



Watching Brief

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Canterbury & District Neighbourhood Watch Association

Issue 1/10

Spring 2010

Annual General Meeting Review

The 20th March was a bit of a milestone for CDNHWA. Not only was it the date of our Conference & AGM - hosted at Canterbury Christchurch University, thanks to sponsorship from Kent Fire & Rescue Service, but it was also the last official function of the retiring Chairman - Colin Chaston. Colin, who has chaired the Association for the past three years, considers his legacy to be the £5,000 worth of sponsorship funding achieved during his last year. Magnificent though this is, those that know him think that his sustained effort to reinvigorate the Association over a much longer period is the true legacy. Conference presented Colin and his wife Janet (pictured right) with a small gift and some flowers to mark the occasion.

It was gratifying to see even more delegates at this year's conference than last year. If, however, you weren't among them, commiserations, as you



missed some very entertaining and informative presentations from:- Chief Insp. Steve Barlow, Canterbury Area Police Commander; members of the UK Border Agency; David Harte from CCC's Community Safety Unit; officers from Kent Fire & Rescue Service's Home Fire Safety Team, and two very tooled-up guys from the Kent Police Tactical Firearms Unit!!

This year's David Turner Award was presented to Josephine Howard in celebration of her outstanding dedication as a NHW co-ordinator and the neighbourly services so freely given to the local community around her home in Garlinge Green, Petham.

Cleaner Kent

Clean Kent are looking for volunteers from NHW to help be their "eyes and ears" to observe and report illegal environmental activities. The aim is to help improve and enhance our local environment by reducing fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles and associated fires.



To become a Clean Kent Watch volunteer please contact www.cleankent.co.uk/cleankentwatch.html or e-mail clean.kent@kent.gov.uk. As a volunteer you will be given an information pack plus a unique identification number, enabling you to report any incident any time of day or night.

There are insufficient Police to cover the whole District so our Neighbourhood Watch members, using the same "eyes and ears" approach in keeping our local community safe, can be as effective by reducing fly-tipping. This is an opportunity to extend our role that can be applied wherever we travel in Kent.

ALSO REMEMBER, if you use anyone to remove your rubbish and it lands up being fly-tipped you could be held responsible and fined. So if you use a plumber, gardener, or builder, always ask them for a valid waste carriers' licence, and keep a note of all the information that you receive from the contractor and a receipt for the work done.

If you see or know anyone fly-tipping call Clean Kent on 0845 345 0210 (all calls are confidential), or if in progress phone the Police on 999. Apart from anything else - we **all** pick up the cost to clear the left mess via our council taxes.

£60 Reward

With so many new schemes starting since we launched our £60 reward scheme, it is worth mentioning it again. Anyone belonging to a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme can claim the £60 reward if they see someone acting suspiciously. They must contact the Police to make the report so they will be given a crime reporting number. If the person is arrested and a crime prevented, then the caller can make their claim for the reward.

Whenever you contact the Police always remember to mention you belong to a Neighbourhood Watch scheme



Chairman's Message

In this first Watching Brief of the new Association year, I should like to start by paying tribute to all the tremendous hard work and great achievements of our retiring Chairman, Colin Chaston. With the support of the Committee, he has turned us into one of the strongest of all the Kent NHW District Associations. Now, as your new Committee, we aim to build on all of this success and then extend what we do both to support you and even further raise the profile of NHW in

the Canterbury City Council area. In particular, we will continue to develop our already very good and close working relationships with our local 'partners' – including the local Police, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, Crimestoppers and staff at Canterbury City Council under the umbrella of their Safer Canterbury District Partnership. We will also be thinking about how we communicate with you through Watching Brief and the Association's website – and will be grateful to receive your

views on this or any other matter. Ideally, please e-mail these to us at: **committee-cdnhwa@fsmail.net** or else 'phone our Office in Herne Bay Police Station on **01227 744746**.

Your new Committee looks forward to working for and with you over the coming year. Thank you for continuing to promote crime awareness and community safety in your area.



C&DNHWA New Committee Line-Up

In addition to Colin's departure from the Committee Anton Larkins and David Hart also stood down during the year, although David continues to be involved both with managing our website and the production of

Watching Brief. There were therefore three places available to be filled at the AGM. Michael Pocock and Margaret Staples were nominated, proposed, seconded and formally welcomed onto the Committee.

All other existing members wished to stand again and were duly re-elected. With one vacancy carried forward, the Committee for the coming year is:-



David Hayward
Chair
St Anne's Rd
Tankerton



Neal Fowler
Vice Chair
Cobblers Bridge Rd
Herne Bay



Margaret Staples
Secretary
Woodland Rd
Herne Bay



Kathryn Wilson
Treasurer
Pennington Close
Westbere



Jean Barnes
Summerfield Ave
Whitstable



Patricia Turner
Pea Hill
Whitstable



Beryl Davis
Reculver Rd
Herne Bay



Michael Pocock
Whitehall Rd
Canterbury

C&DNHWA Growth Since The Last Newsletter:

New schemes – and Co-ordinators' names:

Barton Estate, Canterbury – Lance Pearce
Landon Road & Reeds Close, Herne Bay – Jill Clowes
Ellison Close, Laxton Way & Tydeman's Ave, Chestfield – Joan Hogben
Stanmore Court, Canterbury – Denis Linfoot
The Firs, Hersden – Taffney Clarke-Piper

New roads included as annexations to existing schemes:

Fitzroy Road, Tankerton
Rest of Queen's Road, Tankerton
York Road & New Road, Wincheap
Carlton Hill, Herne Bay

This represents an increase of over 600 new households. We thank all of those involved in making such great strides

forward – with other, new schemes across the District still in the pipeline.

We also welcome new some Co-ordinators, and thank those from whom they have taken over for all their past efforts:
Radfall Ride, Chestfield – Eric Roberts (taking over from John Morley)

St Martin's Place, Canterbury – Nathalie Heath-Hall (from Sid Santer)

"St Michael's Area", Canterbury – Terence Westgate (from John Hooker)

Queen's Road, Tankerton – Malcolm Scott (from Sharon Cavalier)

"Oxford Road Area", Wincheap – Andrew Heenan (from Ruth Fryer)

Upper Harbledown – Zoe Chidwick, (from Juliet Fairclough)

Co-ordinators Survey Results

Canterbury & District Neighbourhood Watch Association is possibly unique among its peers for having successfully completed a telephone survey of its co-ordinators to validate data; seek ideas for improvement and offer support to struggling schemes.

In all nearly 150 co-ordinators were asked for their views on a range of issues. Only two of the co-ordinators listed as belonging to C&DNHWA could not be contacted – that's a success rate of more than 98%. This resulted in nearly 60 alterations being made to update our records. This alone should ensure that the Committee is better placed to support co-ordinators in their ongoing work. In addition, and equally importantly, the survey provided valuable suggestions and offers of assistance which will greatly assist C&DNHWA move forward in the future. The following is a précis of the results:-

- C&DNHWA now covers over 16,000

households in the Canterbury / Herne Bay and Whitstable area. This equates to approximately 25% of householders in the District are now within NHW a scheme. We have not included the university students that also have Neighbourhood Watch schemes with us.

- 10 schemes were identified as being in need of additional support – at least three of these have already received assistance from Committee members. Urgent consideration is being given to ways in which the others can be helped too.

- 20 co-ordinators considered that it might be possible to extend their schemes to adjoining roads/properties. Committee members hope to be able to work with these individuals over coming months to achieve even greater coverage of NHW schemes in our area.

- 75 co-ordinators were keen to permit their contact details being given to colleagues in adjoining NHW schemes,

either directly or through the Committee. This should allow for better networking between schemes.

- 11 offers of assistance to the Committee were given – either by way of potential future Committee Members or as assistants to help at events.

- 14 helpful suggestions were provided to improve the Association for the future. These will be discussed in the coming months to see how they can be incorporated.

As Chairman at the time, Colin Chaston said, "I am personally delighted with the results of this survey. The fact that we are, to my knowledge, the first Association to complete such an undertaking is testimony to the determination and effort of our Committee members. The information and ideas that have been collected will greatly assist us achieve even greater things for our communities in the months and years ahead."

HOLIDAYS

With the holiday season approaching don't forget that you can have your Police KCMS messages stopped while you are away. If you receive messages on your mobile this is especially important if you are going abroad because it cost more to receive messages when you are out of the Country. Just advise the NHW office of the dates you are away via 744746, or via the KCMS link at the bottom of the messages.

Ideally, every Co-ordinator would have a Deputy already set up on KCMS to receive messages in their absence or other non-availability. If this is something you've not considered yet then please do give it some thought.

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Stray Dogs



What to do if you find a stray dog? This information may be very useful one day!

The Council offer a dog warden service weekdays between 8am till 4pm only!

Outside of these times you can take it to the Lord Whisky sanctuary (01303 862622) or go to the Council Offices where the out of hours staff will open their kennels – but you need to phone 781879 first to let them know you are going. Only if the dog is dangerous should you contact the Police, as it is then comes under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

ICE (In Case of Emergency)

As we have had so many new schemes starting since we last mentioned "I.C.E." we thought it was worthwhile bringing it to your attention again.

If there has been a major incident with serious injuries, the emergency services have to try to find out who a person is, and in some cases, the next-of-kin. One method is to find if a person has a mobile phone and then go through the address book.

When London suffered the bus bombings an emergency services worker came up with the concept of getting people to put in their mobile phonebooks ICE (In Case of Emergency) and the associated telephone number. Editor's note – in my mobile phone I have ICE1 (son) and ICE2 (daughter).

Burglary Packs

We are unable to place any bulk orders for this "Burglary Pack" from the Home Office so we recommend that you ask each of your residents to make a FREE telephone call on 0800 456 1213 to request their own pack. Not only does it contain lots of useful information but you also get a 10% to 15% discount voucher to use at major DIY stores

Credits

Editor: Neal Fowler

Design / Layout: David Hart

Home Office Leaflets And Stickers

Circular NHW window stickers are available from our Office

If you would like to order any Neighbourhood Watch security leaflets to deliver with your newsletters in your scheme then either telephone 0870 241 4680 or visit the web site: www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/publicity_catalogue

New leaflet out: Don't Advertise Your Stuff to Thieves. (Order Code ACR1)

Updated leaflet: Be Safe Be Secure. Your Practical Guide to Crime Reduction (Order Code PG2E).

Country Eye

We only had one member within the Country Eye Neighbourhood Watch schemes asked to have an electronic copy of these Watching Brief newsletters. Country Eye members tend to be a rural property rather than large road schemes so we are considering just sending electronic copies in the future. Perhaps you could let us know why you would still prefer to have a printed copy posted to you?

Useful Websites:

www.ageconcern.org.uk - Age Concern.

www.gassaferegister.co.uk - Legal gas fitter info.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk - Child Internet safety.

www.doglost.co.uk - Lost Dog Register.

www.firekills.gov.uk - Fire Safety site.

www.ceop.gov.uk - Child Exploitation and Online Protection.

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