



KEYNSHAM EAST NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Committee of the Keynsham East Community Safety Action Group
Delivered by CSAG volunteers to over 1600 households in the Keynsham East Area



The CSAG Committee wish everyone a MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR !

In this issue

- Lack of interest hits floodlit event for six!
- Neighbourhood Policing Update from Inspector Tim Stuckes
- How we can all help vulnerable people to feel safer
- Plans for Extended Services at Wellsway School
- Further improvements to Chandag Road shops area

CSAG and JAG combine to give residents a direct line to the Beat Manager PC Chris Greaves

Issue 05
December 2006

JAG Communications, who have recently opened a store in the High Street, have donated a mobile phone for the use of the Beat Manager PC Chris Greaves.

Chris already has a voice-mail and e-mail address at the Keynsham Police Station, (see contact details on back page), but was eager to find a more effective way of allowing residents to contact him directly. When approached by the CSAG Committee, JAG were delighted to be able to help to improve communications between residents and the local police.

**JAG Communications can be found at:
41 High Street Tel: 0117 9866012**



**From left:
PCSO Jo Stagg, JAG Communications manager Simon Tarrant and PC Chris Greaves
(Photograph © The Bath Chronicle)**

**When on duty, residents can now contact PC Chris Greaves on his mobile number:
07794 132720**

Residents asked to help preserve the splendour of the Community Woodland

Manor Road Community Woodland lies to the East of the Chandag Estate and is accessed by gates on Manor Road and Courtenay Road and a Public Footpath from Minsmere Road.

The Woodland lies within the Forest of Avon, and over 19,000 trees and shrubs have been planted on this 21-hectare (56 Acre) site since 1993 with grant aid from the Forestry Commission. Most of these trees and shrubs are native broadleaves and reflect some of the species already found in the area.

There are spectacular views from the Woodland over to the Cotswolds— in particular Kelston Round Hill. There are traditional stone walls which still mark the old field boundaries shown on the early Tythe map of the area and from which the individual Woodland compartments are named.

The site has become a haven for a great variety of wildlife. Many different birds use the woodland including Waxwings, rare in this part of the world. In May 2005 the Woodland was awarded Local Nature Reserve status.

Manor Road is one of the best examples of a community woodland in the Forest of Avon and is very popular with local people. It has achieved much acclaim from many special groups who have visited the Woodland.

It has also received coverage on various TV and Radio programmes.

The **Friends of Manor Road Community Woodland Group** was formally set up in 2002 to represent the local community in it's work with the landowners, Bath and North East Somerset Council, and other Agencies. The group, which is open to all local residents, meets on alternate months to discuss ongoing management and community projects in the Woodland. The Friends hold monthly task days when projects such as dry stone walling, tree pruning or coppicing are undertaken. They also raise funds through various grant schemes to support additional work in the Woodland. The Friends Group enjoy a good working relationship with the local police through their representatives on the KECSAG.

As with other parts of the Keynsham East area, vandalism has been a problem from time to time and the police have been briefed on this. The Friends Group and the police ask users of the Woodland to report such events, and antisocial or dangerous behaviour, as soon as possible to the police on the contact numbers shown on the back page of this edition. [Nigel Jacks.]

CSAG Committee meets Michael Towson and Graham Baker

The CSAG was delighted to welcome **Michael Towson** (Extended Services Project Worker with B&NES) to its **October committee meeting**. Michael joined members of the committee in explaining and discussing ideas and ways in which we could work with him to extend and develop services that Wellsway School offers its students, parents and the wider community.

WHO IS MICHAEL TOWSON? : (read his message below, printed in the Wellsway School Ammonite 6th October 2006)

Extended Services:

Offering children enhanced opportunities for learning, sports and the arts, as well as supporting parents and carers. With the new academic year now in full swing and having settled in to my new role, I would like to introduce myself as an additional member of the team at Wellsway School. My name is Michael Towson and I work for Bath and North East Somerset Council as an Extended Services Project Worker.

Over the course of the next 18 months, I aim to extend and develop the services that the school offers its students, parents and the wider community, in line with government strategy. These services could present themselves in a variety of guises, from curriculum enrichment, to adult education. In order for me to assess the needs and wishes of those I hope to interact with, I am asking for the questionnaire accompanying the paper version of the Ammonite to be completed.

Hopefully by consulting with parents and children in this way and with the community more generally, I will be able to offer relevant, sought after activities for all. If anyone would like more information relating to Extended Services, please do not hesitate to contact me, initially via [email](mailto:michael_towson@bathnes.gov.uk) to michael_towson@bathnes.gov.uk.

At the November meeting the Committee welcomed both **Colin Clothier (B&NES Assistant Principal Youth Worker)** and **Graham Baker who has recently joined B&NES as a Senior Youth Worker**. The main purpose of Graham's role is to co-ordinate & develop youth work & youth work projects across the Keynsham & Chew Valley cluster, thereby providing a range of opportunities for young people to develop their personal, social & educational potential. His work involves liaising with a range of other groups, agencies & individuals from within the statutory, voluntary & commercial sectors as well as responsibility for the development & co-ordination of a youth work plan and programme for young people. An important element of this is to work to increase core capacity through attracting additional resources, and through partnership working, thereby increasing the scope of planned programmes.

We welcome Graham and hope he will become a regular contributor to our Committee meetings.

FAMILIES AND FRIENDS CAN HELP KEEP VULNERABLE PEOPLE SAFER—HELP ELIMINATE DISTRACTION BURGLARIES

Research by Bath and North East Somerset Police has shown that family and friends can help keep older people safe from doorstep conmen and thieves.

The news came just days after a passer-by disturbed someone suspicious trying to gain access to a 101-year-old woman's home in Bath by claiming to be from the water board. Thankfully the suspect made off empty-handed after being confronted.

After reviewing distraction burglaries on the district over the past 30 months, they found that the least likely day for them to happen is a Sunday – the traditional day for families and friends to visit.

Sergeant Geoff Cannon of the Crime Reduction Unit based at Bath Police Station said: "We have had 160 distraction burglaries on the district over this 30 month period.

"This is extremely worrying as the people who suffer in these crimes are often particularly vulnerable. Such crimes often have a greater impact on them, affecting their quality of life and sometimes even their health.

"I would ask people to make time to visit and talk to their older family members and neighbours – or those older people they come into contact with through work – and remind them of the simple steps they can take to foil these would-be thieves.

"For example we know thieves target the homes of the elderly by looking for less well-maintained frontages. If family and friends can help with maintenance, they would also be cutting the chances of their loved one falling victim to criminals."

The research also found that women over the age of 70 were most likely to be targeted, with the thieves frequently claiming to be dealing with water problems. It found that cash totalling more than £165,000 was stolen in such burglaries.

How to deter doorstep criminals:

- Stop, chain and check – put the door chain on before answering the door and always ask to see identification before letting anyone in.
- Don't leave the door open for visitors. If you have mobility problems ask Age Concern, the council or other agencies for advice on fitting an intercom door buzzer.

- Ask people to call back later, and get a family member, neighbour or friend to come round to be with you.
- Keep the back door locked so there's no chance of an accomplice sneaking in while you are kept occupied at the front door.
- Don't leave strangers alone in your home.
- If you are worried call the police.

The police operate a 'Bobby Van' scheme which can help people over the age of 65 improve their home security. A qualified carpenter can be booked to visit, carry out a security survey and do any improvement work, supplying and fitting security devices free of charge.

This can include:

- Checking door locks and upgrading where necessary
- Fitting door chains/door restrictors
- Fitting door viewer
- Installing window locks
- Fitting battery alarms to doors and vulnerable areas
- Supplying personal attack alarms

More information on home security and the Bobby Van scheme is available on the force website, www.avonandsomerset.police.uk or by calling the Bath and North East Somerset Police District Crime Reduction Unit at Bath Police Station on 0845 456 7000.

NEW GATES INSTALLED TO ADDRESS RESIDENTS' CONCERNS

Residents living above the shops in Chandag Road have suffered varying degrees of antisocial behaviour during the last few years.

In an attempt to tackle some of the issues raised, the CSAG has initiated and monitored the erection of resident-controlled

gates at this location, and secured funding for their installation.

In particular, it is hoped that this will prevent groups of young people from sitting on the steps, often preventing easy access for residents to their homes.

In addition, these gates ensure that access to the balcony at the rear of the flats is made available to residents and visitors only. The balcony has previously been the location for a number of very unpleasant acts of antisocial behaviour and vandalism.



One of the two new gates installed at the sides of the shops in Chandag Road

RESIDENTS EXPRESS CONCERNS OVER LITTER PROBLEMS

A number of residents continue to express concerns over the amount of litter deposited in the area.

The majority of these comments relate to litter around the shops. Some of this 'litter' includes the remains of uneaten food purchased locally from the shops and this has, in the past, and particularly during the summer months, proved to be a considerable health hazard.

In recent months representatives of the CSAG have corresponded with Andrea Arlidge, Headteacher of Wellsway School, and met with Darren Breakwell, Area Manager of Smile's Store, and Trevor Cummings from B&NES Environmental Services, in order to encourage everyone to play a part in eliminating this unpleasant and unnecessary behaviour.

We have requested the school and the police to continue to monitor the activities of school pupils out of school during the day, and also at the end of the school day. The school continues to patrol the area and responds to calls received from residents during the day.

If you see any activity during the school day that concerns you, please contact Wellsway school to report it.

We have also asked the Environmental Officers to monitor the area and to work with both the local schools and the shop owners to tackle the issue of litter in the area. We also requested another review of the provision and location of waste bins.

Trevor Cummings welcomes information from residents, particularly photographs and can be contacted on 01225 394041 or trevor_cummings@bathnes.gov.uk

CSAG WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY FOR CLOSER LINKS WITH SCHOOL AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The CSAG is pleased to hear that Wellsway School is proposing to appoint a second Deputy Head with an extended school/community brief. We hope this will allow the school to work more closely and more often with local community groups.

The CSAG has again approached the CADRA with a view to working more closely together on issues of common concern and interest, particularly the publication of a joint Newsletter. It is hoped that representatives of the two groups will meet in the New Year.

" Kids had great fun and genuinely looked forward to every week " (manager of one of the winning teams) - but no interest this year amongst young people for second floodlit football competition

Following the positive feedback from players, managers, organisers and parents, after the success of the floodlit six-a-side competition held in January 2006, plans were made to hold a second event in January 2007. The new event also invited entries from teams of girls to supplement the two separate competitions for teams of boys in Junior and Senior age groups.

Nigel Kay of Keynsham Town Juniors FC had once again agreed to organise the footballing side of the event, and support for funding had been obtained from Somer Community Housing Trust, the Quartet Foundation, and B&NES Active Sport and Leisure.

Bristol Rovers FC were keen to offer prizes to the winning teams and were willing to considerably increase their involvement in January's proposed activity.

Sports Staff at both Wellsway and Broadlands schools invited pupils to get together and register their teams before the end of November. Unfortunately there was a very disappointing response from the youngsters invited to participate, and the event had to be cancelled. However, the CSAG Committee will continue to work with the schools, youth service, and young people themselves to support any further activities that are deemed worthwhile.

Many thanks to all those people who gave their time and energy in organising the event.

SKATEBOARD FACILITY CONSULTATION

Youth Worker Graham Baker has been asked to carry out consultation with young people regarding the provision of a mobile skateboard park in the area. The youngsters will be invited to consider all the advantages and disadvantages of such a facility and will be invited to apply for funding themselves, possibly in a joint bid with youngsters from the All Saints community group.

BID FOR COMMUNITY FACILITY

The CSAG joined with officers of the CADRA and the Keynsham Community Association in welcoming and supporting Wellsway School's bid for a building that could be used for a childcare/youth facility during out of school hours. We are cautiously optimistic that the bid will be successful and understand that Property Services have visited the site to discuss locations for such a building.

MESSAGE FROM INSPECTOR STUCKES

To the residents of Keynsham East:

I thought it might be useful if I highlighted to you some of the work your local police are engaged in at the moment - If you have any questions (or ideas!) I am always pleased to hear from you.



Neighbourhood policing is being developed and we eagerly await our new PCSOs. The first two that arrive in January will be tutored for at least the first month then be tasked with patrolling Keynsham North and South wards with high visibility patrols on the High Street, Temple Street, Park area etc. This area is the focus of our anti social behaviour at the moment (but be assured - we actively monitor Keynsham East and I am ready to divert resources should they be needed).

Elsewhere on your beat area: a lot of work has gone in to the enforcement of two ASBO's on brothers in Farmborough. Your Beat Manager, Chris Greaves, has done an outstanding job and whilst Anti Social Behaviour Orders are often talked about glibly in the press they require a considerable time commitment from the police over a 6 month period, and beyond, if they are to be effective. Every breach requires an investigation, gathering of evidence and a court appearance - so far we have had two breaches. It is not quite as easy as you might be led to believe!

There has been a recent **increase in Graffiti** in the town centre area. A warrant has been executed and one person arrested, currently on bail. All reported incidents have been photographed and we are working with the graffiti project to identify tags.

We endeavour to ensure **licensed premises are being visited** on a regular basis and on occasions with the licensing officer. Several licensees have been found to be in breach of their licence and they have been warned about the breaches. Follow up visits will occur to ensure all conditions of the licence are adhered to. We are working with Trading Standards to carry out test purchases at off-licenses that are believed to be selling to under-age drinkers.

Burglary has been reduced dramatically this year but is still a concern to us - we have had some successes and it will come as no surprise that some of the offenders are often not from our area - we have the names of two offenders from a burglary in Burnett who we hope to arrest shortly. Similarly a Tom Tom Satellite Navigation system was stolen from a car in Broadmead Lane recently. Good information led to the arrest of two suspects in Bristol and they have been bailed for further enquiries.

Hope this gives you a flavour of what is going on. More later!

Tim Stuckes (Inspector Keynsham Sector)

Apologies to those people who tried to contact KECSAG via e-mail recently. All previous NETSCAPE addresses were inactivated and messages went missing. Please use the new YAHOO address shown below for future correspondence.

The Keynsham Police and the CSAG are keen to build up a true picture of all incidents affecting Residents' quality of life – we want to work with the local Community to try to address these issues.

Incidents can be reported (anonymously if desired) directly to the Police by telephone or by e-mail or to the CSAG, who are in regular contact with the Police, preferably by e-mail. **Remember if you don't report it, it won't get logged and won't get dealt with!**

Although you **may** not get an immediate response, please be assured that your report **will** be logged and that the Police **will** take action as and when they feel appropriate and are able to do so.

CONTACTS:

THE KECSAG: Roy Gallop (Chair) by e-mail: kecsag@yahoo.co.uk
or Pat Morrison (Co-ordinator) by tel: 0117 9079433 or Mary Sutton (Treasurer) by tel: 0117 9864472
or by letter deposited in the green KECSAG letter box in the Smile Shop

THE POLICE: PC Chris Greaves by e-mail : chris.greaves@avonandsomerset.police.uk.
or tel: 01225 842779 (Office) or tel: 07794 132720 (Mobile)
or Avon and Somerset Police Headquarters (for non-emergency calls) 0845 4567000

REMEMBER: In the event of an emergency you should still dial 999