



Bristol District



Watch Newsletter

July / August 2011

Any queries regarding the content of this Newsletter, please contact
Neighbourhood Watch Office

Newfoundland Road Police Station, c/o Trinity Road Police Station, Braggs Lane, Bristol, BS2 0NW
North Bristol Kim Duddridge 0117 9529737 – South Bristol Elaine Collingwood 0117 9529739
NHWBristol@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Reporting incidents

We have recently had a number of calls where members are reporting incidents, either historical or in progress, to us at the neighbourhood watch office. Please can you advise all members to report incidents, as soon as possible, to the non-emergency police number on 0845 456 7000 or if in progress then 999.



National Neighbourhood Watch



If you would like your Neighbourhood Watch scheme to be shown on the National Neighbourhood Watch website, then the coordinator needs to register the scheme details at www.ourwatch.org.uk

Once registered then members of the public will be able to see if they live near a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and apply to join, all your details are kept confidential.

Don't forget to register all your property on to www.immobilise.com this will help us identify stolen items which belong to you.

This also means we have more chance of prosecuting offenders caught with your property.



High Visibility Jackets

We still have a number of jackets available to schemes, for use when they are getting involved in community events, i.e. community clean ups.

Coordinators bags

We have about 50 canvas coordinator bags with the Neighbourhood Watch logo on the front.

If you would like either of these items please contact the Neighbourhood Watch office at NHWbristol@avonandsomerset.police.uk or North Bristol Kim Duddridge 0117 9529737 / South Bristol Elaine Collingwood 0117 9529739

"Crime will not survive where community life thrives"

Bristol East Neighbourhood Policing team

(Broomhill, Fishponds, Eastville, Hillfields, Speedwell, St George)

There has been an increase in burglaries, garages and shed breaks in your area please read and take the following advice to secure your property.

Security checklist:

- To check all your doors and windows are locked, even if you are only popping out minute.
- Fit deadlocks to all outside doors.
- Make sure house keys and car keys are out of sight and not in easy reach from a door and don't keep them in an obvious place in the house.
- Fit key operated locks to all windows.
- Install a burglar alarm and turn it on whenever you leave the house.
- Don't hide any spare keys on your shed or garage.
- Leave the lights and radio on a timer for the evening when you are out so it looks like you are in when you are out.
- Make sure thieves can't get into your garden and there is a good fence surrounding the house and the side gate is padlocked and sturdy.
- Make sure the garden shed is locked.
- Don't leave any ladders or tools outside; they could make it easier for someone to get into your house.
- Make sure all valuables can't be seen from the window.
- Don't leave any cash lying around or any documents with your name, address, or other personal details on.
- If going on holiday make sure someone you know and trust can pick up your post and put your bins out for you.



Computer Scam, happening in Bristol now

One of our Neighbourhood watch coordinators would like to pass on the following information: -

I teach one to one computer lessons and one of my clients had a bad experience of a scam phone call, she was totally taken in by it. Yesterday we had the very same phone call! But were not taken in. There are obviously people targeting Bristol households at the moment and it is worth cautioning people to be very vigilant.

The person that calls claims to be from Microsoft and tells you that your computer has 200 threats and is in danger from viruses. They are from a blocked number from a call centre; the person that called yesterday sounded Indian.

My student told the caller that I had only been the day before and there was nothing wrong with the computer but they were very insistent and although she doesn't know how in retrospect, that she could have been so taken in, she gave them bank details and remote access to her computer- she said she could see the mouse moving on its own round her screen.



Since then she has had to change her bank account and had all kinds of trouble in rectifying a potentially very serious situation. Luckily she contacted her bank almost straight away and they were very helpful and advised what to do.

Do hope that these people can be caught, but in the meantime people need advice and education about the dangers of falling into such a trap.

Crime will not survive where community life thrives

Police Link Officers for Deaf People

The role of Police Link Officers for Deaf People (or PLOD Officers) is to promote equal access to the Police for Deaf, deafened, hard-of-hearing, Deafblind and speech-impaired in the Avon and Somerset Constabulary area. PLOD Officers have training in BSL and Deaf awareness, and are a mix of Police Officers, PCSOs and other police staff. If you have a question about police procedures, have been a victim of crime, require advice or have information, please contact one of them.



Monthly Drop-Ins

Officers from the Neighbourhood Team at New Bridewell and Police Link Officers for Deaf people (PLOD) hold monthly drop-in surgeries at the Bristol Centre for the Deaf, King Square. Crime prevention advice and the facility to report incidents to the police will be available, as well as food and drink. The surgeries are held between 4pm and 6pm on the second Wednesday of every month, so please come along and meet the officers.

Contacting Us

In an emergency - please text our [emergency text service](#) on 80999 or call Typetalk's Emergency Relay Service Text Direct on 18000. If it is not an emergency - please text our non-emergency text service on 81819 (registration required), e-mail plod@avonandsomerset.police.uk, or contact us on our online contact form.

There are BSL clips with more information about PLOD, and details of how you can contact the Police on the Avon and Somerset Constabulary website at <http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/contact/plod/>

Funding opportunity with BT Community Connections Awards

A funding opportunity is available to voluntary groups and charitable organisations. The BT Community Connections Awards are provided and administered by British Telecom. The awards scheme is intended to provide voluntary groups and charitable organisations working to benefit the community in the UK with IT equipment - a laptop and a year's free broadband internet connection.

In particular, the scheme is keen to target areas of deprivation which normally receive little or no funding and would otherwise have no IT provision and these applications will be given priority. Applications are welcomed from any community group or charitable organisation working to benefit the community, including religious groups who work in the wider community rather than promote religion.

Eligible areas of interest include: Older people, Family issues, Multi-cultural awareness, Youth groups,

The deadline for applications is **15 September**, for more information

<http://www.btplc.com/Responsiblebusiness/Supportingourcommunities/Digitalinclusion/BTCommunityConnections/index.htm>

Bristol Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network

Neighbourhood and Home Watch (NHW) Coordinators from across the city joined MP's, Councillors, Police Authority members, Police Officers and Police Staff at the Council House on Friday 24th June for the launch of the County of Bristol Neighbourhood Watch Association - to be called 'Bristol NHW Network'

Bristol Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network has been set-up by a committee of volunteers, these are Wendy Hull, Karen Henley, Liz Kew and Les Bowen. The BNHWN is separate from the Police Neighbourhood Watch Administrators and the Ringmaster database, but will be working in partnership.

If you have any questions regarding the Bristol Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network, please contact the committee via email at bristolnhwnetwork@gmail.com

Crime will not survive where community life thrives

First UK Qualification for Community Advocates

The Minister of State for Crime Prevention and Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction, Baroness Browning congratulated Safety Net Associates Group and The Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network for developing the first UK qualification for Community Advocates. She also presented the first ever certificate.

The qualification which was developed in partnership between the Safety Net Associates Group and the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network is designed to address the skills needs of volunteers within community organisations, such as Neighbourhood Watch and Home Watch, staff from public bodies who support them and any other charity or organisation that needs community advocates.

The qualification has been developed to:

- *Address the skills needs of volunteers working with community organisations and those who support them.
- *Attract more people to become engaged with Neighbourhood Watch and other community organisations/ventures/initiatives by providing formal and recognised professionalisation via an accredited qualification that until now did not exist.
- *Enable volunteers from community organisations to communicate effectively with members of communities and staff from public bodies
- *Determine the concerns and priorities of communities in relation to safety and the prevention and reduction of crime and anti social behaviour
- *Contribute to the development of priorities and objectives for promoting neighbourhood justice and social inclusion in partnership with others
- *Learn what is required to enable people from different backgrounds to get on well together, influence decisions in their locality and feel they belong to their neighbourhood
- *Develop and sustain effective working relationships with members of community organisations and staff from public bodies
- *Enable groups, communities and organisations to address issues which affect community their community and social inclusion
- *Enable groups, communities and organisations to go beyond influencing onto doing by taking positive social action.

Launched as part of Neighbourhood Watch Week - 18th to 26th June 2011, the qualification is now open for full public enrolment. For its initial roll out the qualification will be available for both in house delivery and at two open programme events in September 2011

Minister for Crime Prevention and Antisocial Behaviour Reduction Baroness Browning said: *"Neighbourhood Watch is a great example of how communities can come together to help reduce crime and antisocial behaviour and make our streets safer.*

But its important we keep this movement alive by encouraging new and more diverse membership, as well as embracing new and different ways of communicating."

As part of the qualifications development it was piloted with representatives from the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network. This has now resulted in the first 14 officially qualified Community Advocates in the UK.

To find out more about the new qualification please visit www.cspacademy.ac.uk/National-Neighbourhood-Watch-Academy.htm, email learning@cspacademy.ac.uk or call 0845 299 7144.

Did You Know? – More than a third of all burglaries take place at homes where doors and windows have been left unlocked. A house which doesn't have easy access is more likely to deter a thief.

Crime will not survive where community life thrives

Drug dealer sells sports car and Jet Ski to pay confiscation order

A Bristol drug dealer has been forced to sell his sports car and Jet Ski to pay for his involvement in illegal activity. Mark Saunders of Crowther Park, Lockleaze, was ordered at a confiscation hearing held at Bristol Crown Court on Friday 1st July to pay £75,460.

This related to an incident in October 2009 when the van he was driving, was stopped in Old Gloucester Road. Police seized 5kg of cocaine with a street value of £250,000 and he was arrested and on September 17 last year pleaded guilty to two counts of conspiracy to supply cocaine. He was jailed on October 22 to four years eight months for each offence – to be served concurrently.

At today's hearing he was given a confiscation order of £75,460 which must be paid within six months. Failure to pay will result in a further 21 months jail sentence and he will still be required to pay the order on his release. The court heard that Mark Saunders has already sold his BMW 330 Sport convertible car and a water ski as some of his assets. He will also have to sell his home and a motor home to pay his confiscation order.

Dr Kirstie Cogram from Avon and Somerset Police's Financial Investigation Unit said: "We are committed to seizing any assets that criminals have gained as a result of crime. It is not acceptable that criminals benefit from illegal activities and we will relentlessly pursue them through the courts to ensure their money is taken. By doing this we show criminals that they will not benefit from crime and hopefully deter others from entering a life of crime."

One in 7 people knows someone living off the proceeds of crime - for more information on making criminals pay visit www.takingthecashoutofcrime.com or call the charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org We never ask for your name or trace your call.

Contact the Elderly

Spend a few hours on a Sunday afternoon once a month, or once or twice a year, making a difference to isolated, lonely over 75's in Bristol

One Sunday afternoon a month, throughout the country, Contact the Elderly groups meet for tea and companionship. These groups are a lifeline of friendship for older, isolated people. Each older member is assigned a volunteer driver and together they become part of a small group invited to a volunteer hosts' home for tea with the other members of the group. They visit a different host each month but the group remains the same and relationships grow. A warm welcome; a family home; meeting old friends and new, provides older members with companionship and a vital link with the community from which they have become isolated. This simple idea is the essence of Contact the Elderly.

Could you be a:

Driver – be a regular or a reserve driver, picking up one or two elderly members once a month on a Sunday afternoon.

Host – offer to hold a tea party in your home, twice a year – you just need a downstairs toilet and easy access

Administrator – help to coordinate a local group, look after the schedule of hosts and drivers, and meet new older people/volunteers. Just a flexible few hours every month, plus going to tea parties where possible!

To find out more about volunteering or being a guest contact

Helen Ker
Bristol, Bath and Somerset Development Officer

Telephone 0117 960 9606
helen.ker@contact-the-elderly.org.uk
www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk



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Holiday checklist

Help reduce the risk of your home being broken into by taking some simple home security measures:

- Leave small valuable items, like jewellery, on deposit at the bank, or consider installing a small floor safe. Don't lock internal doors or desks - they may be forced if someone does break in.
- Mark any valuable items with your post-code followed by a house number or the first two digits of the house name. Ask your local Crime Prevention Officer for 'postcoded property' warning stickers to display in the front and back windows of your house. Also take photographs of all valuable items. This is particularly important for those which may be unsuitable for marking.
- Arrange for pets to be properly looked after.
- Cut the lawns before you go.
- Cancel deliveries of milk, newspapers etc, discreetly - don't announce your departure to a shop full of people. Only tell people who need to know you're going away.
- Make sure your house looks occupied. Closed curtains in the daytime make it look as if no one is at home. It is worthwhile to get automatic time switches to switch lights, and a radio on and off in downstairs or upstairs rooms.
- Don't leave valuable items like TV's, videos or hi-fi's visible through windows.
- Lock the garage and shed with proper security locks, after putting all your tools safely away so they cannot be used to break into your house. If you have to leave a ladder out, put it on its side and lock it to a secure fixture with a 'close-shackle' padlock and heavy-duty chain.
- Don't have your home address showing on your luggage for the outward journey. Put this only on the inside of your cases.
- Finally lock all outside doors and windows. If you have a burglar alarm, make sure it is set - and that you have told the police who the key-holder is.

AND just before you actually set off it's worth allowing a quiet couple of minutes on the doorstep to check you've done all you had to do and taken everything you need with you.

For crime prevention advice go to: www.crimereduction.org

What if I am burgled?

A secure home will reduce the chance of your getting burgled. But, if you get home and notice signs of a break-in, don't go in or call out - the intruder could still be inside. Go to a neighbour's to call the police if you think the burglar is still inside or has just left. Call us on 999.



If you simply wish to report that you have been burgled and you live in the force area, call 0845 4567000 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Tell the operator what has happened and they will arrange for a police officer to attend as soon as possible.

Although we would like to be able to send an officer round straight away, due to the large number of incidents that we deal with on a daily basis, it is not always possible for us to do this.

To avoid damaging potential evidence - such as finger prints or tool marks - try wherever possible not to move any items in your home even though you may have a real urge to tidy up. Wait until a police officer arrives. They will be able to tell you what items you can touch or move before the crime scenes investigation officer arrives.

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