



CANFORD HEATH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH BULLETIN

JANUARY 2007 ISSUE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, 31ST JANUARY AT 7.00PM AT GRAVEL HILL POLICE STATION WITH WINE AND CHEESE

Our first speaker will be **Mr Martin Baker, Chief Constable of Dorset Police**. After he has spoken he, together with Inspector Adrian King, from Gravel Hill will answer questions from the audience. Martin Baker is a great advocate of Community Policing and supporter of Neighbourhood Watch.

After a 40-minute break for cheese and wine and raffle the **Councillor Judy Butt, Mayor of Poole**, will speak to us for 15 minutes followed by our AGM. Profits from the cheese and wine and raffle will be presented to the Mayor for her chosen Charities. Please join us - the Chief Constable is a very busy person and we are very lucky to have him come to one of our meetings and if you have any concerns about policing in our area this is an excellent opportunity to raise them with him. Please note the **7.00** start instead of the usual 7.30.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT *Phil Goodall*

With 17,000 people living on Canford Heath, I thought we had a good chance of staging a Santa Fun Run in aid of Charities. Some 400 entry forms were issued to the Middle Schools, Ashdown Technology College, Boys Grammar School, Youth Clubs and Library early in October. I sat back and waited for the entry forms to come through my door. By November 10th only 9 (nine) entries had arrived. This left me with no alternative but to cancel the event because with a month to go and needing a minimum of 250 runners to make it viable, I knew we were going to fail. A great deal of effort had gone into planning the event – all to no avail. I estimate that up to £100,000 went up in smoke with fireworks on Canford Heath; it is such a shame when we cannot spend a bit of time and effort to raise some money for charity and have a fun afternoon at the same time.

At the AGM our Secretary, Sonja Sparrow, is standing down. Her support of Neighbourhood Watch will be sorely missed but we must find a replacement. If you would like to be more involved with Neighbourhood Watch and would like more details of what is involved, please telephone the Editor or read details of the work involved on the website www.chnw.org.uk.

REPORT ON OUR OCTOBER MEETING

Our main speaker was Jan Thurgood, Strategy Director, for Poole Borough Council for the [Poole Safe Together Partnership](#). Jan gave us a detailed run-down on all that is happening within the Partnership i.e., how it works, its aims, structure, who are the Board Members, key achievements, and priority areas. As its title suggests the Partnership's key aim is to make Poole a safe place to live and work in association with a wide range of other agencies. If you require any further information or would like to know how you can be involved, please contact the [Partnership](#) on 01202 633497 or email them on safetogether@poole.gov.uk

Our second speaker was Superintendent Nick Hazelton, the recently appointed head of Poole Division after a spell in Bournemouth. He spoke about his aspirations for policing Poole and praised Neighbourhood Watches for what they achieve.

Superintendent Hazelton then presented a certificate to Bernard Aldridge commemorating all the hard work he had done over many years for Canford Heath Neighbourhood Watch, notably in the Sherborne Road area. His wife also received a box of chocolates.

REPORT FROM OUR COMMUNITY BEAT OFFICER, PAUL NICOL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER, PHIL COLISHAW

At the end of August, Dorset Police carried out surveys in various areas in Poole Division and I attended many addresses within Canford Heath to complete the questionnaire. Firstly, can I thank the people who took the time to speak to me and help the Police understand what the concerns and perceptions are of members of the public about their community. The survey was entirely random and what follows highlights some of the results:

The sample of people that took part was evenly spread between 26 and 75 years old, with only **8%** outside this range. The gender of people taking part was even with **48%** male and 52% female.

62% had lived/worked in the area for over 11 years (suggesting that people like to stay in the area.

18% are fearful of becoming a victim of crime but of these **78%** were only a little concerned.

The main crimes and situations that people are fearful of are:

Antisocial behaviour **56%**; Groups of young people **44%**; Criminal damage **33%**.

72% felt either fairly safe or very safe walking alone on Canford Heath after dark and **98%** felt either fairly safe or very safe during daylight hours.

Only **32%** were able to state where they obtained information about crime or nuisance events that leads me to believe that most peoples' concerns could be based on preconceptions.

32% felt that the crime rate has been slightly less in the past year, with **38%** saying they don't know.

When asked what makes people feel safe in their community **60%** said it was their neighbours, **44%** said the police / police community support officers on the street and **44%** said being in their own homes

When people were asked what their main concerns were, **50%** had no concerns, **32%** said their health and **22%** said being a victim of crime.

Finally, **44%** had some contact with the police in the last 12 months, **23%** thought the service they received (from the police) was excellent; **41%** thought it was very good; **32%** thought it was good and **5%** thought it was poor. If you would like any more in-depth information regarding the survey please contact me via my email address canfordheathsnt@dorset.pnn.police.uk or by telephone on 222222.

What are we doing about the issues that have been identified, mainly antisocial behaviour and groups of youths? As many of you are aware my team patrol almost exclusively on pedal cycles and gain access to the areas where the younger generation gather. We deal pro-actively with these groups and will continue to do so. We have in the past and will continue to organise community events and together make your community tidier and safer. We work closely in partnership with other agencies and in this context welcome our new Community Warden, Chris Otter. We are also in the process of creating opportunities to improve an area within your community, that will have wider implications, with the Dewlish and Uplyme Steering Team (*Editor: I am a member of this team.*)

Don't forget you can speak to us and your Councillors at the surgery at the Library on the first Friday of every month.

(Editor: Sadly for us, Paul leaves us in the New Year having been promoted. We thank him for the excellent work he has done on the Heath and wish him well in the future. His replacement has already been appointed.)

HEATH VOLUNTEERS

Following last spring's disastrous fire on the Heath we drew attention to how you can help look after our Heath by becoming a Heath Volunteer. Karen Pearce, the Heath Warden has again asked us to draw attention to the need for more volunteers. There is no joining fee - all you need to do is give her your name and address, she will then add you to her network contacts list and you will receive Canford Heath Nature Reserve newsletters and task lists, which are sent out 2-3 times a year. Karen can be contacted on 01202 261337 or by email karen.pearce@poole.gov.uk.

Volunteers can get as involved as much or as little as they wish either by just helping to look after the Heath and encouraging other visitors to use it responsibly or helping with practical tasks, such as controlling the growth of pine trees and rhododendrons and improving rain damaged tracks and paths.

Working parties are organised on Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday mornings in January, February and March. For details contact Karen.

Alternatively, join a guided walk - the first is on April 1st at 2.00pm from the Francis Avenue entrance to the Heath, a second on April 15 also at 2.00pm from the Gravel Hill lay-by.

SOME GOOD NEWS

Anti-social behaviour and vandalism from a small group of young people continue to be the main concern of local residents. In contrast, it is good to be able to report on some of the good work being undertaken by Nicki Mussell and her team at the Limelights Youth Club:

- Last summer the Mobile Youth Project made contact with a group of young people in Poole Park who were looking for a venue to develop their live music. As a result there are now two bands of young people using the centre and a third in the making.
- A group of young men were given the opportunity to represent the club at the Focus on Football Project by participating in the July Football Tournament – working in partnership with the police.
- In the autumn of 2005, Limelights signed up to be an access organisation for the Duke of Edinburgh Award and during the year, 38 young people have achieved a sectional certificate in a wide range of activities involving Physical Recreation, Skills and Service. In the summer, the Club started on its first expedition training course – a fundamental element of the Award. This is hard and requires a great deal of determination. Seven young women took part. The Club also represented Poole Youth Service at the Duke of Edinburgh 50th Celebration at Berkeley Castle.

Editor: Richard Harrison, 8, Stourpaine Road, BH17 9AT Tel: 01202 603659

Email: richard@harrison123.freesrve.co.uk. Do visit our website www.chnw.org.uk it's packed with useful information.