

SUMMER 2021

# Our Watch

## Canford Heath Neighbourhood Watch



Committee chair (Monique): [chair.chnw@gmail.com](mailto:chair.chnw@gmail.com);

Membership (Jenny): [jennychnw@gmail.com](mailto:jennychnw@gmail.com); Secretary (Sandra): 01202 388418;

Newsletter and Social Media (Marcus): [marcus.chnw@gmail.com](mailto:marcus.chnw@gmail.com)

### **Hello again from your Neighbourhood Watch Team!**

We hope that you have all been keeping safe and well. We have two lots of good news to share with you.

First, we are delighted to say that we have a new Newsletter Editor, Marcus Watton, who, in addition to producing the newsletter, has very kindly agreed to keep our social media accounts up to date too. So welcome and thanks to Marcus and also to Barry Gage who has volunteered to proofread our newsletter.

Secondly, we have been successful with a funding bid to the Neighbourhood Watch Network. This funding will help us to buy a gazebo and publicity banners so we can get out and about and to promote Canford Heath Neighbourhood Watch and encourage residents to Come and Join Us! Within this project we are planning our first **Keep Safe on Canford Heath** event for this autumn, **Saturday 2nd October 2021**.

With best wishes for a safe and sunny summer from your Neighbourhood Watch Team!

---

### **Your Neighbourhood Watch News**

**Come and Join us** - we would love more residents to join us. It's FREE!

Contact Jenny [jennychnw@gmail.com](mailto:jennychnw@gmail.com) or for a paper copy of the joining form call Sandra Moore on 01202 388418.

#### **Can you help us?**

We are still looking for a volunteer Webmaster. Please contact Jenny in the first instance if you feel you would like to help.

#### **Save the date!**

Canford Heath Neighbourhood Watch are delighted to invite you to our first Keep Safe on Canford Heath event set to take place on Saturday 2nd October 2021 from 10am to 12.30pm at Limelights in Learoyd Road. **More Information coming soon!**

**Let's Get Social** - Keep up to date with Canford Heath Neighbourhood Watch:

Facebook: Canford Heath Neighbourhood Watch

Twitter: @CanfordHeathNW

## **New Appointments: Police Crime Commissioner and Canford Heath Councillor**

On Friday 7th May 2021, **David John Sidwick** was confirmed as the new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Dorset, replacing Martyn Underhill who had chosen to stand down from the role after 9 years service. We now await news on PCC Sidwick's Police and Crime Plan.

**Sean Gabriel** was elected to BCP Council following the Canford Heath by-election on Thursday 6th May 2021, taking up the position of late councillor Pete Parrish who passed away last year.

---

### **Feature: Q&A with a PCSO**

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), Pete Raymond, has served the BCP area for nearly 15 years. We sat down with him to find out more about his role and his connection to the area.

#### **What encouraged you to join the Police as a PCSO?**

I worked with a colleague who was one of the first PCSOs in Bournemouth who I'd worked with on the Ambulance Service and she said I'd really like it [the PCSO role], being a people person. So I looked into it and here I am some 15 years later. It [the role] has changed but I think it's one of the best jobs in the Police.



Above: PCSO Pete Raymond

#### **Can you describe your typical working week?**

It's very varied depending on what members of the public are contacting us about, whether it be neighbour disputes, issues involving antisocial behaviour... We've had a significant reporting of online and telephone fraud which involves us making visits to particularly vulnerable victims, safeguarding them, giving crime prevention advice, and working with Action Fraud.

Also, I think since the first lockdown, neighbours have perhaps got a little bit on top of each other when they're predominantly working from home so there's sometimes been a few tensions - particularly noise in the garden and boundary issues. We also work in partnership with the local authority and other organisations to support our communities. In a COVID world, this particularly involved supporting people with the pressures of working from home and the challenges of kids being home-schooled.

We've had a few problems with off-road unregistered motorbikes riding around the heathland too, so we've been working with the rangers and the heath wardens to try to address this. I'm often on patrol on my bicycle, using evidence-based policing [based on reported crime], in the problem-profiled areas in particular.



## **Continued: Q&A with a PCSO**

### **What do you enjoy most about your role and in particular, policing the Canford Heath area?**

I love the heath. I think we're so fortunate to have one of the rarest heathlands in Europe. It's great to have the opportunity as an officer to support the heathland and work with Dorset Fire and Rescue Service, the rangers and the volunteers on the heathlands to keep them fire-free.

I enjoy keeping active on my bicycle, sometimes doing 30, 40 miles a day during patrol, and being a visible presence for the community. Wildlife is a passion of mine and I've recently taken a role as Wildlife Crime Officer for Poole. I really enjoy working with the Environment Agency and the Angling Trust, patrolling the rivers for the closed fishing season.

### **What challenges have you faced as a local PCSO, particularly over the last 12 months during the pandemic?**

We're in need of more PCSOs to support us in doing the work that we do. It's a challenge currently to manage the workload that comes in. It's great to see a recent uplift in police officer numbers and hope that this encourages an uplift in new PCSOs too.

### **Can you recall any particular success stories of police and residents working effectively together?**

I recently had some youngsters who had upset an elderly couple by being reckless and probably over-exuberant, banging on doors and genuinely really upsetting them. We worked with their school as a point of contact, sitting down with the youngsters and working through restorative justice, encouraging them to repair the harm they'd caused. They wrote letters of apology to the elderly couple and that really made a difference to them.

I've also worked closely with a resident who is very good at reporting misuse of off-road motorbikes. From this, we've been able to identify some of the offenders and prosecute – it's not always easy to catch a motorbike but there are various tactics that we can use. The most important thing to do is report it so the Traffic Officers and No Excuse team build an accurate picture of any hotspot areas to target with additional measures.

### **What are the key things Canford Heath residents can do to help the Police?**

Report crimes directly to the Police via approved contact channels – if we don't know about it, we can't do anything about it. Social media is not an effective means to report crime.

Don't be complacent or afraid to report issues to the Police – crimes can be reported anonymously via Crime Stoppers (0800 555 111).

Consider using Dorset Police's online 101 reporting tool 'Do It Online' for non-emergency crimes and issues. These are all logged and followed up on.

Neighbourhood Watch are so key to us, they're our eyes and ears in the community.

**Many thanks to PCSO Raymond for taking the time to chat with us and to the BCP Neighbourhoods team of Dorset Police for helping us to arrange it.**

## Contacting Dorset Police The 21st Century Way

As we've heard from PSCO Raymond in our Q&A feature, reporting crime and effective communication between the Police and communities is paramount to effective action against crime. Did you know that you can contact and communicate with the Police online?

'Do It Online' is a selection of online services offered by Dorset Police, helping you to report non-emergency crime or incident, pass a message to an officer or request a call back, make a complaint or give compliments and feedback, submit a Freedom of Information request, or report lost property.

By using this online service, you will be helping to reduce the demand on the 101 telephone service, making it quicker and easier for people to speak to a call handler for more complex or urgent issues.



'Do It Online' here: [www.dorset.police.uk/do-it-online/](http://www.dorset.police.uk/do-it-online/)

---

## 'Sheducate' yourself

The value of property in sheds and garages can be more than you think, making them a target for thieves looking for power tools, cycle and sports equipment. Despite this, many people don't secure their shed in the same ways as they do their homes. Here is Dorset Police's top tips to ensure your shed or garage are kept secure:

**Secure the access to your shed or garage by locking gates and using thorny bushes next to walls and fences.**

**Have you visibly marked the contents of your shed? Make a note of serial numbers and photograph valuable plants and ornaments.**

**External security lights which are activated by movement are a useful deterrent.**

**Doors of sheds require attention. Use strong padbars and close-shackle padlocks. Up-and-over garage doors supplied with standard lock fittings should also be fitted with a padlock or lockable bolt. Windows should be secured with locks or grilles.**

**Use coach bolts or non-return screws to secure door hinges.**

**Chain cycles, mowers, ladders and tools to a strong anchorage point.**

**Alarms for sheds and garages are available for under £20 at most DIY stores, catalogue shops and builders merchants.**

**Together we'll crack crime. Join a home-watch scheme.**

**Exactly what insurance cover do you have? Check that your household policy covers you for theft from your garden and outbuildings.**

(Source: [https://www.dorset.police.uk/media/1484/sheducation\\_2012.pdf](https://www.dorset.police.uk/media/1484/sheducation_2012.pdf))



## Keep Your Dog Safe

Losing your dog, or having your dog stolen from you, is an unbearable thought. Sadly, this is a reality for many families whose dogs are stolen across the UK. With DogLost, a UK charity estimating that there has been a 170% increase in dog thefts since March 2020. Taking care of your pooch has never been more important.



Here are our tips to help to keep your dog safe:

- Ensure your garden is secure – ensure your garden fences are secure to stop your dog escaping and to prevent easy access for trespassers. You could consider installing a sensor light or bell gate to be alerted to anyone in your garden.
- Always keep your dog in sight – whether on walks or in the garden. Never leave your dog tied up outside a shop or in a car alone. When walking your dog, make sure they are trained to recall command.
- Have your dog spayed or neutered – this can mean that your pet is less likely to stray and mean they are less likely to be stolen for breeding.
- Ensure your dog is searchable – add a tag to your dog's collar with your name, phone number and address on it. Microchipping your dog is a legal requirement and you should make sure the registered contact details are up to date. Keep up-to-date clear photos of your dog, making sure to show any distinctive features. They will be a big help if your dog does go missing.

If the worst happens, and your dog goes missing or you think it has been stolen, here are some practical things you can do for the best chance of being reunited with them:

1. If you think your dog has been stolen, contact the police as soon as possible. Make a note of the crime reference number.
2. Contact the BCP council Animal Welfare Service on 01202 123789. They will check each dog they find against their register to check if a lost report has been made and will contact you if they find it.
3. Contact the microchip database holding your dog's details and update them. If the dog is recovered, and their chip is checked it will be possible to reunite you.
4. Advertise! There are many websites for missing animals, such as [www.doglost.co.uk](http://www.doglost.co.uk), so make sure you add details of your dog's loss to these, using the photos you have taken.



## **Work Smart From Home**

With more of us than ever working from home over the past 12 months, we've sometimes needed to repurpose existing rooms or spaces in our homes to create an effective working environment.

However, have you considered what may be on view to those outside of your home; from the street perhaps? How about your online footprint and security?

Our home-working set up is often comprised of considerable and expensive tech. From laptops to tablets, headsets to monitors, there are many high-value items that we rely on that may also be desirable to an opportunist thief. Additionally, personal and sensitive information about us and/or our work can be gold dust to a scammer.

Here are a few tips to keep your workspace safe and secure whilst working from home:

- Try to ensure your home workspace is not in view from the street, ideally not on ground floor if possible;
- If your home workspace needs to occupy a space in view from the street, consider closing the curtains or blinds when you step away from your desk and ensure any street-facing windows are shut and locked during your absence;
- For any home-office equipment that you own yourself, consider insurance options for these items;
- Create strong passwords for devices such as PCs and tablets and always lock these devices when you step away from your workspace;
- Consider storing any portable devices in a lockable cupboard or drawer overnight;
- Ensure you have adequate anti-virus and anti-malware software and that you have installed the latest updates to these;
- If you receive an email or text message from an email address or phone number that you do not recognise or were not expecting, be sure to double-check that this is genuine and legitimate. It is particularly important to be vigilant where the email/text message is requesting any personal details from you or asking that you click on a link;
- If you think you have been the victim of an online scam, report it to Action Fraud, the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime - [reporting.actionfraud.police.uk](https://reporting.actionfraud.police.uk) or 0300 123 2040.

**We hope you enjoyed the read!**

**Next issue: Autumn 2021**