



# Bexley Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association Winter Newsletter

Bexleywatch  
January 2009

## 2009 Greetings from the Chairman

New Year is always a time for reflecting on achievements and looking ahead to new goals.

*An active 2008...*

As our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, 2008 was always going to go down in the history books, so we are particularly delighted that it was a year that saw so much activity in moving key projects forward that will be vital to the future success of Bexley Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association.

During the year we welcomed 50 new street watches, designed an updated coordinators handbook, developed an upgraded website – which will launch very soon, and employed, through funding from the Borough, a part-time administration assistant and all this whilst actively working with the Bexley Community Safety Partnership and the new Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams in fighting crime in the Borough.

The catalyst for most of this activity was the Annual General Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008, when we voted in a number of new Committee Members.

*Watch out for 2009...*

This year we need to replace four committee members. Anyone interested in joining us should contact me directly at the telephone number for Belvedere Police Station. We really need new, enthusiastic people on board – our Neighbourhood Watch is a voluntary organisation and apart from our new administration assistant is run by volunteers from the community. We are funded through local agencies and like all such organisations we are always looking for new members who will assist us in developing and maintaining Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank all the Bexley Watch coordinators and their deputies and the Neighbourhood Watch Association committee members for their efforts in 2008. None of the work completed would have been possible without the hard work of all our volunteers. I wish everyone in the Borough a happy, healthy and safe 2009.

Ray Hudson Chairman BBNWA

## A note to all Watch Coordinators and Deputies

As contact details seem to change on a frequent basis and to ensure we have up to date records would all Coordinators and Deputies please confirm their name, address, telephone number and email details, preferably by email to: [office@bexleywatch.org.uk](mailto:office@bexleywatch.org.uk).

Our full contact details are

**Bexley Neighbourhood Watch Association**

**Belvedere Police Station**

**2 Nuxley Road Belvedere DA17 5JF**

**Telephone 020 8284 5537/5589**

**Email [office@bexleywatch.org.uk](mailto:office@bexleywatch.org.uk)**

**Registered Charity No: 1072368**

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### Points of interest

- We are actively seeking sponsors of the Neighbourhood Watch, do you know of any company that would fit the bill?
- Are there any roads in your area which would benefit from joining Neighbourhood Watch?
- The Metropolitan Police are working on a new initiative to replace the Ringmaster System which was stopped in 2008
- Visit our updated website [www.bexleywatch.org.uk](http://www.bexleywatch.org.uk)

## **Update from Toby Noar Bexley Borough Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Inspector**

I have had the pleasure of working with and supporting Neighbourhood Watch in Bexley Borough for just over a year. My role is to provide advice and support to the organisation to assist them in helping the MPS to reduce crime in Bexley.

The new committee elected after the AGM has brought a fresh dynamism to the organisation which has been good to see. They have developed a more corporate approach to setting up watches and have worked closely with Bexley Council who now provide admin support.

Over the last year a number of changes have been implemented by BBNWA, which have made the organisation more effective at setting up watches and provided greater resilience in supporting the watches currently in existence. In particular, the Safer Neighbourhood Teams now have a specific role to play in supporting the watches on their wards. They do this by sourcing locations for meetings, helping with advertising meetings, and giving monthly updates to the street coordinators. The latter is particularly important as it provides a channel of communication, which had lapsed over the last year or so, to enable the police and public to share information on crime trends and specific ways that people can help themselves not to be a victim.

The main focus for Bexley Police is currently residential burglary. This year has been particularly challenging for us. Despite a great deal of work by all departments in Bexley Police, residential burglary has risen this year. Recently, however a number of prolific burglars have been given custodial sentences, and we have noticed a sharp decline in offences as a result. It is clear that a very small number of people have caused significant problems in this area, but you should be reassured that we are doing all we can to combat it. In partnership with Bexley Council your Safer Neighbourhood Teams have patrolled your streets to deter offenders; they have delivered countless leaflets with crime prevention advice; they have targeted known offenders living on your wards; they have visited victims of crime to give advice on how to reduce the likelihood of being a victim of burglary a second time. This has taken considerable time and effort and is now showing success with two prominent burglars recently receiving 6 month prison sentences.

A key message is that, while we are working hard on your behalf to prevent burglaries happening, we also need help from the residents of Bexley. You can do this in the following ways.

- Keep an eye out for your neighbours.
- If you notice valuables left on display or doors/windows left open, let someone know.
- If you notice open doors or windows, bring this to the attention of your neighbour or the police if they are not in.
- Report suspicious behaviour.
- Take advantage of Crime Prevention Advice from your Safer Neighbourhood Team.
- Make your address a difficult option for a burglar, rather than an easy option.
- If you have a UPVC door make sure it is locked with a key as simply lifting the handle will not make the door secure.
- Don't leave car keys by front doors
- Don't label keys
- Use timers to switch on lights at different times if you are out.
- Don't leave out boxes of newly purchased items.

Increasing the number of watches will help the police to spread these messages. Thank you for your time and effort in helping us. I look forward to continuing to work with BBNWA to make the relationship between them and Bexley Police one of positive cooperation.

Toby Noar

### **Metropolitan Police new crime mapping website:**

Visit [www.maps.met.police.uk](http://www.maps.met.police.uk)

## Neighbourhood Watch Funding

Bexley Neighbourhood Watch Association is a registered charity run mainly by volunteers and relies on support from local agencies and/or sponsorship from private companies. In the current economic climate it is obviously more difficult to obtain the necessary funding and as reported in our Spring Newsletter we had unsuccessfully applied to the National Lottery for funding to support the cost of a part time administration assistant and we then turned to the local authority for funding assistance in this regard..

We have been very fortunate in obtaining a grant from the Bexley Borough. Which has allowed us to employ the services of a part time administrator who has greatly assisted the volunteer members and enabled us to bring up to date most of our administration work, as well as producing an updated member's handbook which will be available on our website [www.bexleywatch.org.uk](http://www.bexleywatch.org.uk).

We have been able to design a PowerPoint presentation for use in meetings with new Neighbourhood Watch groups which explains what Neighbourhood Watch is all about together with details of how we create a new watch and how the local Police and Neighbourhood Safety Team are involved, in addition the administrator has assisted in developing our updated website [www.bexleywatch.org.uk](http://www.bexleywatch.org.uk) which will be available early 2009.

So you can see from the above since having Bexley Borough fund this very important position it has allowed us to become more organised in order to develop the Bexley Neighbourhood Watch Association within your borough, a big thank you to London Borough of Bexley and the police Commander for all their support

Bexley Borough Neighbourhood Watch Committee

**WATCH THIS  
CYBERSPACE**  
[www.bexleywatch.org.uk](http://www.bexleywatch.org.uk)

## Bexley Borough Neighbourhood Watch Website

### Watch this cyberspace...

Clicking on to the Bexley Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association (BBNWA) website will soon be a whole new experience as funding has been secured to refresh the website.

BBNWA was one of the first Neighbourhood Associations to host its own website and the time has come to update it. Eltham-based design agency, 'Advertise By Design' is currently working on the site to significantly change its overall look; add graphics and photographs and add a search function to allow householders to see if their road is already set up as a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Plans also include starting to distribute newsletters and information via the website and encourage watch coordinators to use the website as a means of communication.

### Money Matters...

BBNWA is a registered charity and survives on donations and grants so it is not always easy to find the funds for projects like this, but this year Bexley Borough has agreed to support us and provide assistance by partly funding the cost. Additionally we have applied to The London Neighbourhood Watch Association for a grant if we register our website with theirs.

### We need your help...

In order to provide faster updated information and to also keep costs down we intend to use email and the new website as the first choice of communication so we encourage all members to provide us with their email address. There is some way to go, as currently less than 50% of our watch coordinators have provided their addresses.

### Lost in cyberspace...

We appreciate not all members have access to their own personal computer but there are other options; all the Borough's libraries have free access to the internet and hence email to their members (even non- members get 15 minutes free access). Of course we will ensure all watch coordinators receive necessary information even if they do not use the internet but with today's and tomorrow's technology it is easier and quicker to use the internet as a means of communication.

When the new site is up and running we would welcome feedback on its use and ideas for further enhancements, so once it goes live please click onto [www.bexleywatch.org.uk](http://www.bexleywatch.org.uk) for current information.

## BexleyWatch

**Building a community spirit, safety in numbers and working together to reduce crime in Bexley, one of London's safest boroughs.**

### Useful websites to visit

Bexley Community Safety Partnership  
[www.bexley.gov.uk/service/bcsp](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/service/bcsp)

Secured By Design  
[www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com)

Bexley Neighbourhood Watch  
[www.bexleywatch.org.uk](http://www.bexleywatch.org.uk)

London Neighbourhood Watch  
[www.lnwa.net](http://www.lnwa.net)

Bexley Borough Police  
[www.met.police.uk/bexley](http://www.met.police.uk/bexley)

**To contact a local police station  
dial : 0300 123 1212**

## What is BCSP ?

### Membership

Bexley Community Safety Partnership consists of over 50 members including statutory and non-statutory members. Key partners are shown below. The Partnership aims to ensure a coordinated approach to reducing crime, and fear of crime in Bexley, whilst promoting stronger communities.

### Strategic Priorities

Bexley Community Safety Partnership's strategic priorities for 2008/2009 are:

Residential Burglary

ASB caused by alcohol

ASB by groups of youths

Assaults

However, they are under review for the period 2009/2010 and we are keen to consult the public. If you would like to replace any of the list above, please email [Ginny.Hyland@bexley.gov.uk](mailto:Ginny.Hyland@bexley.gov.uk) or call 0208 284 5589 with suggestions.



**Keeping Bexley Safe**

### Key Partners

London Borough of Bexley  
Bexley Police  
London Fire Brigade  
London Probation  
Metropolitan Police Authority  
Bexley Care Trust  
Voluntary & Public Sector

## Nominated Neighbour Scheme

The 'Nominated Neighbour Scheme' was launched across Bexley Borough mid 2008.

The purpose of the scheme is to help older and more vulnerable members of the community to feel safer in their homes. It aims to reduce the number of people who become victims of distraction burglary crimes or rogue traders. It also aims at reducing the fear of crime and enhancing community integration.

### How does it work:

The elderly or vulnerable person is advised not to open their door to cold callers, but instead to show the caller a card which tells them to contact a 'Nominated Neighbour' who is a trusted relative, friend or neighbour who is available and prepared to assist.

The elderly or vulnerable person is given crime prevention advice according to their need and issued with:

1. Nominated Neighbour card
2. 'How to use your Nominated Neighbour card' leaflet
3. Stop sticker reminding occupier not to open the door

They will write the address or telephone number of the Nominated Neighbour on the card and show this to any cold caller at their address. The critical point is that they must not open their door. They will then telephone the Nominated Neighbour and tell them they have had a caller.

The Nominated Neighbour will be given appropriate crime prevention advice and issued with 'How to be a Nominated Neighbour' leaflet.

They will not let any caller into their home but will check their identity by telephone. If satisfied they will return with the caller and stay with them whilst they conduct their business with the elderly or vulnerable person. Upon completion they will escort the caller off the premises.

Any genuine caller should not mind waiting to be checked out by a neighbour or returning at another time with an appointment. Any bogus callers should be deterred.

### To become involved in the scheme contact:

Bexley Council Neighbourhood Services telephone 0800 389 5013 or contact your Safer Neighbourhoods Team.