

Bexley Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association Newsletter

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December 2014

Patron: James Brokenshire (MP for Old Bexley & Sidcup)
Chairman: Dana Wiffen – **Vice Chairman:** Grant Murrell
Treasurer: Sophie Kingston – **Secretary:** Claire Tack
Newsletter Editor: Pam Bartle

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MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

A Big *THANK YOU* to everyone for your help and support throughout 2014



Received from NW in Erith

The illegal, unlicensed trail bike riders who have been menacing pedestrians in Manor Road for several months have been caught red handed on camera, and the evidence has already been forwarded to the local Police for action and the culprits have now been prosecuted.

Councillor Howard Marriner-The Mayor of Bexley

Councillor Marriner has for a long time been a strong supporter of NW. Now as Mayor he is working tirelessly across the Borough. Twice recently he has visited our stand to show his support.

We would like to thank him for his support and the fact that with all his duties as Mayor and Councillor he still finds time to be a pro-active NW-Coordinator for us.

Meeting with MP for Bexley & Sidcup and our Patron-James Brokenshire

Our Executive Committee including Claire Tack, Ray Hudson, Grant Murrell and myself met with James on Friday 3rd of October 2014. James spent some time with us going over all our projects and plans and has offered his help in several areas. We thank him for his continued support as our Patron. He has offered to try and attend some of our forthcoming Coordinator by Cluster Meetings.

SMARTWATER

We have a few kits left for sale under the old system. Once the old stock has all gone, our members can purchase future stock via a new direct system.

You can order New Kits in three ways:

1. On line through Smartwater direct www.smartwater.tv/affinity
2. By post. Please ask Claire to print you an order form.
3. By phone on **0800 521 669**

Your order will then be delivered direct to your home address

You will still be able to order Kits for the discounted price of **£25**. Please email our office for special discount code. bexwatch-office@btconnect.com

Coordinator by Cluster Meetings

We have decided to organize future coordinator meetings by Cluster, meaning that wards will be grouped together as Bexley Police have divided the borough up into three clusters. We have tried to pick central points for the meetings so as to have larger numbers present, as well as the Cluster and Ward Police Sergeants. Central Cluster was on 21st October, North Cluster on the 6th November and South Cluster on 10th November 2014.

Hopefully you will find these arrangements more convenient with a better police attendance. Please let us know your thoughts.

SHOPWATCH EXPANSION

We have now rolled out Shopwatch in two larger shopping centres at Crayford and Welling. Both have needed extensive legwork from both us and the respective Ward PCSO's who we have worked closely with, and who had initially asked for this scheme to be expanded to these shops.



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Page 2



NW GROWING MEMBERSHIP

Residential = 773 Members covering 550 streets and 29,789 households

FaithWatch = 48 Members

HorseWatch = 10 Members

HoundWatch = 307 Members

PlotWatch = 60 Members

ShopWatch = 210 Shops



Erith Fun Day on 30th August

This event was very well attended and our stand at Erith Waterfront was well received, with the Mayor of Bexley and his wife stopping by for a friendly chat during the day's festivities.

A NEGATIVE TO A POSITIVE

By Dana Wiffen

I packed up the signs and recruitment cards and set out to meet the local police team officer to work on recruiting the third phase of Crayford Shopwatch. This time it was to be the shops around the main car park known as the Tower Retail Park.

On arrival I received a call to say that the officer had been called away at the last minute to a serious incident elsewhere, so I thought while I was there I would take some photos of recruited shops with their signs on display. I then remembered a friend of mine who had opened a micro-pub nearby and thought I would pop in and say hello and recruit him and his business.

I am not much of a drinker but I used to enjoy the odd ale or glass of wine, but had found most pubs too noisy so rarely used them unless it was for a meal.

If you feel the same way, then [The Penny Farthing](#) might be the place for you. It's right opposite the Crayford Waterside Cafe and is a no-frills pub offering locally brewed ales, wines and ciders (no lager or spirits). They don't have any music, and don't allow mobile phone usage.

What a nice change to have a quality drink in a smart and comfortable place with no noise or distractions. My ale was a brew from Whitstable and it was superb. I only had one half pint but I shall return for more. It's a great place and a great idea. Well worth a visit.



National Personal Safety Day

Monday 6th October 2014 was National Personal Safety Day. Volunteers from NW and Bexley police engaged with the public in Bexleyheath Shopping Mall handing out the specially designed leaflets from The Suzy Lamplugh Trust as well as other NW items.

Nearby Bexley Library, Yorkshire Building Society and Starbucks allowed us to leave leaflets on the day.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM A NW COORDINATOR

Today I was almost the victim of a very convincing scam.

I have an item listed on Gumtree. The listing shows my mobile phone number so that interested parties can contact me.

I received a text on my mobile phone from a WILLIAM saying that he had tried to call but couldn't get an answer so would I please contact him by email. So thinking I had an interested buyer, I sent an email asking for him to try to ring again as I was definitely now by the phone. Within a few minutes I received an email that appeared to be from Gumtree, saying that WILLIAM was interested in my item, but I first need to verify who I was by filling in the very convincing 'Gumtree' form. It asked for my login details, and then started asking for me to verify my bank details. At this point I smelt a rat. I contacted Gumtree and they confirmed it was a scam.

The scammer is playing on your keenness to sell your item, and the very convincing and highly professional looking email that you get from 'Gumtree'. I am a hardened email, computer and Gumtree user but I was almost fooled. I did a few checks with the URLs involved in the web pages and the emails originate from Brazil (.com.bz). I should also have smelt a rat when I was unable to reply to the initial text due to the sender being recorded as WILLIAM rather than a valid mobile number.

So, Gumtree users and ebay or PRE-Loved, please be aware and very very cautious.

