

Bexley Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association Newsletter

May/June 2014 Summer Edition



Patron: James Brokenshire (MP for Old Bexley & Sidcup)

Chairman, Communications & Newsletter Editor: Dana Wiffen

Vice Chair: Jo Tanner Treasurer: Sophie Kingston Secretary: Claire Tack

Follow us on TWITTER: @BexleyNWatch

Telephone Our Office: 0208 284 5537 -- Email us: bexwatch-office@btconnect.com -- Website: www.bexleywatch.org.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH 2014 AGM

TUESDAY 10TH JUNE 2014 - 7.30pm to 9.00pm – Including Refreshments
At THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, GEDDES PLACE, BEXLEYHEATH, DA6 7DJ
(There is limited parking at the Church, which is right next to the bus terminus)
IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU TRY TO ATTEND

Speakers include

Chief Inspector Nicola Duffy, Alf Kennedy from London Neighbourhood Watch, Sgt. Bill Connor from Territorial Policing in London, and Representatives from Thames Water who will talk about the installation of SmartMeters in the Borough.
James Brokenshire Bexley & Sidcup MP and NW Patron will be arriving after 8.30pm

“AND THE WINNER IS”

Kieran Brown aged 4 from Erith, who won “Guess the Name of Our Meerkat” game with the name of *Sherlock* at the Spring Fair that took place at Normandy Children’s Centre, Fairford Avenue, Barnehurst on Thursday 16th April. There were bouncy castles, donkey rides, exotic animals plus many other attractions.



OUR TRIP TO CITY HALL IN APRIL

After a couple of hours witnessing The Mayor’s Question Time, we had lunch and afterwards met for half an hour with our elected representative of the GLA, James Cleverly in which various aspects of NW in the Bexley area were discussed.



Pictured from left to right : Peter Dent (NW) James Cleverly, Pam Bartle (NW), John Ravnor (NW), Kevin Wilkinson (NW)

Scams Awareness Month May 2014

There’s a scam for just about everyone and every situation. Booking a holiday? There’s a scam for you. Trying to find a job? There’s a scam for you. Shopping online? There’s lots of scams waiting for you. Sitting at home and minding your own business? Oh yes, there’s plenty of scams for you... via your phone and internet connection and sometimes delivered to your door.

The same channels that make our lives easier, the internet, smart phones, doorstep deliveries, also provide short cuts for scammers. So many people suffer scams in silence – just five percent are reported.

Scams awareness month is about the fight-back against scammers. Giving consumers the information, skills and confidence to spot and stop scams. It’s a great opportunity for consumers and campaigners to learn and share then take that knowledge into the year round fight against scams.

A full information pack about Scams Awareness Month can be downloaded from our website: http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/resource_centre/document_library/scams_awareness_month_2014_information_pack/

SHOP WATCH has been set up in Bexley Village

39 out of approximately 50 shops in the Village and nearby Arches and Dartford Road Parade have joined up so far. If members speak to other business owners in the Village please encourage them to join if they have not already done so. Some have the cards but have not sent them back yet.



With local elections coming up all party candidates have agreed to encourage NW membership in roads where there are none. We appreciate their support

Do you have a badly worn or broken street signs? If so please call our office and let us know so we



We are in the office every morning 9-12 Mon to Fri and often to 3pm on Tue and Wed. If you need any help or support please ring us during these times on 020 8284 5537

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Well Done to Bexley Police.



TOTAL POLICING

We thought we would share some good news with you.

Kart Force in Palm Avenue, Sidcup, were recent victims of a burglary, during which a number of expensive Karts were stolen, along with related equipment.

This club has specially adapted Karts for disabled war heroes who are all amputee veterans. This attracted local press coverage, and together with leafleting, the Police subsequently recovered the Karts at an address in nearby Cray Meadows.

Operation Big Wing

A large scale co-ordinated day of action targeting burglary, theft and other related offences took place on Thursday April 24th, involving more than 5,500 officers from across London's 32 boroughs. Across Bexley warrants were executed targeting suspected burglars and thieves and the recovery of suspected stolen goods.

Officers are carrying out spot checks at pawn shops and other stores where thieves may be trying to sell-on stolen goods, whilst high visibility and plain clothes patrols targeted robbery and burglary hot spots.

Other activities included Automated Number Plate Recognition [ANPR] operations, street briefings and crime prevention events including NW presence at shopping centres, where the public were advised on how to protect their homes and valuables.

WE CAN HELP

If you live on the Bexley/Dartford Border and know anyone on the Dartford side who would like to set up a NW, we can help!
Tel: 020 8284 5537

TARGETING CRIME HOT-SPOTS IN THE BOROUGH

Together with leafleting these areas and a NW related article in the Bexley Magazine we are attempting to recruit a number of new Watches from these burglary hot-spots. We still need more volunteers so if you have any friends or family that live in Sidcup, Blackfen or the Welling area can you please encourage them to become NW-Coordinators. With volunteers' help we can reduce crime in these areas.

BURGLARY INCREASE IN SOME AREAS OF THE BOROUGH

We have been informed of several different types of burglary happening, including distraction theft, and break-ins where car keys have been taken so that expensive vehicle can be stolen. Some residents and NW members have spotted intruders in gardens and then encouraged their departure with their dogs.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESIDENTS AWARE OF THE CRIMES WE INFORM YOU OF, AND ASK THEM TO REPORT ANYTHING THEY SEE THAT APPEARS SUSPICIOUS. IF THEY DON'T WANT TO TELL THE POLICE TEAM THEY CAN LET US KNOW AND WE WILL PASS ON THE INFORMATION. ALSO IF THEY INFORM THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM PLEASE ASK THEM TO LET US KNOW AS WELL Thank You

BEXLEY ARCHIVE SERVICE SAVED - USE IT OR LOSE IT

People power has saved Bexley Archives from being moved to Bromley and the Council has decided to keep this superb service in the Borough, based at Bexleyheath Library.



TOTAL POLICING



HOUNDWATCH MEMBERSHIP IS NOW WELL OVER 200

Please encourage your residents that are dog owners to join. We have registration cards which we can send you. Just email or telephone us for copies

VULNERABLE AND LONELY RESIDENT IN YOUR AREA

If you know of anyone who lives alone, over 60 and struggles to get out, they could be lonely. **AGE UK-Bexley** offer support in many ways. For more information please contact:

Age UK Bexley
Manor House, Grassington Road
Sidcup, DA14 6BY
Phone : 0208 300 0883
Email: info@ageukbexley.org.uk
Office Opens: Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm