

Bexley Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association Newsletter

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June – August 2015

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

Chairman: Dana Wiffen – **Vice Chairman:** Grant Murrell

Treasurer: Sophie Kingston – **Secretary:** Claire Tack

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Neighbourhood Watch AGM

Tuesday 23rd June @ 7.30pm

Geddes Place United Reform Church, Bexleyheath

Guest Speakers:

Howard Marriner (Past Mayor)

New Bexley Borough Commander Jeff Boothe

Jim Egley from the MET on Cyber Crime

NW Patron James Brokenshire MP

Illegal bikers on Slade Green Marshes intercepted

North End SNP team made this announcement on 13th May



"As you may remember, at the recent North End Ward Panel meeting, one of the promises chosen was the Off Road Bike issue.

Last weekend (2/3 May) an Operation was carried out by us along with several other officers from Bexleyheath including an off

road bike officer. During the Operation on the Saturday, four bikes were stopped close to Erith Yacht club and Section 59 warnings given to the riders. It seems that word quickly spread as there were no more bikes seen on the Saturday, and on the Sunday (always the busiest day) not one bike was seen riding at the location. We have continued the operation on a smaller scale this weekend (5 officers) and another six Section 59 warnings have been given. Due to legislation, no bikes were seized at this time but the warning means the bikes are seized if caught again. We are now hoping that the word will spread among the off road bike community that if anyone is caught at this location, warnings will be given and any repeat offenders or anyone riding along the footpath will have their bikes confiscated with a fine imposed. Patrols will be ongoing when the team is on shift. The landowner and partners responsible for access are hoping that all access points will be made more secure in the future".

This is really excellent news, and shows that our views as local residents are being listened to.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

Bexley Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association under the leadership of Chairman *Dana Wiffen* has worked hard to expand membership and improve working relationships with police teams, council and other local groups in the Borough spreading the message of crime prevention and reduction. We have written an article for U3A (University of the Third Age – Bexley), and thank them for its inclusion and would like to establish closer links with both AGE (UK) – Bexley and Victim Support, as well as continuing to work with other voluntary groups to help improve Bexley communities.

Neighbourhood Watch Membership helps reduce burglary and other crimes; for example St. Michael's Ward reported zero domestic burglary between January and March.

Apart from the Police, we are the only crime prevention group that gets out and about mixing with the borough residents. Our information stands are present at many events and in shopping malls, and representatives of the Association are always happy to speak about our work at group meetings. We are working hard to continue to reduce the fear of crime in the Borough. Fortunately Bexley has one of the lowest crime rates in the whole of London so we start with an advantage, which we intend to maintain.

Residential Neighbourhood Watch has reached a milestone with **921** street coordinators covering **34,544** homes over **624** streets. **St. Michael's Ward** is the first in the Borough to reach **100% coverage**.

Shopwatch = 236 shops - Houndwatch = 316 members
Plotwatch = 60 members - Horsewatch = 10 members
Faithwatch = 52 members

Thank you for your support, without you this would not have been possible.

BE AWARE OF PENSION FRAUDSTERS/SCAMMERS

DANGER SIGNS

WEBSITES can look official but are not *COLD-CALLERS* saying they are from Pension Wise *PROMISES* of a "free pension review" or investment with high returns *SERVICES* offering 55s access to their pension early *SALESMEN* who rush you into signing documents and don't leave copies

ACTION PLAN

Ask for official ID from anyone visiting your home
DO NOT give personal details over the phone
CHECK firms with an independent source such as Financial Conduct Authority at www.fca.org.uk or telephone 0800 111 6768 or go to companies house at gov.uk
REPORT any scam to Action Fraud on 0300 123040
If a cold caller suggests a pension investment opportunity, chances are its high risk, so hang up.

FRAUDSTERS OPERATING IN SLADE GREEN

North End Safer Neighbourhood Police team issued the following warning on 19 May: "Please be aware of 2 females who have recently been in the FOREST ROAD area of SLADE GREEN, knocking on doors asking for sponsorship for charity, or claiming to offer locksmith services. THEY ARE FRAUDSTERS so please be aware and share this information with anyone you may know who lives in Forest Road or other surrounding roads, indeed anywhere across the ward. One of the females is aged 40-45 and the other aged 20-25. If you know someone or are someone who may have had contact with these two, or have recently given a cash donation to The British Heart Foundation or similar in recent weeks, on the doorstep, please contact us".

You can contact the North End Safer Neighbourhood Police team on **020 8721 2023**, or by calling 101. If it is an emergency, then please dial 999.

Dates for your Diary

Fun Day Shoulder Mutton Green Saturday 20th June: 12.00 to 4pm
Erith Riverside Festival - Saturday 18th July: 12.00 to 5pm
Donkey Derby, Danson Park - Sunday 6th September 12.00 to 5pm
Personal Safety Day – in the Mall, Bexleyheath throughout the day on Wednesday 7th October



While on a trip to North Devon our Chairman took a picture of this old Neighbourhood Watch sign in a place called Yarde on the Tarka railway line, now used by cyclists and hikers



WATCH OUT FOR SPOOFED PAYPAL E-MAILS



Action Fraud is not an emergency service
dial 999 if you are in immediate danger.

Fraudsters often target 'goods for sale' adverts on popular online auctions sites, so watch out whenever you're selling anything online.

How does the fraudster operate?

The fraudster will contact the seller to say that they want to buy the advertised item. The seller then receives what looks like a genuine PayPal email, to confirm that the money has been paid by the buyer into their account.

With confirmation of payment, the seller will then send the item to the buyer's address. The seller will later find that the PayPal email is fake and that the money has not been paid. The seller ends up losing out twice as not only do they not have the money, but they no longer have the item to sell.

Protect yourself:

- Check your PayPal account to ensure that the money has been paid in and has cleared into your bank account before you send the item to the buyer.
- Do not be bullied or rushed into sending items before you know that the payment has cleared – a genuine purchaser will not mind waiting a day or two for you to send them their item.
- If you are selling a vehicle, think carefully when selling to overseas purchasers – especially if they tell you they will send an extra payment for shipping – check that the funds have cleared before arranging this.

Garden bonfires: the rules

Domestic bonfires in Bexley are not illegal, but there are laws for the nuisance they can cause.



Burning domestic waste

You **can't** get rid of household waste if it will cause pollution or harm people's health. This includes burning it.

You can get rid of household or garden waste by composting or recycling it. Contact your local council to find out how to [dispose of garden waste](#) and about [recycling in your area](#).

Danger to traffic by smoke

You could be fined if you light a fire and you allow the smoke to drift across the road and become a danger to traffic.

Complain about a neighbour's bonfire

Your council can issue an 'abatement notice' if a neighbour's bonfire is causing a nuisance. A bonfire must happen frequently to be considered a nuisance.

Your neighbour can be fined up to £5,000 if they don't stick to the notice.

NHW Members' Visit to The Elizabeth Tower (Big Ben) on Thursday 28th May 2015



The group was limited to 16 and we had 3 late withdrawals so 13 of us went on the tour that started at 11am and lasted until after 12 noon. We had a superb guide and learnt a lot about the Tower's history whilst

climbing the 334 steps to the top; luckily not all in one go! We were at the top for the 12 noon strikes and enjoyed the time with earplugs. Afterwards we alighted the spiral staircase and were allowed to travel through to the Great Hall of The Palace of Westminster, a welcome bonus.

Here we had this photo taken minus two members, who had left. We then had the choice to enjoy watching debates of both houses before going home.

What a Great Day. We also said hello to Tom Baker (former Doctor Who) as he passed us at Charing Cross. Next year we are hoping to organise a trip to the Tower of London which will be an evening trip 5.30pm to 10pm, and should include The Ceremony of The Keys and a trip to the Jewel Tower. (This will be minus tourists).



Scheme to help stop nuisance calls

8 April 2015: Bexley's Trading Standards team are backing a free scheme that aims to help residents block nuisance telephone calls.

People often find that when they try to complete online forms, such as for booking tickets, donating to charity, making a sales enquiry, obtaining an insurance quote - they are asked for their phone numbers.

However, there is no reason to provide a phone number. After all, if the company needs to contact you they can always email. Unfortunately, these online forms often cannot be completed unless a phone number is provided, even if you would prefer not to give it out.

That is where trueCall38 comes in. When you are asked to enter a phone number on a web form, simply use the memorable trueCall number **0333 88 88 88 88** (three threes, eight eights) instead of your own phone number.

When a call centre phones, they will then hear the announcement: "trueCall38 is handling my calls. I prefer not to be contacted by phone, so please contact me via my email address. Goodbye!"

Steve Smith, trueCall director and nuisance call campaigner said: "Some organisations such as airlines or hospitals do really need your telephone number to contact you, whereas others, such as price comparison websites, online shops, charities, or theatre booking sites don't - but they won't allow you to complete the application form without it..."

"The free trueCall38 number neatly by-passes this problem, letting you complete the form, safe in the knowledge that you're not about to be bombarded with nuisance calls."

Where organisations grow wise to the scheme and code their online forms to reject the number, people are asked to add the organisation's details to the trueCall38 website's 'wall of shame'.

Further details can be found on [trueCall38](#) ([Opens in a new window](#)).