

blurb!

The regular newsletter of



Brookvale
Community Association

ISSUE 29
July 2005

In this issue: Crime increases in Brookvale • Victory Roundabout subway closures • Upcoming events • and more...

Picnic in the Park

From 12 midday, Saturday 3rd September
King George V Playing Fields (off Deep Lane)

See back page for more details



Crime increases in Brookvale

Over the last few months, Brookvale Community Association has seen a rise in reports of crime in the local area. Many people have contacted us by email to advise us of their experiences and we have heard of countless other incidents. Sheds have been broken into and tools have been stolen. Bicycles have been robbed from both back gardens and locked garages. A large number of the May Street garages were actually broken into, one after the other, in one night. We have also heard of a number of larger house break-ins, in which many expensive or much-loved and irreplaceable items have been taken. It is believed that children have been responsible for some of the smaller incidences (mainly those involving back garden thefts) whilst it seems more organised criminal gangs are likely to be responsible for the larger burglaries.

Our local police officer

Having now had a fairly lengthy discussion with our local beat bobby, PC

Lee Stanbrook, we can see that there are a number of areas which can be improved. Many of these areas can be directly improved with the help of the community itself.

It is very clear to us that PC Stanbrook is already very stretched. His "local beat" covers a huge area of Basingstoke including Eastrop, Blackdam, Viables, Cranbourne, Kings Furlong, Brookvale, the Brighton Hill Retail Park, Harriet Costello and Cranbourne Schools as well as QMC and BCOT! There are a number of crime hot-spots in his round. These obviously take up a lot of his time, and much of his time that is dedicated to on-foot patrols is eaten up by these high priority areas. In comparison, Brookvale is considered a low-priority area. There are apparently very few incidences of crime reported for our area. It seems that many crimes are not being reported.

Although it is clear to us that there is a recent huge increase in criminal activity in our area, PC Stanbrook can't see this for himself. He explains that there hasn't

been a notable increase in reported crime: "We rely heavily on the public to help us do our job. It is essential that residents report every single incidence of crime in the area, no matter how trivial or insignificant it might seem. Only then can more of our resources be dedicated to patrolling the area." If more incidents were reported, this might be justification to recruit another officer to help PC Stanbrook on his beat. "I receive daily reports of every single reported crime in the area. If more crimes were reported, I would be able to convince my bosses that there is a need for a stronger police presence in Brookvale. I cannot stress how important it is for the public to phone absolutely every single incident in to the call centre."

So please, keep this number for Hampshire Police close to your telephone, and store it in your mobile phone's address book: 0845 045 45 45. Whether you discover that your shed has

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For all the latest local news, events and information, visit our website:

www.brookvale.org.uk

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been broken into, your car damaged on the street, or whether there are a group of kids riding around a park on a motorcycle, you should report ALL incidences of crime and anti-social behaviour to this number. Even if nothing has actually been stolen, but there is evidence of a break-in, please report it. Even if the incident is no longer in progress. You are not wasting police time by reporting incidents – you could be helping police to collect intelligence into when these crimes occur and who might be perpetrating it.

Please remember that 999 should be used for emergencies only. An emergency would include a suspected break-in in progress.

Other local schemes

Both we and PC Stanbrook have contacted Officers from Hampshire County Council's successful Accredited Community Safety Officer (ACSO) scheme. ACSOs deal with 'low-level anti-social behaviour', freeing the police to focus on 'core policing functions'. They can issue penalty notices for littering, graffiti, fly tipping and cycling on footpaths, confiscate tobacco and alcohol from underage people, request the removal of abandoned vehicles and obtain the name and addresses of anyone acting in an anti-social manner. Uniformed officers patrol the streets in much the same way as police officers do; that in itself can help with reduction in crime. Two ACSOs operate in this area and have promised to dedicate more of their time to patrolling our streets more routinely. Similarly, they weren't aware of a particular crime problem in our area.

If you are aware of routine incidences of anti-social behaviour, or have information relating to any of the offences listed above such as graffiti or fly tipping, you can report it to the ACSO scheme on 0845 600 1747. More information can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/communitysafety

Another local scheme set up to assist in the reduction of crime is Basingstoke & Deane's Community Warden Scheme. They currently don't have a Warden patrolling the Brookvale area, but if the scheme's steering group can see a need for more wardens, we may be able to change that. Please write to: Community Warden Scheme Steering Group, Community Safety Team, BDBC, Civic

Office, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH. Alternatively, you can email: z.o'donnell@basingstoke.gov.uk

What the BCA is doing

We are committed to help our community reduce the level of crime in our neighbourhood. We will be holding a public meeting in mid-September to allow you to have your say. We will be inviting our local beat bobby, the ACSOs responsible for our area, and representatives from Basingstoke & Deane's Community Safety team.

Residents themselves must also become more pro-active in deterring crime in our community. We hope to establish a Neighbourhood Watch scheme at this meeting.

At the moment, a date is not confirmed, but is very likely to be either the 12th, 13th or 14th of September. Please pencil these dates into your diary now. The date will be confirmed in the August issue of Blurb.

Please also continue to report any incidents of crime or anti-social behaviour to us. You can email info@brookvale.org.uk or contact Karin Joseph, our Street Rep Co-ordinator (details on the back page).

Other things you can do

It is more important than ever to make use of every lock you have on your homes and outbuildings. If you have window locks, make sure you make use of them. Similarly, if you have deadlocks or additional mortice locks on your doors, make sure they are used! Ensure that sheds and back gates get locked up too. Spending £10 on a padlock and hasp lock now might save you the grief of a break-in and move would-be intruders onto easier pickings.

There are hundreds of products on the market to help you decrease the likelihood of having your home broken into, from spiked plastic fence strips and intruder paint to full blown security systems and CCTV. It is of course down to your personal circumstances how much money you are able to spend on securing your home, but bear in mind that criminals will usually look for the easiest option when selecting a property.

Probably the most likely point of entry for an intruder is a back entrance. Back gardens and back doors are surprisingly often not as well protected as the fronts of people's homes, despite being more secluded and so giving

would-be burglars more time and more privacy to break-in and enter.

Many of the houses in Brookvale have rear access via a common access point. If you have an alleyway between homes with a path that runs along the back of all the adjoining properties, consider getting together and sharing the cost of installing a gate at the entrance to the shared alleyway. A push-button combination lock (around £40) is a great alternative to a keyed lock (which requires lots of keys to be cut, somebody to co-ordinate the issue of keys, and requires everyone to have a key on them whenever they want to make use of the shared alleyway). Local police have indicated that installing gates in these locations is a great idea, and highly recommend residents consider taking this measure.

Finally, please keep an eye on anyone you see acting suspiciously, or anyone that shouldn't be wherever they are – kids or adults. If you discover kids loitering around the back of your home, tell them that they are trespassing on private property. If, for example, you find someone posing as a tradesperson in a neighbour's back garden when you're not aware of any work being carried out, challenge them. Make a note of their vehicle registration numbers. You never know when information like that might be required by the police. It is up to every member of the community to pull together to fight crime. This is a problem for all of us, and we can all be part of the solution.

Subway closures

The subways at Victory Roundabout will soon be closed one-by-one in rotation to allow refurbishment works to continue. To assist you in planning alternative routes, here are the dates of each closure:

North West (Allotments/Leisure Park)

25th July - 29th July

1st August - 2nd August

South West (Essex Rd/Victory Park)

3rd August - 5th August

8th August - 11th August

North East (Alençon Link/Station)

15th August - 19th August

22nd August - 23rd August

South East (Glebe Gardens/Church St)

Any closure dates to be confirmed

Fireworks event

We regret to announce that we will not be able to hold the fireworks event this year. Not only is funding an issue right now, but we have also had problems getting a group of marshalls for the event. Look out for it in 2006 - we are keen to bring it back at some point soon!

Increase in taxi fares

You have probably already read in the Gazette that taxi fares throughout the borough will increase in September. The increases will apply to the borough's 55 Hackney Carriages. As a rough guide, you can expect the following increases:

Distance	Old fare	New fare	Increase
1 mile	£3.00	-> £3.40	(+13.3%)
2 miles	£4.00	-> £4.60	(+15.0%)
3 miles	£5.00	-> £5.80	(+16.0%)
4 miles	£6.00	-> £7.00	(+16.6%)
5 miles	£7.20	-> £8.20	(+13.9%)
10 miles	£15.60	-> £16.20	(+3.8%)
15 miles	£23.60	-> £24.20	(+2.5%)
20 miles	£31.80	-> £32.20	(+1.2%)


Subway murals

Brookvale Community Association has held discussions with various companies and local artists about having murals painted in each of the four Victory Roundabout subways.

We now have some examples back from the artists, and would really appreciate your comments on the initial sketches.

You can view the work and submit comments directly through our website: www.brookvale.org.uk/murals

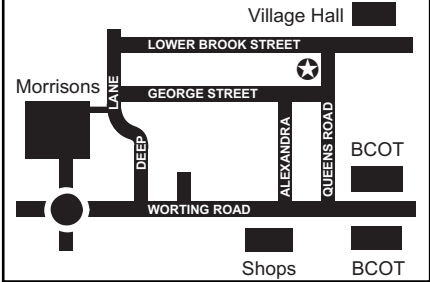
Alternatively, they will be available to view and make comments on at our August 6th 3Cs Coffee Morning.



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Please contact Chris Hall on:
07981 250573 or email chris.hall@brookvale.org.uk

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Fri-Sat	£12 /hour	£18 /hour
Sun	£10 /hour	£10 /hour

For more information, contact our Hall Bookings Agent, Louise, on (01256) 325193 or email louise.rham@brookvale.org.uk

Lottery Winners

April 2005

1st (£50) Margaret Aubrey (May St)
 2nd (£30) Carmel Daly (Queens Rd)
 3rd (£20) Miss Wall (Lower Brook)

May 2005

1st (£50) Miss Brooks (Lower Brook)
 2nd (£30) Maureen Cree (Essex Rd)
 3rd (£20) Margaret Aubrey (May St)

June 2005

1st (£50) Pat A'Court (George St)
 2nd (£30) Mrs Tysoe (Queens Rd)
 3rd (£20) Susan Sharpe (Queens Rd)

Information on how to play the Brookvale Lottery can be found on our website www.brookvale.org.uk/lottery or by calling our Lottery Agent, Pam Mansfield (see details in the right hand column).

BCA Information

More up-to-date information can always be found on our website: www.brookvale.org.uk

For information on the Village Hall, please contact:

Louise Rham,
Hall Bookings Agent
 (01256) 325193
louise.rham@brookvale.org.uk

For tickets to BCA events, please contact:

Cathy Elford,
Hall Management Team
 (01256) 413993
cathy.elford@brookvale.org.uk

For information on Blurb or Brookvale.org.uk, please contact:

Simon Brunger,
Communications Officer
 (01256) 331962
simon.brunger@brookvale.org.uk

For information on the Brookvale Lottery, please contact:

Pam Mansfield,
Lottery Agent
 (01256) 324313
pam.mansfield@brookvale.org.uk

For any information on local disability/mobility related issues, please contact:

Chris Hall,
Disability & Mobility Co-ordinator
 (07981) 250573
chris.hall@brookvale.org.uk

To get in touch with your Street Rep, please contact:

Karin Joseph,
Street Rep Co-ordinator
 (01256) 356116
karin.joseph@brookvale.org.uk

For any other information, please email:

info@brookvale.org.uk

Your local councillors are:

Cllr John Shaw
 (01256) 461776
cllr.john.shaw@basingstoke.gov.uk
 Cllr Doris Jones
 (01256) 415062
cllr.doris.jones@basingstoke.gov.uk

Brookvale Community Association (BCA) is a registered charity. Reg. charity no. 269386.

Upcoming Events

Brookvale Baby & Toddler Group

Every Wednesday during term time, 1:15pm - 2:45pm, Village Hall
 See our website for more details or call Helen on 421141. New members are always welcome...

3Cs Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th August, 10am-midday, Village Hall
 Don't feel like you're part of your community? Meet your neighbours and find out more about what's going on in your local area. Join us for Coffee, Cakes and Chat at 3Cs! Your newly appointed County Councillor, Jo Kelly, will be present at 3Cs Mornings to conduct open surgeries.

3Cs Coffee Morning

Saturday 3rd September, 10am-midday, King George V Playing Fields
 Join us for a very special al fresco 3Cs Morning before the Picnic in the Park event.

End of Summer Picnic in the Park

Saturday 3rd September, from midday, King George V Playing Fields
 This event was a huge success in 2004 and we're delighted to be bringing it back in 2005!

The kids will have the back to school blues, but there's one more opportunity to celebrate the end of

summer in style!

Bring along your own picnic, a blanket, some sunscreen, maybe a book, definitely all your friends and family, and join us for this great fun day out.

We will have sports day style events and races, a rounders tournament and even a bouncy castle - for both children and adults!

This is also a great opportunity to meet neighbours and find out more about your local community. *(Please note: dogs must be kept on leads and children must be supervised at all times)*

Crime and Safety in Our Community

Mid September, evening, Village Hall
 Please see our lead news article for further information. Confirmed date and more details to follow shortly.

Halloween Event

29th October, evening, Throughout the community
 We are busy organising a Halloween event for the end of October. Children will be able to participate in a parent-supervised trick-or-treat activity followed by a grisly, ghoulish party at the Village Hall!

Further details will be published in the August or September issue of Blurb.