare of the householder and give them some friendly advice about keeping their doors shut for security, I walked to the door, no-one there. After tapping on the door, with no response, I walked into the kitchen (which had a number of valuable items on display), still no sign of anyone. I walked into the living room to see the lady of the house and found her sitting on the sofa watching Rod strut his stuff on the television.

**The more difficult it can
be made for criminals,
the more likely it is that
crime can be reduced**

The lady was sat facing the television and because of the high volume, had not heard me come in. She got a real shock when she suddenly found a policeman had appeared in her front room!

Despite the humour of this story, there was a serious side to the lady's situation. I could have been anybody walking into the house and a criminal would have had the opportunity to take what they wanted from the kitchen or cause harm to the lady.

Did you know?? Distraction burglars' tend to work in pairs; one speaks to the victim at the door, whilst the other sneaks in the other door to burgle the house. If an unexpected visitor comes to the door, lock the other door before you answer.

As summer approaches, it is tempting to open our doors and windows on hot days (especially if we don't have the luxury of air conditioning), but it is important to remember that many criminals are opportunists and look for vulnerable cars and houses.

Burglars have no hesitation in entering a house through open doors or windows, even if you are asleep or just in the back garden.

If you have concerns or questions about the security of your home, you can contact your local Neighbourhood Policing Team on

0845 456 7000 or by visiting the 'In your area' section of the Avon and Somerset Constabulary website – www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Stay safe and vigilant,
PC 1422 Frank Simonds
Crime Prevention Design Advisor

Children Name New Police Horse

The children of St Cuthberts Primary School have had the chance to meet the police horse they named. Harry Patch, along with stable mate Cabot, went to Wells yesterday and also visited Fletcher House where the war veteran used to live.

The children enjoyed learning about the work of the police horses and were presented with a commemorative horse-shoe. They also had the opportunity to ask Roger Patch (Harry's Grandson) about the man himself.

Anyone who would like to meet Harry and the other animals can attend the mounted and dogs section open day at Bower Ashton on Sunday June 13th from 10am to 4pm.



"CRIME WILL NOT SURVIVE WHERE COMMUNITY LIFE THRIVES"

Did you know?? Fraud - including scams, online theft, insurance cheats and tax fraud - costs the UK £30bn a year, according to an official estimate. The National Fraud Authority (NFA) has calculated the figure for the first time and said it equated to £621 per adult in the UK.

ACTION FRAUD: A New National Fraud Reporting Centre

As of April 1st 2010 a new national fraud reporting agency – Action Fraud – is up and running and will take the lead in supporting and gathering information from victims of fraud. The Action Fraud call centre and online reporting tool are now live and available for use by the public, which means they will be the first point of contact for victims of fraud.

Although the 'Action Fraud' services are live we are not yet in a position to consider diverting police reported 'fraud' to these services and therefore, at this time, they are solely for the members of the public who chose to contact 'Action Fraud' rather than report their crime directly to their local police. As such, for the time-being, no changes to existing processes should be made and the reporting of fraud should be dealt with in the same way as all other crimes.

In due course clear guidance on how forces can manage the change over to incorporate 'Action Fraud' and the NFIB and assistance will then be given on a force by force basis. This will mirror the expansion of PND and will be designed to minimise disruption and maximise the benefits to forces and of course the public.

Best regards

Steve Jeffries
DCI Serious Crime Group

Kerb crawlers Court results

Between the 22nd Sept 2009 and 3rd March 2010 four males were arrested and charged with curb crawling, in Eastville and St Pauls areas of Bristol.

They were found guilty at court and faced fines totalling **£1895**.

One male was also charged with no insurance and no driving licence and **was disqualified from driving for 91 days**.

One male was charged with Drink driving and **was disqualified from driving for 20 months**

Community Funding Available to All!!!!!!

At this current time there are two pots of funding grants available for anyone in the community to apply for, of up to £1,000. These pots of money are available for people to apply for funding for any community based project, but especially targeting the elderly and vulnerable, any youth project or community centre who work with these groups and could benefit the community from some extra funding.

1. **Cabot Circus Developer** Arise are offering community grants of up to £1,000 to benefit the community. There is £16,000 annually available and there will be grants awarded four times a year. The first deadline is 14th August and for the simply application form, please contact Kara Roderick on 0117 9292311.
2. **Asda Supermarkets** are currently offering community grants of up to £1,000 to benefit the community. Again this grant is targeted at any groups that are of benefit to both youths and the elderly within the community. Application forms have to be collected in store and returned to the store when completed. Again this is an ideal opportunity to apply for some money to progress community groups which have a positive impact on the area.

Please take this opportunity to pick up a form and complete it, you may well join other Bristol NHW winners!

"CRIME WILL NOT SURVIVE WHERE COMMUNITY LIFE THRIVES"

BRISTOLcare & repair

improving homes improving lives

Do you know, or know of somebody that needs repairs or their home adapted, but don't know where to start?

We may be able to help

Sometimes we can't see problems in our homes, because we get used to them over time. Other problems we might know about, but we haven't got round to dealing with them because we don't know a good handyman or are weary of someone we can trust.

Our work enables older and disabled people to live in homes that are warm, safe, secure and adapted to their needs. It doesn't matter whether you have a high or a low income; we can still give you practical help and advice that you can trust.

Free Home Safety Check service: Our free home safety check helps you to find and sort out security risks and other hazards, so that you can make your home a safe place to live. This service is available to homeowners, private tenants and housing association tenants.

Major repairs and adaptations: We work with you to identify what needs to be done and may be able to help you to find the funds. We manage and oversee work carried out, minimising your worry. This service is available to homeowners and private tenants.

Minor repairs and adaptations: Our skilled handyman team do a range of small, low cost repairs and adaptations to make your home safer and easier to live in. This service is available to homeowners.

Help in urgent situations: We act quickly to ensure your safety at home. If you need to spend time in hospital, we will complete work as quickly as possible to ensure that you can be discharged as soon as possible.

Housing Options Service: We provide information and support if you are thinking about moving to a different home that you will find easier to manage.

Last year we helped 8000 people to remain safe, warm and secure in their home. We would like to reach more older and disabled people in Bristol. Contact us whether you need practical help or simply some advice.

Call us on 0117 954 2222.

**We are open Monday – Thursday
9am-5pm and Friday, 9am-4pm**



Age Concern Bristol Practical Services can offer (via the Volunteer Handyman Scheme) the opportunity for older people to have door spy holes, safety chains, key safes, grab handles, banisters and smoke alarms fitted in their homes to provide peace of mind and increased security and safety.

Where smoke alarms are fitted, the Fire & Safety Service is notified. They will then arrange a full home safety check. Similarly, our Volunteer Gardening Service assists older people with overgrown or unkempt gardens, which can attract break-ins.

A tidy garden will also deter doorstep "opportunists" who look for gardens that may need maintenance and offer gardening services at extortionate rates.

For more information, contact our Practical Services department on: 0117 9292552

"CRIME WILL NOT SURVIVE WHERE COMMUNITY LIFE THRIVES"

Taking the Cash out of Crime

On Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th June 2010, representatives from a variety of agencies from across Avon and Somerset are coming together to give information to members of the public about the Proceeds of Crime Act. The event, taking place in Bristol City Centre, will be attended by staff from Avon and Somerset Constabulary, the Crown Prosecution Service, Her Majesty's Court Service and Bristol City Council, who will be speaking to shoppers and workers about the powers available to seize assets from those living off the profits of a criminal lifestyle. Staff will be on hand from 8am to 8pm each day to answer questions about what the agencies are doing to tackle these crimes, give details of local cases, and will be handing out free eco-bags with further information, leaflets and goodies.

The aim of the campaign is to increase public confidence in the agencies' abilities to strip criminals of their ill-gotten gains, as well as to provide communities with the information and support they need to report anyone they suspect living off the proceeds of crime to the police or Crimestoppers.

Commenting on the campaign, Barry Hughes, Chief Crown Prosecutor of Avon and Somerset, said:

"The CPS is determined to hit criminals where it hurts them most – in their wallets. The CPS works closely with the police to identify these cases at an early stage and take them through the courts, clawing back the money that has been acquired through criminal activities. During 2009-10, we obtained 132 orders for the confiscation of criminal assets in Avon and Somerset, approaching £1million in total."

Dr Kirstie Cogram, Financial Investigation Unit Manager at Avon and Somerset Constabulary, said:

"It is important that criminals operating in the Avon & Somerset force area realise that they will not be able to enjoy the profits from their criminal activities. This is something that everyone can help us with, one in seven people know someone living off the proceeds of crime - people who enjoy the good life, expensive holidays and flash cars but don't earn enough to pay for it. You could have the key piece of the jigsaw so that together we can take the cash out of crime. Don't stand for it. It's Payback time. "

For more information, please visit www.takingthecashoutofcrime.com.

Have information delivered straight to your inbox

Signing up to email-Bulletins on the www.avonandsomerset.police.uk website will give you -

- The latest news for your area
- Monthly newsletters (**new**)
- Job vacancies
- Crimestoppers wanted appeals
- Delivered straight to your inbox for easy dissemination to other people

To subscribe just go to <http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/Interactive/WebsiteAccounts/> and follow the easy online steps. You can chose to receive information just in your area, the whole of Bristol or a selection of areas across the force.

What has the Force helicopter been doing in your area?

For more information have a look at

<http://www.westerncounties.org.uk/>



"CRIME WILL NOT SURVIVE WHERE COMMUNITY LIFE THRIVES"

Beat Surgery Times and Locations - Bishopsworth

BI104 – Ashton Vale

Ashton Vale Community Hall, every other Thursday between 1pm and 4pm
Football Club, Ashton Vale Primary School, Every Monday between 3pm and 4.30pm

BI105 – Highridge and Uplands & BI106 - Headley Park (Joint Surgery)

Front Office Bishopsworth Police Station, every Thursday between 10am and 12noon

BI107 – Withywood

Withywood Centre in the Café area, every Wednesday between 1pm and 2.30pm
(Please note, this is NOT an official surgery)

BI108 – Hartcliffe (Joint Surgery with Councillor Helen Holland)

Hartcliffe Library, Symes Community Centre between 10:30am and 12noon
Morrisons Store, Symes Ave, between 3pm and 4.30pm
Please note location alternates between Library/Store every Saturday

BI109 – Whitchurch Park

The Groves, Bishport Ave, every Thursday between 10am and 2pm
River of Life Church, every Monday between 1pm and 2pm

BI142 – Southville

Police Pod in Asda car park, first sat in every month from 10am and 12noon
The Tobacco Factory, Tuesday 27th July between 12noon and 2pm

Neighbourhood Forum dates and Locations – Bishopsworth

Bedminster Ward BI104 – Ashton Vale

Wed 16th June, Wed 15th Sep and Wed 15th Dec at Luckwell Primary School at 7pm

Southville Ward BI142 – Southville

Tues 15th June, Tues 14th Sep and Tues 14th Dec at The Tobacco Factory at 7pm

Bishopsworth Ward BI105/BI106 – Highridge/Headley Park

Wed 9th June, Wed 1st Sep and Wed 3rd Dec at Headley Park Church Hall, St Peters Rise at 7pm

Hartcliffe Ward – BI107/BI108 – Withywood/Hartcliffe

Wed 16th June, Tues 7th Sep and Wed 10th Dec at Hartcliffe Methodist Church at 7pm

Whitchurch Park Ward BI109 – Whitchurch Park

Tues 8th June, Tues 14th Sep and Wed 8th Dec at River of Life Church, Hawksfield Road at 7pm