

SUMMER 2022

Our Watch

Canford Heath Neighbourhood Watch



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Hello from your Neighbourhood Watch Team!

Welcome to our summer newsletter. We're very excited to bring you our upcoming 'Keep Safe On Canford Heath' event at the beginning of July. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Fingers crossed for better weather than last year though!

Why not give us a follow on social media? It's a great way to keep in touch with us,
Facebook: Canford Heath Neighbourhood Watch
Twitter: @CanfordHeathNW

'KEEP SAFE ON CANFORD HEATH' EVENT - SATURDAY 2ND JULY

All Canford Heath residents are very welcome. Light refreshments will be available. We'll also be joined by ARCH.

It's a great opportunity to pick up practical advice on personal safety and crime prevention in a fun and welcoming setting.

10am - 12.30pm at Limelights, Learoyd Rd., Canford Heath
ADMISSION IS FREE

Please see full details on page 3

JOIN OUR WATCH ONLINE

Canford Heath Neighbourhood Watch now has an online membership form.

Follow the link to join:
<https://bit.ly/3rEzNuH>

See us at Ad Adstra school summer fair!

We'll be at Ad Astra Infant School, Sherborne Crescent, for their summer fair on Friday 8th July, 3pm - 5pm.

We would love to see you there!

We still need your used inkjet printer cartridges!

We're still collecting used inkjet printer cartridges so that they can be recycled.

If you have any, please drop them in one of our collection boxes at the following locations:

- Chester Pearce Funeral Directors (The Neighbourhood Centre)
- Austin and Wyatt and Palmer Snell (both Adastral Square).



Calling all Canford Heath Greetings Card Creators!

We have begun a new project called 'Sorry to Hear your News' and if you enjoy creating your own greetings cards, you may like to help us.

If you have ever been the victim of a crime, you will know what a difference it can make when someone makes a kind gesture, like a hug, offers a listening ear or gives you a bunch of flowers.

In a small way, this is what we are planning to do, to make a small gesture by giving a Sorry to Hear Your News card on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch to someone who has recently been a victim of crime.

leasha Walker, our PCSO for Canford Heath, has kindly offered to hand out the cards, but this is where you may like to help us. If you enjoy making your own cards and would consider donating one or two to us, we would be very grateful. It is a lovely thought that any cards you make could brighten up someone's day and bring a smile to their face when they have been going through a difficult time.

If you would like to know more please contact Vickie: vickie.campbell@ntlworld.com

Funding from Morebus

In May, we were thrilled to receive £105 from the Morebus Community Fund. This enabled us to buy UV pens and purse dipping bells as useful crime prevention measures. In fact, these proved very popular with the members of 'Saturday Friends' when we gave a talk to them at St Paul's church hall on Saturday 21 May.

In their press release, Morebus said, "The Morebus Community Fund offers local good causes support through funding or complementary travel. The Canford Heath Neighbourhood Watch applied for our help, and we were delighted to provide them with money to put towards some property marking pens and anti-theft purse bells.

We hope these items will assist in protecting more vulnerable members of the community and allow them to feel safer. We're delighted to be supporting such a worthy cause."



Photo credit: Morebus.co.uk

What have we been up to recently?

Our monthly Come and Join Us events are in full swing this year. Please see the event calendar in our Spring newsletter or check our social media for dates and locations.

In April, we held our AGM at St. Paul's church - our first in two years!

In May, we attended 'Saturday Friends', a collaboration between [ARCH](#) and [PramaLife](#) aimed at reducing loneliness for Canford Heath residents. We also joined in the fun at Adastral Street Party for the Platinum Jubilee!



Canford Heath Neighbourhood Watch

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KEEP SAFE ON CANFORD HEATH EVENT

Saturday 2 July 2022 from 10am-12.30pm
Limelights, Learoyd Road

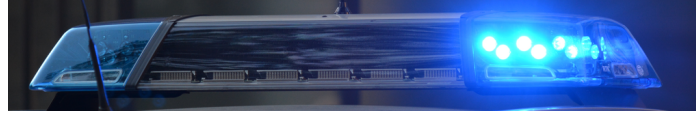
Learn more about keeping yourself, your family and your possessions safe by talking to the following organisations.....

*BCP Council, Community Speedwatch, Dorset Police (+ **cycle marking**), Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Rescue Service (Safe and Well) (+ **hopefully a fire engine and crew!**), Poole Key Locksmiths Ltd, South Coast Self Defence, Unique Fire and Security and Victim Support.*

Great raffle prizes: Sandbanks Brewery gift pack, South Coast Self Defence voucher and other prizes including those from Poole Key Locksmiths and Unique Fire and Security.

Plus refreshments!

"In case of emergency..."



How easily could emergency services locate your home if you needed them?

That was the question posed by Canford Heath Neighbourhood Watch Chair, Monique Munroe when she lead project 'Hunt The House' in 2016. We thought it was time to raise awareness of this again as it has potentially life-saving benefits.

The project was run by the charity formerly called Ideas2Action (now Win On Waste). It aimed to highlight the major problems emergency services face trying to locate the relevant property when responding to calls.

Through practical fieldwork undertaken within Canford Heath, the project identified potential delays to locating a specific house within a street in cases where the house number is not clearly visible. Precious minutes and seconds which would could save someone's life.

The project consulted a retired paramedic who offered the following advice:

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

"Is my property readily identifiable?"

"Could a member of the emergency services find my property quickly in the dark?"

"Is my house number easy to read on my outside wall or property?"

SOMETHING TO AIM FOR:

The "Gold Standard House" is one where the numbers are BOLD and CLEAR. If you have an outside wall or boundary fence, then please put the name or number of your house here. "I can assure you that at 2 in the morning, such a simple measure really does assist the 999 services. As a rule, large dark numbers on a light-coloured background show up best." You can also buy reflective house numbers which work well in the dark.

BAD NEWS HOUSE FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES

This is a house where there is an outside wall, but no number and a long driveway with the house number hardly definable in the distance. "So much time is wasted trying to locate a number in these circumstances."

GATES

If you have your number or name of your property on a gate, the gate may be open and therefore the number isn't visible.

HEDGES AND OTHER VEGETATION

Please cut back any overgrown bushes or hedges as these often obscure your number.

WHEELIE BINS

It helps the emergency services if all your wheelie bins (this includes, black, blue and green bins) have numbers on the front and back of the bin.



Protect your catalytic converter

Given a couple of recent catalytic converter thefts in Canford Heath, we felt it was a good time to share some advice with you on how you can protect your vehicle against this crime.

Catalytic converter theft has seen a rise in recent years, with around 40,000 catalytic converters stolen in the UK alone last year. Catalytic converters contain precious metals, and thieves are taking advantage of the rising value of this, using cordless power tools and a car jack to remove them. This can be done in less than a minute, but can have big implications for the victim.

Dorset Police are working hard to tackle this issue, but there are some steps you can take to help protect your vehicle.

Think about where you park – If you can, park your car in a locked garage. If this isn't an option, park in a well-lit and well-populated area. You can make the theft more difficult by parking your car with the catalytic converter close to fences, walls, or kerb, and by avoiding parking your car half on the pavement and half on the road. If parking in a public car park, try to park alongside other cars to make it harder to reach.

Install CCTV – If you park on a driveway, consider using a Secured by Design (SBD) approved driveway alarm and sensor to alert you to a potential intruder, or park in view of CCTV or a video doorbell, if available.

Mark your catalytic converter – You can mark your catalytic converter with a unique code, which will mean the Police will know exactly where it has come from if recovered, and could mean it can be used as evidence in court. Make sure the marking is SBD approved and your details are registered.

Catalytic converter security – 'Cage clamp' devices lock around the catalytic converter to make it harder to remove. These can be purchased from the SBD website and fitted by your local garage. You may also wish to speak to your garage about installing a Thatcham approved alarm and tilt sensor which will activate should a thief try to jack your vehicle up.

What can I do to help combat the crime?

If you see anything suspicious, report it straight away to 999! The more information you can give, the better, so try to note:

- How many people did you see involved? Include a description if you can (height, build, clothing etc.)
- Details of the vehicle they are travelling in. Include any identifying features, such as the registration number, any marks, dents, or stickers.
- In which direction did they leave the area.



Handy contacts

We recently became aware of some lesser-known contact services that may come in handy to you:

105 – National power cut service. Used to either report or to find out more about power cuts in your area

112 – Works as an emergency number in the EU and UK too

159 – Scams crackdown. If you are unsure if that call really is from your bank, put down the phone and call 159 to be connected directly to your bank

7726 – Text to report unwanted SMS messages or phone calls on a mobile. 7726 spells SPAM on a phone keypad – a handy way to remember it!

Coming soon...

888 – This is currently being developed by BT for public safety. If you are going out alone, you will be able to text / call the number which will trigger GPS tracking. The service will then send automatic alerts to emergency contacts such as family/friends if you don't reach your destination at your expected time.

And lastly...

OUR NEW WEBSITE - COMING SOON

We've been very busy working on a new website and are nearly ready to launch it.

Keep yours eyes peeled on our social media for more news on this very soon!

Ask the Police service

Ask the Police is an official police resource providing questions and answers to a wide variety of the public's most frequently asked questions. It provides an alternative online option, reducing calls to the police and freeing up resources.

The website provides links to relevant national organisations, plus the facility to rate an answer, and email a specific question directly which will be answered within 48 hours by their team.

Visit: www.askthe.police.uk or find out more on social media on Facebook @askthepolice or on Twitter @AskThePolice.

Ask the Police is also available as an app – Search for 'Ask the Police' in your phone's app store.

Please remember that social media such as Facebook and Twitter are not an effective means to report crime to the Police.

We hope you enjoyed the read!

Next issue: September 2022