

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

COBHAM * STOKE d'ABERNON * DOWNSIDE

Neighbourhood Watch, Cobham Police Station,
91-93 Portsmouth Road,
Cobham, Surrey KT11 1JJ
Winter 2009/2010



Cobham & District Neighbourhood Watch

I am sure that you are all aware that 2009 was a year of change for Surrey police and consequently for us all in Neighbourhood Watch. The most obvious change caused by cuts in police funding was the loss of PC Mark Howells as the Crime Reduction Officer responsible for NHW in Elmbridge. However, on a more fortunate note Mark has been appointed as the officer in charge of NHW for all three boroughs of North Surrey. Inevitably this means less time for us in Elmbridge so to offset this Simon Moxon, the Community Safety Sergeant, will be taking on the role of NHW Liaison Officer. Local neighbourhood police teams will provide day-to-day support in developing NHW in their area and will be expected to maintain contact with Regional and Street Coordinators. The volunteer callout system which alerted coordinators to crimes in their watch has been disbanded along with the e-mail groups and has been replaced by the Active Citizen scheme, run by the police, to provide us with the communication and information that NHW needs to function effectively.

On a different note I would like to pay tribute to one of our street coordinators, Florence Foster, who died in October. She was responsible for some two hundred houses in her area where her vigilance ensured that NHW was an active deterrent in trying to maintain a crime-free neighbourhood. She will be missed by all who knew her.

I would like to conclude by wishing you all a safe and Happy New Year.

Diana Thalben-Ball ~ Regional Co-ordinator

ASBO's

They are in the news a lot but what do we know about them?

Anti social behaviour orders (ASBO's) are court orders which forbid specific threatening or intimidating actions. An ASBO can ban a person from:

- Threatening, intimidating or disruptive actions.
- Spending time with a particular group of friends
- Visiting certain areas.

ASBO's are in effect for a minimum of two years and can be longer. They are designed to protect specific victims, neighbours or even whole communities from behaviour that has frightened or intimidated them or damaged their quality of life.

These are civil orders, not criminal penalties, so they will not appear on a suspect's criminal record. However if that person breaches an ASBO, they have committed a criminal offence, which is punishable by a fine or up to five years in prison. Who can call for an ASBO? Any one of the following agencies can apply for an ASBO to be issued against a trouble-maker.

- Local authorities
- Police forces
- Registered social landlords and housing action trusts

But first, those who are suffering must report the problem. If you are being harassed or if your life is being damaged contact your local police force or your local neighbourhood policing team and ask for help.

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 at each venue, are publicised in the local press and on the Surrey police web site www.surrey.police.uk.

The **Stoke D'Abernon** panel meetings are at Stoke Village Hall, Station Road.

The **Cobham** meetings are held at the Royal British Legion in Holly Hedge Lane..

POLICE NEWS

There have been a number of changes to our local force recently. PCSO Eugene Terblanche has left us to train as a Surrey police officer and we wish him every success.

Welcome to his successor, PCSO Alaina Cookson. We look forward to meeting her as she finds her way around our beautiful villages.

<p style="text-align: center;">Neighbourhood Watch milestone</p> <p>September saw the creation of the 500th NHW scheme in the Borough. There are now 21,705 households covering 672 roads which is impressive coverage. Burwood Road in Hersham became the latest NHW in Elmbridge to introduce the scheme and comes at time when the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has reported that NHW areas are effective in reducing crime. Official research undertaken on behalf of ACPO shows that NHW areas suffer from 79% less incidents of crime than the rest of the UK. The study also shows that NHW is valued by the community at large, frequently for the reassurance it provides. NHW can be set up by members of the local community and its objectives are to prevent crime, anti social-behaviour, reduce the fear of crime, reduce the incidences of domestic fires and encourage community cohesion and the quality of life for residents and tenants.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Watch out for ATM fraudsters</p> <p>Cash machines are being targeted by criminals who have been using a device to trap cards with a thin strip of metal inside the ATM slot. Be vigilant and if your card is retained by the cash machine for no good reason report it to the police immediately and cancel the card.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IDENTITY FRAUD and IDENTITY THEFT</p> <p>Among the fastest growing crimes in the UK it can be committed without a criminal breaking into your home. Some simple steps to help reduce risk are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect anything printed with your details as you would your wallet or purse. • Check your bank and credit card statements and report any unrecognised transactions. • Shred old personal documents. • If moving house let your bank and card issuer know and set up a Royal Mail redirection.
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<p>Fitting punishments</p> <p>Entering the youth justice system does not automatically mean going into custody for Surrey's young people. The county has adopted a system of inviting victims of crime to suggest suitable punishments for offences such as criminal damage. Community placements have so far included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working at Brooklands Museum to maintain the conservation area. ○ Making memory boxes at the council's carpentry workshop in Epsom for the neo-natal intensive care unit at St Peter's Hospital. ○ Maintaining railway station car parks. ○ Delivering leaflets for charities including the Samaritans. ○ Keeping footpaths clear of vegetation to improve access for disabled people.

<p>Is there a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in your street?</p> <p>If not and you value the reassurance it can offer would you be prepared to volunteer to set one up?</p> <p>Contact us at Cobham police station.</p>
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Useful Telephone numbers and Cobham Police Station Opening Times

Emergency fire, police and ambulance **999**

Non emergency police (*Surrey Police Call Centre*) **0845 125 2222**

Cobham Police Station **0845 125 2222**

Crimestoppers **0800 555 111**

Abandoned vehicles/Graffiti hotline **01372 474775**

Community Safety Partnership **01372 474393**

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