

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



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meeting in May to promote interest and involvement in the Neighbourhood Watch a few local schemes have emerged, led by enthusiastic residents in the BRA area.

The Brackenburg Gardens Neighbourhood Watch promoted their scheme by running a stall at their street party on 19th September, attended by their crime reduction officer. Another Broadway scheme involving Brackenburg Road and Carthew Villas may be next and the Broadway Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team continues to support any initiatives in their ward.

Ravenscourt Park Ward is not lagging too far behind with their Safer Neighbourhood Team also keen to support any streets wishing to start up their own scheme. A few of the residents in Perrers Road, led by Michael Tober, a well-known resident of the road, have already worked in partnership with the team to thwart an attempt by squatters to move into the house of a frequently absent neighbour.

Michael has agreed, with the help of the Ravenscourt Park Safer Neighbourhood team, to get a Neighbourhood Watch scheme going in Perrers Road.
Contact committee member Lesley Spires on Tel. **020 8741 8126** if you'd like to start a NW in your street.

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

THIS NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED BY YOUR LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS - ROYSTON

Please book people to **Your Front Garden** talk on 14 November.
I enclose a cheque for £.....
(£3 per member, £4 non-members), made payable to the Brackenburg Residents Association. Cash only for hand delivery.

Name.....
Address.....
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Email.....
Send to Rosemary Pettit, Membership Secretary,
45 Bradmore Park Rd, W6 0DT.
rosemarypettit@onetel.com Tel. **020 8846 9707**



OUR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BRA is happy to announce 4 new members to the committee: Lesley Spires who has done sterling work on Neighbourhood Watch, Dante Barbareschi who will be responsible for keeping an eye on green issues within our area, Julia Davidson who is our new Secretary, and Chris Allen, ex-councillor, who is our new Chairman. Contact details of the committee are:

- Chris Allen 020 8741 2583 (Chairman)
- Julia Davidson 020 8748 8451 (Secretary)
- Martin Thirlaway 020 8846 9529 (Treasurer)
- Dante Barbareschi 020 8741 0536 (trees)
- Stuart Blake 020 8741 9403 (newsletter)
- Diana Mather 020 8746 3424 (social)
- Rosemary Pettit 020 8846 9707 (membership)
- Toni Raybould 020 8741 5279 (graffiti & GNC)
- Lesley Spires 020 8741 8126 (Neighbourhood Watch)
- Murray Thomas 020 8741 3277 (law/constitutional)
- Richard Winterton r.winterton@btinternet.com (planning/licensing)

YOUR FRONT GARDEN: GROWING PLANTS OR CONCRETE?

Would you like a greener garden? But not sure how to go about it? And if you don't have a garden, what about window boxes? Or pots and plantings? If you'd rather your garden was covered in plants than concrete, come along to the Grove Neighbourhood Centre in Bradmore Park Road on Tuesday, 14 November, 7.30 - 9.30pm.

We have two excellent speakers lined up for you:

Christine Eborall leads Ealing Local Agenda 21, an environmental group which has researched front gardens and pushed the question of disappearing front gardens onto the GLA agenda. "Saving front gardens" is the group's motto - for ecological, wild-life, aesthetic and horticultural benefits.

Kim Whatmore, local resident and garden designer, who owns the only garden in Brackenburg to open under the National Gardens Scheme, will speak about the design of front gardens, their plants and planting; she will include pots and window-boxes in her talk.

Both will illustrate their talks and are willing to answer questions. The evening will conclude with a glass of wine, finishing by 10pm at the latest.

Preserving front gardens has been an issue for our neighbouring councils for some time. Hounslow has produced a leaflet, applicable to Chiswick residents, called 'Your Front Garden - Save It Don't Pave It'.

Kensington & Chelsea, with help from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, has distributed a similar leaflet to residents in north Kensington. More importantly, K&C has evoked the Highways Act to prevent pavement crossovers and went to court about it - and won. This was several years ago and, according to Christine Eborall, they are surprised that more councils do not take advantage of this. It neatly sidesteps the planning issues and applies itself to parking. It can be readily demonstrated that hard-standing in front gardens reduces the amount of parking space available.

To make your booking please use the slip below. The hall seats 50 people maximum and we expect quite a lot of interest from members, so please book early. Tickets will be delivered a few days before the talk.

This newsletter is printed on paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council as being made from well-managed forests.

JUNKING JUNK MAIL

You may have read in the newspapers recently about how thousands of householders opted out of having junk mail delivered after a little-known opt-out clause in the Royal Mail service was revealed by a postman.

However, it seems that junk mail is set to get worse because the limit of three unsolicited items a week to each household could be lifted in the next few months.

But there are ways out

There are two types of junk mail. Direct mail is addressed to you individually. Door to door mail does not have your name on it, but is simply addressed "to the occupier".

All junk mail is required to have an "unsubscribe" box that you can tick, although you need to do this for every company that sends it out.

The Mailing Preference Service (mpsonline.org.uk, telephone 0845 703 4599) can remove your name from up to 95% of junk-mail lists. But it typically takes about four months for the mail to stop completely.

However, this service will not stop mail from overseas, letters from small local firms or mail that is not addressed to you directly.

The Royal Mail's opt-out service, which stops junk mail that is addressed "to the occupier", is free to register but you will need to write in.

But the service only affects junk mail that Royal Mail is paid to deliver, which accounts for roughly a quarter of all unsolicited mail. Also, bear in mind that the service will stop some mail from your local authority.

Either e-mail optout@royalmail.co.uk or write to Royal Mail Door to Door, Kingsmead House, Oxpens Road, Oxford, OX1 1RX.

A lot of our residents have put a notice on their front doors saying "No junk mail". This is probably better than nothing but, remember, it is not legally enforceable.

BURGLARY ALERT

There has been a recent spate of burglaries in Brackenhury so we suggest that you be particularly careful and vigilant. We've heard of several burglaries of cash, iPods and laptops - in one case, stolen while the occupant was watching television.

So, please consider keeping doors locked at all times and fitting window locks on all windows (your insurance company will probably require you to have these fitted anyway). These enable windows to be left open quite securely while, at the same time, being fixed at a level which precludes the entry of any person. They don't cost much, are easy to fit, are unobtrusive and very sturdy. Also, make sure your front door is locked, especially when you're in the back of your house.

THE GROVE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

Although most people know the Grove Neighbourhood Centre (GNC) exists, how many know what actually goes on inside the stylish modern building in Bradmore Park Road?

In fact, it is a hive of activity catering for a wide variety of needs and interests. There are regular classes, events and workshops (yoga, pilates, ballroom dancing, painting and bingo to name but a few). There is a Toddlers Group and a weekly "health lunch" club.

The GNC also runs a "Good Neighbours Project" in which volunteers carry out various lifestyle support activities such as gardening, shopping and sometimes simply companionship for people who cannot manage such things themselves.

In addition, GNC offers a "drop in" advice bureau for local residents. There are also regular jumble sales and other social events.

The GNC is a Registered Charity and is partly funded by the local Council. But it also relies on various project-specific grants, and incomes from lettings. It is an important and useful local resource and welcomes visits from any local residents who want to know more about it. For more information please contact Anna Williams or Pat Gregory on

Tel. **020 88741 3321**.

The GNC's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wed, 8 Nov, 7.30pm at the GNC. All welcome. Refreshments served.

LOOK OUT, LOOK OUT, THERE'S A CON MAN ABOUT

Chris Horton runs his own film production company in Aldensley Road and he kindly sent the following e-mail to us about a con man who is operating in our area.

"This afternoon we were approached by a Black Male approx 40 - 45yrs, 5'10" slim/slight build, clean shaven with a shaved head, wearing navy-blue nylon type track bottoms and a similar colour sweat top, using the name Daniel, outside our premises in Aldensley Rd (9th October 17:00Hrs). We knew this was dodgy from the outset but decided to see what his game plan was out of curiosity, so myself and a colleague went along with it.

His pitch is:

"Do you know what a G4 is?" "Well I have a Record Studio in Lena Gardens and have just had this bloke offer me two G4s for £140. He wants to sell them both, but I only have £90 so need someone else to buy the other one from him." We tell him we are interested.

He borrows one of our mobiles to call the guy who is at the William Hill betting office (junction of Goldhawk Rd and Hammersmith Grove) to tell him he's on his way. The guy on the other end apparently says he will only deal with him, etc, etc. What our man didn't realise is that we noted the call was made to a land line **020 7602 6602**. Funny number for a guy in a betting office.

When we got near the betting office our guy then wants us to give him our £50 and to wait in the pub opposite, while he goes and gets the computers from the guy in betting office. Then he will come back with the computers and get the other £20 from us. Though quite an amusing plan we said no.

But we suggest he gives the guy his £90 and gets one computer, gives it to us, we then give him the £70 allowing him to collect the second. He'd not thought of that response, so goes into the betting office to check with his "supplier". At this point we had pretty much gathered the full scam and were walking back to the office. Then our man reappears saying he only needs £20 now. We clarify we are not interested and leave him to it.

The guy is quite charming, and was shouted to by a resident halfway along Sycamore Gardens. He clearly knew the area very well, so this is a local guy or guy that has connections here. He also makes a habit of saying 'hi' to people that neighbour and knows people.

We went along with this as it's an area that's covered in a short film we are scripting. I must stress though we went prepared with two-way radios and a third colleague on standby (just in case).

The moral is that the only good deals are on Ebay and even then you need to be careful. So please don't get caught out by this guy." YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH BRA

Rosemary Pettit (Membership Secretary) keeps members in touch via email - very useful inbetween newsletters. If you'd like to receive up-to-date news - and are not already on the emailing list - then please email her at rosemarypettit@onetel.com.

PAYING YOUR WAY

If an annual subscription form for 2006-07 is included with your newsletter please do complete this and return to Rosemary Pettit (Membership Secretary) as soon as possible. Cheques and cash (hand delivery only) are very acceptable but, if you are willing to set up a standing order, that's even better. If no sub form is included then you have already paid by standing order for this year. Thanks.

INNOCENT MUSIC

The Music Society at Holy Innocents Church in Paddenswick Road offers the following concerts: Sunday, 19 Nov, Song Recital by Catherine May accompanied by Lindy Tennent-Brown to include Debussy, Britten and 'Mr Tambourine Man'; Sunday, 10 Dec, Sacred Music for Advent from Chiswick Baroque. All concerts start at 4.00pm and tickets are available on the door at £8.00 (£5.00 concessions).

LOOKING TO EXPAND YOUR BUSINESS

For local businessmen in our area, the only place to be on a Friday is The Grove on Hammersmith Grove, where, at 7 am, the Hammersmith Chapter of Business Network International (BNi) meets over the best breakfast in the area to network, hand out and receive new business opportunities. Membership costs £400pa and numbers are limited as only one representative of any trade or profession may become a member.

There are a few places left so if you are interested in boosting your business call Stuart Blake on **020 8741 9403** or e-mail stblake@lineone.net