

# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

COBHAM \* STOKE d'ABERNON \* DOWNSIDE

Neighbourhood Watch, Cobham Police Station,  
91-93 Portsmouth Road,  
Cobham, Surrey KT11 1JJ  
Autumn/Winter 2008



## Cobham & District Neighbourhood Watch

Whilst distributing the Spring newsletter I visited a part of Cobham not known to me. Here there are only two Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators responsible for about 400 houses. I know that they and the residents of these roads have a more difficult task than many of us in ensuring that Neighbourhood Watch is an active deterrent in trying to keep a crime-free neighbourhood. I would like to express my gratitude to them and all the volunteers who give of their time to the scheme. Without them Neighbourhood Watch could not function.

We welcome your feedback about these letters. Any suggestions for relevant items can be given to your Area Coordinator or to me via the Cobham police station. I look forward to hearing from you.

**Diana Thalben-Ball ~ Regional Co-ordinator**

## Restorative justice

You may have heard the term, but do you know what it is? Restorative justice brings victims, offenders and communities together to decide on a response to a particular crime. It's about putting victims' needs at the centre of the criminal justice system and finding positive solutions to crime by encouraging offenders to face up to their actions. A victim may request a restorative justice approach to:

- make an offender realise how the crime has affected their life
- find out information to help put the crime behind them - like why the offender targeted them
- openly forgive the offender

Where 'traditional justice' is about punishing offenders for committing offences against the state, restorative justice is about offenders making amends directly to the people or organisations they have harmed.

Advantages of restorative justice are that it:

- gives victims a greater voice in the criminal justice system
- allows victims to receive an explanation and more meaningful reparation from offenders
- makes offenders accountable by allowing them to take responsibility for their actions
- builds community confidence that offenders are making amends for their wrong doing

Pilot studies indicate that restorative justice approaches can reduce post-traumatic stress disorder in victims and, in some cases, motivate offenders to turn away from a life of crime. Restorative justice is not a soft option as many offenders find it extremely difficult to face up to the impact of their crimes. Perpetrators and victims are brought into contact through:

- direct mediation - where victim, offender, facilitator and possibly supporters for each party meet face to face
- indirect mediation - where victim and offender communicate through letters passed on by a facilitator
- conferencing - involving supporters for both parties
- wider community - this is similar to direct mediation, except the process focuses on the family as a support structure for the offender (this is particularly useful with young offenders)

Examples of restorative justice approaches include:

- getting offenders to remove graffiti and repair property they've damaged
- bringing shoplifters face to face with store managers to hear how shop theft affects others
- getting offenders to write letters of apology

Restorative justice approaches can be used for a wide range of incidents, from minor anti-social behaviour like graffiti to serious crimes like assault and robbery. Victim participation is always voluntary, and offenders need to have admitted some responsibility for the harm they have caused.

## Police panel meetings

All local residents are invited to come along to the panel meetings held in their area to meet their local police officers, to hear reports of police initiatives and to raise their concerns about issues in their neighbourhood. Details of the meetings, which are usually held four times during the year, are publicised in the local press and on the Surrey police web site <http://www.surrey.police.uk>. The next **Stoke D'Abernon** panel meeting is at **7.00 p.m. at Stoke Village Hall, Station Road on Thursday 4 December** and that for **Cobham** will be held at the **Royal British Legion in Holly Hedge Lane at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 10 December**.

### Helpful Hints

Do not leave your car or house keys where they can be easily seen and picked up by intruders.

### Can this be true?

When asked, three-quarters of the public said they were prepared to play an active role in stopping crime where they live.

## Digital TV switchover

Digital UK's role is to communicate with the public about digital switchover to ensure everyone knows what is happening, what they need to do and when. Digital UK will be sending information direct to each home to prepare people. They will advise, re-assure and encourage action through their national, regional and local TV, radio and press advertising. All households will receive a series of direct mailings about the regional switch-over process in the 12 months before it happens. There will also be a series of regionally focused events in the run up to switchover in the region. The main call centre number for information is 0845 6 50 50 50. A service is also available for deaf callers, the number for this is 0845 23 03 80. Information in large print, audio, Braille or another language is available from 0845 234 0388. There is also a website at <http://www.digitaluk.co.uk> which contains information about switchover and a postcode checker so residents can find out when their area switches to digital and what their digital options are.

**The majority of residents will not have to change or upgrade their televisions or aerials. Do not be tricked into buying new equipment that you do not need.**

## Graffiti

Elmbridge Borough Council has a first-class graffiti removal service. If you see graffiti in your area give them a call on 01372 474775 or report it on-line at [www.elmbridge.gov.uk/envcare/streets/graffitiremove.html](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/envcare/streets/graffitiremove.html) and it will usually be removed within 24 hours. Speedy action will help deter vandals.

## Cold Calling

Bogus traders target older people and in some cases have swindled residents out of their life savings. Callers have been caught pretending to be staff from electricity companies, builders or antique dealers. To help crack these crimes Surrey Police have teamed up with Surrey County Council Trading Standards and Neighbourhood Watch to launch 'no cold calling zones'. Currently they cover parts of Guildford, Woking and Horley and more are being launched.

Surrey's 'no cold calling team' has saved residents around £600.000 since July 2003 by supporting householders and challenging traders.

Residents in the signposted zones receive a pack, with a door sticker and information on how to deal safely with uninvited callers. The scheme is also supported by Buy with Confidence - an approved traders' scheme. If you feel threatened by uninvited callers, are interested in setting up a no cold calling zone or want information, call Consumer Direct on 0845 4040506.

### Useful telephone numbers and Cobham Police Station Opening Times

<b>Emergency fire, police and ambulance</b> .....	<b>999</b>
<b>Non emergency Police</b> ( <i>Surrey Police Call Centre</i> )	<b>0845 125 2222</b>
<b>Cobham Police Station</b> <i>Calls for local officers can be routed via</i> <i>Penny Stokoe, team co-ordinator - Safer Neighbourhood Team</i>	<b>0845 125 2222</b>
<b>Crimestoppers</b> .....	<b>0800 555111</b>
..	
<b>Abandoned vehicles/Graffiti hotline</b> .....	<b>01372 474775</b>
.	
<b>Community Safety Partnership</b> .....	<b>01372 474393</b>
.	

#### **COBHAM POLICE STATION OPENING TIMES**

Monday	5:00pm - 7:00pm
Tuesday	12 noon - 2:30pm
Wednesday	10:00am - 12:30pm
Thursday	12 noon - 2:30pm
Friday	2:00pm - 4:00pm
Saturday	10:00am - 12 noon

**Neighbourhood Watch is a community-led initiative and is supported by Surrey Police**