



Neighbourhood Watch

Ascot area newsletter February 2015



The end of the Ascot NW Association — but NOT of Neighbourhood Watch

Your executive committee has decided reluctantly to close the Ascot Neighbourhood Watch Association, in accordance with the constitution, due to a lack of volunteers to run it. However, this does not mean the end of Neighbourhood Watch in the Ascot area.

The 93 local NW schemes are NOT being disbanded, and:

- ▶ Schemes will be encouraged to run on their own – as they do in the rest of the Royal Borough and Bracknell Forest – without a local “umbrella” support organisation.
- ▶ Advice will be available through the police Neighbourhood Watch administrators, Thames Valley Neighbourhood Watch Association and the national Neighbourhood and Home Watch network (contact details below).
- ▶ Individual NW members should sign up for the email Alert systems, if they are not already on it, either through their administrator or directly on the website www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk.
- ▶ Open meetings will still be held quarterly under the auspices of the Royal Borough administrator, with the usual format and probably at the existing venues.

END OF THE NEWSLETTER

Once the Association is formally wound-up at the AGM, held during the quarterly meeting on April 15 at King Edward Hall, North Ascot, you will no longer receive this newsletter four times a year, and your scheme coordinator will no longer be asking you for an annual contribution of £1 towards its costs.

The executive committee is pursuing ways of giving our remaining funds to assist crime prevention measures in both the RB and BF parts of Ascot – this may be via the “Crime Contingency Fund” administered by Jeffrey Pick, the RB administrator.

Any remaining stock of personal safety alarms etc will be available at Ascot Police Station for use by vulnerable residents in either part of the Ascot area.

Why has the committee taken this decision? Despite appeals in the last newsletter, messages on the Alert system, emails to scheme coordinators, and an open discussion at the January quarterly meeting, the executive committee have been unable to find a successor to the chairman, who is stepping down after 10 years, replacements for two beat coordinators and the treasurer, a new newsletter editor and coordinators for several schemes.

MEETING ON APRIL 15

The AGM at the quarterly meeting on April 15 (usual 7.45 for 8pm) at King Edward Hall, North Ascot, will therefore sadly mark the end of Neighbourhood Watch Association. There will be further information at the meeting about the need to continue Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the area (see also Sgt Littlewood’s message on the next page). We expect to issue a final short newsletter after the meeting.

WHO TO CONTACT

If you have any queries, or need advice on Neighbourhood Watch or crime prevention, these are some contacts:

Jeffrey Pick, Thames Valley Police NW administrator for the Royal Borough, 01753 8355504, email Jeffrey.pick@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

Margaret Weber, TVP administrator for Bracknell Forest, 01344 823488, email Marga-ret.weber@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

Thames Valley Neighbourhood Watch Association, 07815 144691, www.tvnhwa.org.uk.

National Neighbourhood and Home Watch network, www.ourwatch.org.uk.

Thames Valley
ALERT



If you are signed up to receive direct Thames Valley Alert messages from the police, you will have noticed some changes to the format this year. It has been decided by Thames Valley Police that they should follow a national format and not give out too much information in case it increases fear of crime.

Information about a crime is now only being sent to those in the immediate neighbourhood (eg South Ascot & Ascot, North Ascot, Sunningdale and Sunninghill). There is a link you can click on to access information across the rest of the Ascot area. Incidents on the Alerts are now restricted to burglaries and car crime. No messages will be sent out any longer saying “no crime” but giving advice on avoiding scams etc.

Initially the new system was even more restricted, but after protests from Neighbourhood Watch and individual residents, it has been extended.

The police area commander Superintendent Kate Ford explained: “I am aware there has been some concern that the bespoke information being sent out as per the new format may be too limited. Let me reassure you that my expectation is that if for example you live in a particular neighbourhood you will get all that neighbourhood’s information. I have no wish to deprive our members of any information that keeps our community safe and informed. That is not in anyone’s interest. Thank you for working with us and please give the new format a little time to bed in.”

**THAMES VALLEY
POLICE**



101

**IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS
CALL 999**

NEWS FROM



THE BEATS

North Ascot and Winkfield

NEW SERGEANT

Unfortunately the North Ascot Team Sergeant, Steve McSweeney, is to retire on March 31. At present I have no information regarding his replacement, but I will update you as soon as the post is filled.

From last October to mid-January there have been two burglary dwellings, eight burglary non-dwellings, two thefts from motor vehicles and one theft of a motor vehicle. Investigations are ongoing with respect to the burglaries but no suspects have been identified yet. Whilst not wishing to tempt fate these figures are quite exceptional. However there is no reason to be complacent so please keep reporting any suspicious activity on 101. If you do not have a house alarm, then please be aware that a basic alarm, with pet sensors, and monitored, can cost as little as £100. You can recover this outlay from savings to your home insurance within a year or two.

PASS ON ANY INFORMATION

Following an arrest of a male, a substantial amount of cannabis was recovered from an address in Blackmoor Wood. If you have information or suspicions regarding drugs please contact us on 101 or at the email address below. In particular dealers are targeting teenagers as young as 13. If your child has attended a party where drugs have been present, then please contact us with any information you may have - it just might save someone's life.

Anti-social Behaviour, as we heard from the guest speakers at the January meeting can take many forms, and effect anybody. The important thing is to report it on 101 at the time of the offence. If officers are available then they will attend. If you do not wish to be identified as the caller, due to concerns over reprisals, then you do not need to give your details. In Bracknell all ASB cases are reviewed by PC Dave Wherry (his contact details are on the page opposite). Currently the area of concern is in and around Fernbank Road, with reports of petty criminal damage and graffiti. Patrols in the area have been stepped up to combat these issues.

SPEEDING COMPLAINTS

Complaints regarding speeding throughout the area continue to be received, and joint operations with the Ascot Team have been arranged for the next three months. Steps are also being taken for volunteers to deploy the Speed Indicator Device on a regular basis throughout

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Ascot, Sunningdale, Sunninghill & Cheapside

Message from Sergeant Martin Littlewood:

Firstly a couple of thank yous. Thanks to all of team that have kept this Association alive and active, and have worked tirelessly to produce this newsletter, and to organise the quarterly meetings – it has been a really professional operation. I look forward to the continuation of NW schemes. On a similar note I would like to say a big thank you to PC Martyn Withers who will be retiring at the end of March after 26 years' loyal service. He has spent much of his career in and around Ascot, and he has a wealth of local knowledge, so the local team are going to miss him. I guess they say that 'all good things must come to an end.'



PC Martyn Withers

USE THE POLICE WEBSITE

Hopefully, after years of information being put out in this newsletter you will treat anything on the internet with a pinch of salt. However, there is one site that I can recommend – the Thames Valley Police website, which has an Ascot Neighbourhood page, and on which we post monthly updates about what has been happening locally. You can find it at www.thamesvalley.police.uk. We also advertise 'Have Your Say meetings' and crime prevention events that we are running. We will be running an information event in NatWest bank in Sunningdale on March 11 between 10.30am and 1200 noon to highlight the scams that are out there.

DON'T LEAVE CARS OR SHEDS UNLOCKED

We are currently getting a lot of vehicles broken into overnight. When I say 'broken' I should say that a lot of them have been left unlocked. If you live in a gated community, please don't assume that there is no need to lock cars or sheds (or back doors). Having recently seen some CCTV I can confirm that some of our criminals would do well to redirect their efforts towards the athletics field.

DEALING WITH CAR PROBLEMS

The Neighbourhood team are continuing to address the local issues that were highlighted in the community consultation. We recently ran an operation on Ascot High Street targeting mobile phone use. Three motorists were reported for the offence – a considerable reduction on last time we ran the operation, so hopefully the message is getting out. We are also dealing with vehicles parked on the zig-zag lines at crossings, and vehicles that are parked blocking footpaths.

REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS

As always, please can I impress on you the importance of reporting anything suspicious at the time that it is happening. It really is invaluable. The arrest and conviction of burglars from Slough following such information saw the levels of burglary in Ascot fall significantly. **Call 101 if it is suspicious, or 999 if it is clearly a crime in progress. Despite all of the changes, the Ascot Neighbourhood team is still here and keen to hear if you have a problem, or just want some advice.**



**PS 3799 Martin Littlewood, Neighbourhood Team
Ascot Police Station, High Street, Ascot, SL5 7JH
tel 07817817624**

the area. If you would like to join the team then please let me know, as the more helpers we have, then the more operations we can carry out.

The next Have Your Say meetings will be at the Winkfield Parish Office on Thursday March 12 and Wednesday April 9, from 9.30-10.30am. Should you

have an issue to raise and are unable to attend please call me on 07815178420 or send an email to bracknellnorthernparish-esNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Gary Clarke (tel 07815178420)

Dealing with anti-social behaviour (ASB) and how YOU can help



What exactly is anti-social behaviour, and how is it tackled? That's what PC Nathan Mitchell, the police ASB officer, and Rob Dunford, the Royal Borough's ASB coordinator, explained to the January meeting of Ascot NWA.

Under the ASB Act 2003 it is defined as behaviour that causes harassment, alarm or distress. It has further been defined by the Association of Chief Police Officers as behaviour by an individual or group that results or is likely to result in *another party feeling personally threatened, a public nuisance being caused, detrimental impact upon the environment, or a detrimental effect upon the quality of life of an individual or the community as a whole.*

One option now is an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) which is a voluntary contract between the ASB Team and the individual concerned. Conditions are written into the contract to try and stop the person's anti-social behaviour, and if necessary relevant support is put in place. The contract is usually for six months, and if breached the evidence can be used towards further enforcement action.

PERSISTENT OFFENDERS

For persistent offenders various orders and injunctions are available and the old ASBO has been replaced by Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO). This allows the ASB team to restrict repeat offenders from conducting certain activities for a set period of time and breach of an order will ultimately result in an arrest.

The police also have dispersal powers under last year's ASB legislation. They can direct a person to leave a locality for up to 48 hours if their presence contributes, or is likely to contribute to, members of the public in the locality being harassed, alarmed or distressed. Anyone receiving such an order will be monitored and action will be taken against repeat offenders.

PUBS CAN BE CLOSED

The new laws also allow premises, such as pubs and clubs, to be closed where there has been or is likely to be a nuisance to the public, or disorder near those premises, or disorderly, offensive or criminal behaviour, or serious nuisance to the public.

Under a different Act, the police can also issue drivers or vehicle owners with a warning where the vehicle is being used in a manner which causes harassment, alarm, or distress. The vehicle may be seized upon a second warning in a 12 month period.

CCT EVIDENCE

The ASB team can apply for approval to install covert CCTV to gather evidence of anti-social behaviour. This needs to be necessary and proportionate and will only be used as a last resort. If you call the police, usually on the 101 non-emergency number, you will be connected to a call handler who will ask for your name, address and contact number and your age. You could then be asked how you feel and if you are specifically targeted, how

often it has happened, whether you are concerned it will re-occur, and to give updates to any live or ongoing incident.

THE NEXT STEP

What happens next? You may be visited by officers from the police or local council such as a PCSO, Community Warden, Police Officer or Member of the ASB Team. You will be asked to open an ASB case, and requested to keep diary sheets. You may be asked to provide statement or, in a serious case, asked to attend court.

Nathan and Rob concluded: **WE NEED EVIDENCE TO SUCCESSFULLY TACKLE ASB AND OUR BEST EVIDENCE COMES FROM YOU!**

This is where they can be contacted:

The police on the 101 number or by email at WMLPA-ASB@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk; or the Royal Borough 01628 796203, email anti.social@rbwm.gov.uk.

The ASB officer at Bracknell Forest is PC Dave Wherry, tel 07817817704 or email Dave.wherry@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Eight things your bank will never ask you—but a fraudster will

1. Call or email to ask you for your full PIN or any online banking passwords.
2. Send someone to your home to collect cash, bank cards or anything else.
3. Ask you to authorise the transfer of funds to a new account or hand over cash.
4. Ask you to carry out a "test transaction" online.
5. Send an email with a link to a website that asks you to enter your online banking details.
6. Ask you to email or text personal or banking information.
7. Provide banking services through any mobile apps other than the bank's official apps.
8. Call to advise you to buy diamonds, land etc.

This was taken from a recent article in the Daily Telegraph. More advice on scams and frauds overleaf.



WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS AND FRAUDS



Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and financially motivated cyber crime and is run by the City of London Police, working alongside the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau. Our specialist team uses information from all of the fraud and cyber crime cases reported to us to create alerts about new types of crime or those which are increasing in severity.

Further to the message some of you received in November via the Neighbourhood Alerts team, we are delighted now to be working together with this network because it means that we can share our prevention alerts with you from now on. Don't worry – we will send only a reasonable amount of these alerts to you, and only when we think that they may be relevant, in the hope that you will be able to prevent yourself from becoming a victim of this type of crime.

SOME OF THE SCAMS AROUND

Issues that we commonly see, and that we will be informing you about specifically over the coming weeks and months include the following:

- People who call to tell you that there is a problem with your bank card and that they need to collect it from you to fix the problem;
- Fraud committed by people selling event/entertainment tickets, weight-loss/teeth whitening drugs, or vehicles online;
- Fraud committed by people who cold-call thousands of people in the UK in order to sell them an investment in shares or precious metals, or who want them to invest their pension;
- People pretending to be someone they are not in order to persuade your business to send money to a new bank account to pay for an invoice;
- The activities of cyber-criminals who want to infect your computer or smart-phone in order to steal your banking details or "lock" important files to prevent you from using or viewing them;
- Fraudsters who persuade people to pay a fee in advance of receiving a loan, which never appears.

All of these can be avoided by following the simple prevention advice we will include in every alert we send you, which you will also be able to find on the Action Fraud website.

If you believe you have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, please report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040, or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk.

This happened in Sunninghill recently. A man knocked at the door of the home of a not so elderly resident, saying he was from Trading Standards. He showed an ID purporting to be from the department. The only unusual fact about the ID was that it had no photo. The next day, he received a phone call purporting to be from a 'Mr Bishop' at Trading Standards. There was then a similar discussion about compensation. The aggrieved refused to discuss any bank details and he states that 'Mr. Bishop' became perturbed by this. As a result of the resident's prudent reactions nothing further happened.

Watch out! Never give your bank details to anyone. Tell the police about suspicious callers.

Pending the closure of Ascot Neighbourhood Watch Association these are the executive committee members:

Beat coordinators:

North Ascot : Jefferson Wood 01344 883325
Mike Dunlop 01344 883640

South Ascot : Clare Purdy 01344 876280

Sunningdale : Peter O'Kill 01344 627694
(also newsletter editor)
email pokill@btinternet.com

Nigel Potter 01344 620920

Sunninghill : George Williams 07980 627181

Cheapside : Wendy Pentelow 01344 291058

Officers:

Chairman: John Bailes 01344 286023

Secretary : Sarah Streeter 01344 624317

Treasurer : George Coates 01344 621859

The Neighbourhood Watch administrators for Thames Valley Police are:

Margaret Weber (Bracknell Forest) 01344 823488, email Marga-ret.weber@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Jeffrey Pick (RBWM) 01753 835504, email Jeffrey.pick@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk