



GREENWICH BOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

Committee Information Sheet for Coordinators WINTER 2008



**For free local
advice and
assistance on
Home Security,
provided under
the auspices of
Greenwich
Council,
contact:
HOMESAFE on
020 8316 4188**



SPONSORING THE
GBNWA NEWSLETTER

GBNWA January Conference

Following the success of last year's Conference, we shall be holding another Conference on January 17, 2009 from 10.30am to 12 noon.

The topic will be Fund-Raising.

We are delighted to welcome two Guest Speakers:

Andy Bayes, New Scotland Yard

Gavin Gaskain, Sergeant, Safer Neighbourhoods Support

We look forward to seeing as many Co-ordinators as possible.

Please see further details on enclosed leaflet.

What is the Safer London Foundation?

The SLF, whose Chief Executive Officer is Tony Shepherd, is a new foundation working in partnership with the Metropolitan Police to provide support to the very important work undertaken by the Safer Neighbourhood Panels and, in particular, the Community Engagement Programme ("CEP").

SLF's aim is to empower local communities to reduce crime and make London a safer place. By addressing the factors which can lead to crime, and by building links between community groups, the corporate business world, government offices and the Metropolitan Police Service, SLF strives to foster integration, co-operation, cohesion and harmony amongst London's many and varied communities.

The CEP is one example. A series of CEP seminars are being held over this Autumn for Neighbourhood Panel Chairs. in order to train Neighbourhood Panel Chairs for their role.

In addition to allocating grants to community groups working to reduce crime, SLF also provides volunteers who offer valuable assistance and pro bono advice. SLF also offers a range of mentoring opportunities, such as the Aspire Project, which mentors ex-offenders into employment, and business and skills development for MPS officers and community leaders.

SLF provides training and ongoing support for volunteers and mentors, and SLF's managers will match volunteers to a project or mentee which suits their interests, skills and availability. For more information on this aspect, contact Clodagh O'Reilly-Boyles, Voluntary Services Manager, or Paul Bourke, Aspire Project Manager, on 020 7021 0301. To access their contact list, go to the CEP page of the SLF website. You can also add a contact by emailing malihakorotana@saferlondonfoundation.org

Visit GBNWA's website at: <http://www.gbnwa.org>

Please note Greenwich Council's Community Safety Team telephone number has changed to: **020 8921 8344.**

Email your Safer Neighbourhood Team at:

<http://www.met.police.uk/greenwich/saferneighbourhoods.htm#>

NHW NEWS UPDATES AND ALERTS

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Blackheath Cator Estate Neighbourhood Watch, who hosted a fascinating talk in October by police firearms officers from Scotland Yard's CO19 Firearms Branch about their work. This included an interactive exercise with light guns, in which members of the audience participated, and which demonstrated the difficulties of split-second decision-making and accuracy of recollection.

New National Contact Numbers

Advert seen on the London Underground recently:

Car has been stolen: call 0300 123 1212

Car is being stolen: call 999

It is hoped that this new service, introduced with effect from October 6 across London, will improve access to all Metropolitan services in non-emergency situations.

Crime Prevention News

We have been informed that Kent Police have warned Bexley Council that a lady on the Danson Ward received an unsolicited phone call from a man claiming to be a Crime Prevention Officer. He told her he wanted to visit her to property-mark her property with an ultra violet pen. Please warn your members that this might be a new method of distraction burglary. Please also warn members in sheltered housing, in particular, of the prevalence of distraction burglary generally.

Scambusters

A nationwide 'Scamnesty' campaign - supported by NW groups around the country - has revealed the scale of mass-marketed scam mailings targeting UK residents.

Mike Healy, head of the Scambusters Unit at the Office of Fair Trading ("OFT"), has thanked NW groups for supporting the campaign. Every year three million people in the UK lose money to mass marketed scams they receive by mail, email, text or over the phone which are designed to con victims out of their cash.

The 'Scamnesty' campaign called on the public to fight back against the scammers by collecting any scam mailings they had received and dropping them into designated 'Scamnesty' bins at local libraries and other public areas across the country.

More than 15,000 scam mailings were deposited in Scamnesty bins in 50 local authority areas across the country. The campaign revealed that the top five mass-marketed scam mailings in the UK are:

- 1. Deceptive sweepstakes**
- 2. Misleading prize draws**
- 3. Fake clairvoyants/psychics**
- 4. Bogus foreign lotteries**
- 5. 'Miracle' health cures**

The scam mailings have provided vital intelligence to the OFT and local authority Trading Standards Services and have helped inform future investigations which will prevent others from being scammed.

If you think you have been the victim of a scam, or you suspect a scam, call Consumer Direct for clear, practical advice on **08454 04 05 06**. Consumers can also report scams online by visiting: <https://secure.consumerdirect.gov.uk/reportascam.aspx>

GBNWA BEST PRACTICE GUIDE – Coordinators please note this can be downloaded from our website at any time in pdf format. Just click on the link on the Home page.

Visit GBNWA's website at: <http://www.gbnwa.org>