

WATCH OUT!

IF YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT CRIME OR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN YOUR AREA, WHY NOT BE INVOLVED IN SETTING UP A LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH?

COME ALONG TO OUR MEETING ON MAY 11TH AND WE'LL HELP YOU GET THINGS STARTED. THE POLICE SERGEANTS FROM OUR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS WILL BE ON HAND TO SUPPORT YOU AND TELL YOU HOW WE CAN ALL CONTRIBUTE TO REDUCING LOCAL CRIME.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEETING
AT 7PM ON THURSDAY 11TH MAY 2006
AT THE GROVE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE,
BRADMORE PARK ROAD



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Despite the gorgeous weather on May 11th there was a good turn-out of about 30 people for the meeting. Attendees included Sgt Gold (Ravenscourt Park ward), Sgt Goulden (Broadway ward) and one local councillor.

Lesley Spire (our street rep for Perrers Rd), who chaired the meeting, started with a presentation downloaded from the National Neighbourhood Watch Association website just to give everyone an idea of what it's all about and what it can do.

Fact sheets were also downloaded and photocopied; these included information about Personal Safety, Bogus Callers, Vehicle Crime, Home Security, etc. In addition, Lesley obtained Neighbourhood Watch leaflets from the Home Office although the window stickers and posters unfortunately did not arrive in time for the meeting. They are being chased up!

After the presentation, Sgts Gold and Goulden added a few words stating that they were happy to support any local initiatives but emphasised that the ownership of the Neighbourhood Watch movement rests with local residents and not with the police.

Wine and soft drinks were served and everyone chatted with their neighbours. Interested residents were asked to add their names and street to a list specific to their particular ward. There were 20 names, mostly in Broadway, with two people interested in starting and coordinating a group in Brackenburg Gardens.

The next step is for those interested people to communicate with their fellow residents and arrange their own meetings to launch a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in their immediate area. But it is worth remembering the message from our SNT Sergeants. . . "Small schemes work much better than large ones."

Lesley is very happy to support any of you who wish to lead a Neighbourhood Watch scheme (you may even want to approach someone in your street who hasn't yet been involved but who would be ideal in this role!). She currently has a box of about 1000 Neighbourhood Watch leaflets sitting in her hallway and another box of 1000 Neighbourhood Watch meeting invitations. She would be very happy to deliver whatever quantities are requested.

If you have any thoughts, comments or ideas on taking this forward or, even better, an update on how you've made a start in your own street, please feel free to contact Lesley at lesleyspires@yahoo.com

For further, local NW details visit the BRA website at www.brackenburg.info which also has a link to the national NW website.

CRIME LOG ON WEB-SITE

Although the web-site went live last October, it has not been used as frequently as we'd expected. It really is a very simple and effective way of reporting crime to the police, and it can be anonymous if you wish.

You simply log on to the website at www.brackenburg.info and record incidents by using the following:

User name: bracrime
Password : bracrime

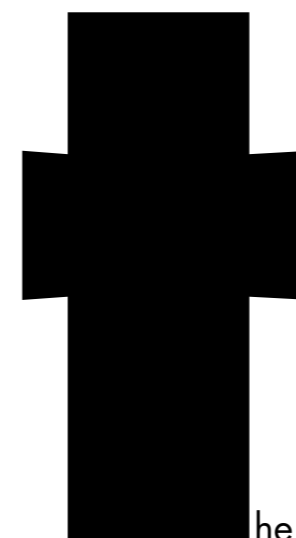
If you choose to log incidents anonymously, then such anonymity can only be respected up to the point when the police request the identity of a member in order to assist with their enquiries.

Members who do not have internet access can log on free at the local library, or ask a neighbour/street rep to report the incident on their behalf. Using the Crime Log helps the police build up a much clearer picture of crime in our area.

However, really serious crime should be reported to the police by immediately dialling 999.

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WORK BEGINS AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH & VICARAGE



The Governors of the Godolphin and Latymer School have now signed the lease with the Diocese of London for the whole site adjoining the school - to include the Vicarage and St John's Church.

The refurbishment of the Vicarage has now begun and should be ready for occupation this September. The Vicarage, a handsome building with four floors, will give teaching space for Classics, Economics, History of Art and Mathematics as well as office space for the Bursar's department and the Development Office, and working space for teaching staff.

Renovation work on the Church is to begin this summer with the Governors planning to build a new Music School parallel to the north side of the church to house practice rooms, rehearsal rooms, classrooms, a recording studio and facilities for music technology.

It will also become a performance space for concerts and recitals, and be used for assemblies, meetings and public examinations.



Work on the Church is to begin this summer with the Governors planning to build a new Music School.

The Church is a Grade II listed building, consecrated in 1859, and parishioners will retain a side chapel for worship. The school has worked with the Diocese to ensure the planned renovations preserve the character and beauty of the original William Butterfield design.

BRACKENBURY
RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION

DON'T MISS THE AGM

Here's an unmissable date for your diary: Thursday 20th July 2006 at the Grove Neighbourhood Centre in Bradmore Park Road at 7.00pm. That's the time and date of BRA's AGM and this year's meeting will be an important one as we have several changes taking place, so make sure you can come along.

1 Tony Stephens is standing down from both the Chair and committee after six successful years at the helm. In his final report he says, "I have been involved with BRA since its inception, and I believe I've contributed a fair share in sustaining the Association and moving it forward, but it's time for some new blood. As I step down, I would like to thank all the people who have contributed their time and energy to supporting the Association and for making my time as Chair a very positive and rewarding experience."

2 This year a number of other committee members will be standing down or changing roles in the Association. In addition to the Chair, we are in need of a Secretary, Auditor and Tree Officer. Chris Allen (formerly councillor for Ravenscourt Park ward) has agreed to stand for the committee with a view to becoming Chairman, but of course you are welcome to stand for any of the roles on the committee. If you are interested in supporting us for the next year, do stand by completing a nomination form which you can get from Treena Jinnah at treena_maguire@yahoo.co.uk

These should be returned to her before July 13th.

3 There are some changes to the rules of the Association. Rule 3 has previously been amended as follows:

Rule 3 MEMBERSHIP: Membership is open to all residents of the area. Applications shall be made to the Secretary with payment of the subscription in full and are subject to the approval of the Committee. Each new member shall be notified in writing and a copy of the Rules may be obtained by any member from the Secretary on request. Subject to approval at the next Annual [or Extraordinary] General Meeting, the Committee may co-opt any person or persons not otherwise eligible for membership as non-voting associate members. Businesses, schools and other institutions, whether located inside or outside the area, may become non-voting associate members."

There is a proposed new rule to replace existing Rule 12 which will then become Rule 13. New Rule 12 states:

Rule 12 INDEPENDENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION: "The Association shall at all times maintain a position of independence and impartiality in relation to all political parties and organisations."

This new Rule will be voted on at the AGM, so if you have any comments to make, please attend the meeting.

THE AGM AGENDA

- 1** Welcome
- 2** Apologies
- 3** Minutes of 2005 AGM
- 4** Chairman's Report
- 5** Secretary's Report
- 6** Treasurer's Report
- 7** Activity Reports
 - Planning and licensing
 - Graffiti
 - Police and crime matters
 - Street cleaning and recycling
 - Next year's objectives
- 8** Rule Change
 - To consider the proposed new rule 12
- 9** Election of Committee Members
- 10** Questions and issues from the floor
 - Guest Speaker: Adrian Chiles, broadcaster and local resident
- 11** Thanks and close
 - Apologies and queries to the Secretary, Treena Jinnah, at treena_maguire@yahoo.co.uk

Q&A

If you have any questions on issues not covered on the AGM agenda, it would be helpful to have them in advance so the committee can provide you with a considered response.

ADRIAN CHILES GUEST SPEAKER

As our guest speaker this year we are delighted to have Brackenburg resident, Adrian Chiles, who will give us his wry observations on living in the area.

He is a familiar face on BBC television and radio, presenting a broad spectrum of sport and business programmes such as "Working Lunch" on BBC2 every weekday and "Chiles on Saturday" on BBC Radio Five Live.

Currently in Germany presenting "World Cup Match of the Day" every evening on BBC1, we are delighted to welcome him to the AGM.



GRAFFITI UPDATE

A new, large example of the graffiti artists' "art" has appeared in Trussley Road, but on the whole there is little new to report. And what little there is, Toni Raybould and her team are removing as it comes. Nevertheless, if any new tags appear, please let Toni or the Council know (they are still removing it free of charge from all brickwork).

Roger Khanna, who has now retired, gave us fantastic support and his final job was to get the utilities who own the "green boxes" to clean, paint and put new locks on them. Our area must be about 98% free so, as a bit of a showpiece, the Council may well continue to support us.

Contact Toni Raybould on **020 8741 5279** or agatetoni@yahoo.co.uk

REDEVELOPMENT OF ALLIED CARPETS SITE

As we reported in the last newsletter, the Council rejected a planning application to replace the current Allied Carpets showroom at the corner of Goldhawk Road and Askew Road with a 10-storey block of flats. Not to be deterred, the developers have appealed against this decision and a public enquiry opened on 6 June.

Because the site is technically outside BRA boundaries, we are not directly involved. The proposed building, however, would be visible from BRA territory, as is the existing Vencourt Hotel (especially with the new external lighting) which is of a comparable scale.

Therefore our architect, Richard Winterton, has written a letter of objection on behalf of BRA, relating the issue to local interests because of:

- (i) visibility and dominance of building,
- (ii) precedent set by a high-rise building in a low-rise neighbourhood adjacent to BRA,
- (iii) possible overload of adjacent Askew Road roundabout leading to traffic pressure on our residential streets.

If you have any concerns about building works in your area, do contact us for help and advice.

THE LOBBY LIST

There are many issues in Brackenburg that affect and concern us but often we feel there is little we can do about them. That's where BRA can help. We can help influence decisions and affect positive changes in our community, and the bigger we are the more clout we have. So, if you know someone who is not yet a member, suggest they join by calling Rosemary Pettit on tel: **020 8846 9707**; or email rosemarypettit@onetel.com

Some of the issues the committee will be considering are:

- New trees for old. BT to tidy up the telephone poles in the area - perhaps removing them and replacing them with trees?
- Change to parking hours - 8am to 8pm? (We are getting congestion at the weekend in some streets with free parking from Friday to Sunday.)
- Tighter parking controls (cars are parked on corners or ignore controls around schools).
- Replacing the zebra crossing at junction of Overstone/Glenthorne Roads with traffic lights. It is one of those crossings where cars increasingly refuse to come to a halt.
- The introduction of a Visitors Parking scheme - promised at the Council elections.

JUNK MAIL UPDATE

Since distributing "No junk mail" stickers at the last Social evening, members have reported a reduction in this nuisance mail dropping onto their doormats. But the trouble is, one man's junk mail is another man's informative and useful leaflet or brochure. Some estate agents still ignore the notice but generally they are getting better and the frequency of delivery is less. Further supplies of stickers are available from GNC and the local library.

STREET REPS

BRA is fortunate in having street reps to help distribute newsletters and be the eyes and ears of the Association. We really could not operate properly without their input. We already have reps for the following streets but, if you live elsewhere, we would be particularly glad to hear from you.

These streets are represented:

Agate Road, Brackenburg Road, Bradmore Park Road, Cambridge Grove, Cardross Street, Carthew Villas, Coulter Road, Dalling Road, Dorville Crescent, Hammersmith Grove, Nasmyth Street, Overstone Road, Perrers Road, Raynham Road and Richford Street.

So, if you would like to help in this way, please contact Rosemary Pettit.