

Crown Watch News

Winter 2009/10



Neighbourhood Watch for;

Tulip Tree Avenue
Whitemoor Road (east)
Windy Arbour (north)

In co-operation with



Crown Watch supported by;



Crewe Lane, Kenilworth - January 2009

Hello, it's some time since we wrote to you and gave you an update about what is going on in our neighbourhood. For those long established residents you will know that we used to get a newsletter out between three to four times a year. In addition we publish any emergency information and post it through doors as soon as we can.

Crown Watch has been operational for many years and continues to meet on a quarterly basis. The Watch is made up of local residents who live in the Watch area. Our work is voluntary and is designed primarily to provide information to neighbours about what is going on with safety and security in the local area. We are not snoopers or busybodies, just a group of individuals who care about where we live and want to help others whom we live alongside.

Its been quite some time since we wrote a detailed newsletter so this edition has been designed to update long standing residents who have received previous newsletters as well as welcoming and explaining how things work to new residents in the neighbourhood. We hope you enjoy the newsletter and find it interesting, above all we hope that you will find it helpful. Please drop us a line with any feedback you might have on the newsletter or on things that concern you within the neighbourhood. Feedback details are shown on the back page.

Don't Leave Valuable Items in the Car - and Don't Leave the car running either!

Valuable items, especially things such as laptops and Sat Nav's, continue to be stolen from unattended cars. Although this tends to be more likely in public car parks there have been several incidents where vehicles have been attacked on owners drives. Another crime at this time of the year, that can have devastating effects, is driving off unattended vehicles that are running on drives. The practice of starting up the car in the morning and de-icing it by leaving the car unattended with the engine running is inadvisable. Several vehicles have been stolen by owners doing this and thieves taking the opportunity this gives them.

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Recent Criminal Events in Kenilworth

OFFA DRIVE - ATTEMPTED DISTRACTION

BURGLARY

At 7.45pm on 16 November, a male offender called at the home of an elderly lady in Offa Drive, Kenilworth. The lady answered the door and the male stepped into the hall and told her to remove bottles from under her sink as he needed to check for a leak.

The lady then asked the male for identification, which he did not have, and then asked him to leave. The male left the premises empty handed. The offender is described as a white male in his 20's. He had a stocky build, was clean shaven with a fresh complexion and rosy cheeks. He was around 5ft 7 tall with short dark hair in a distinctive style. He was wearing navy clothing and had an English accent.

750
Metres from
Crown
Watch

RED LANE - BURGLARY

Between 3.30 and 4.30pm, also on 16 November, an offender forced open the conservatory door of a home in Red Lane, Kenilworth by using a jemmy. This activated the intruder alarm and neighbours noticed a maroon G or H registration Ford Fiesta with 3 white males adjacent to the property. Once inside, the offenders stole a 26in Samsung flatscreen television and a gents Armani watch.

1.6
miles from
Crown
Watch

FINHAM ROAD - DISTRACTION BURGLARY

At 7.30pm, also on 16 November, a male called at the home of an elderly lady in Finham Road, Kenilworth. The lady allowed the male into her home as he said he needed to turn something off under the sink. Whilst the male was in the house he entered the living room and stole an envelope containing cash from a purse in a closed cupboard. The resident reported that the male initially tried to break into the house via the front bay window. The male is described as white, around 6ft tall with a plump face, chubby build and short dark hair. He was wearing a dark jacket.

650
Metres from
Crown
Watch

BURGLARY - THORNBY AVENUE

Between 6 and 10.40pm on 16 November, offenders used a jemmy to force open the front door of a home in Thornby Avenue, Kenilworth. Once inside the premises the offenders stole a mobile phone, cash and a set of house keys.

750
Metres from
Crown
Watch

PLEASE BE VIGILANT - THIEVES ARE OPERATING



Parcel Delivery Scam (PDS)

The Following scam is currently being circulated/operated: A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a Premium rate number).

DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize.

If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 0207 2396655 or ICSTIS (the Premium rate service regulator) at www.icstis.org.uk

Newsflash - Another Burglary! WestonBirt Close

950
Metres from
Crown
Watch

Between 8.40am and 6.15pm on Wednesday 18

November, offenders climbed the rear fence of a property in Westonbirt Close, Kenilworth and entered the garden.

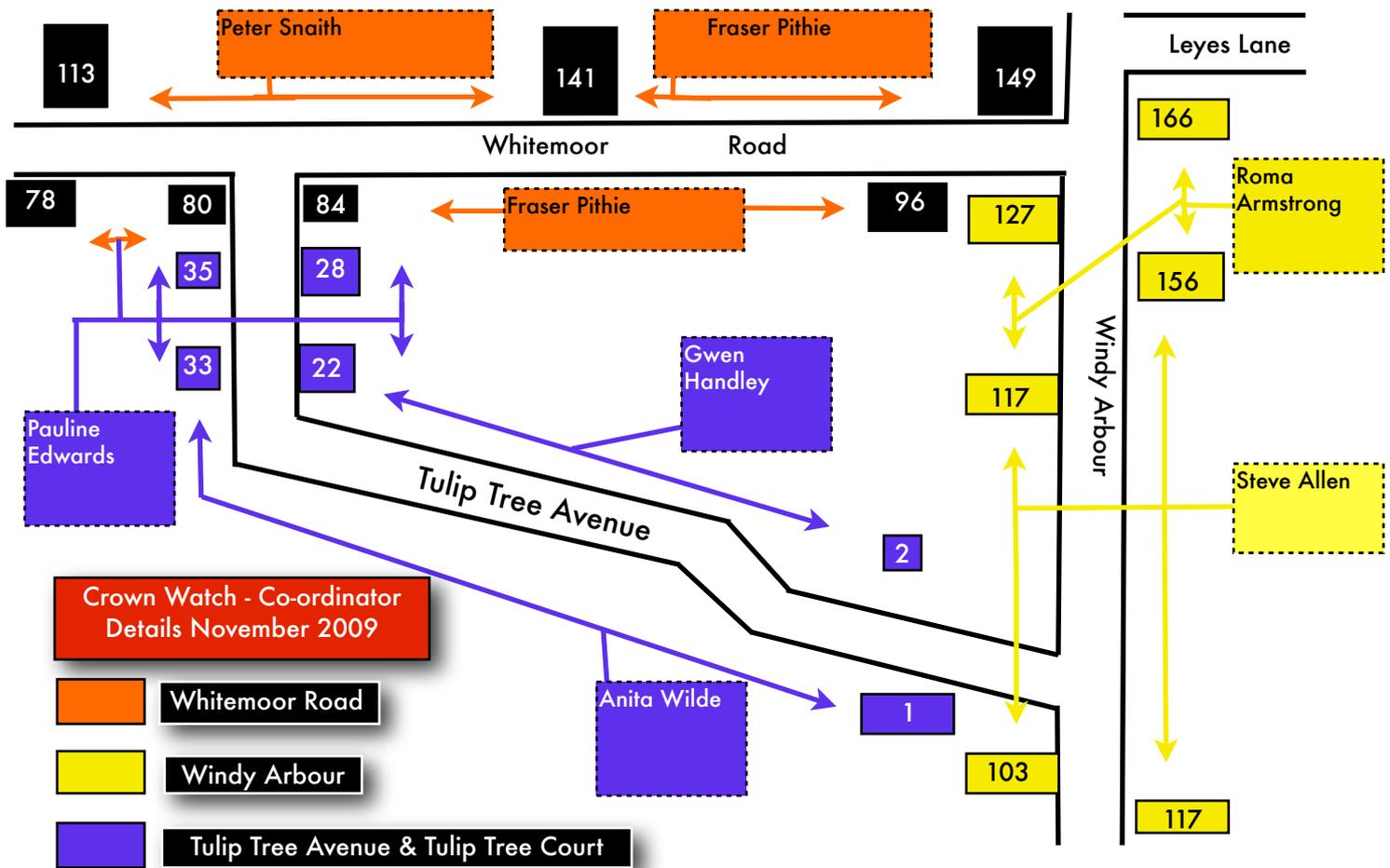
The offenders then entered an insecure shed and stole a set of shears which were then used to force open the rear patio doors of the house. Once inside the house the offenders carried out an untidy search of the premises before making off with a items of jewellery, a camera, a handbag and a holdall. Food was also stolen from the fridge.

Please keep a keen eye out and if you see anything suspicious don't leave it to someone else DIAL 999 and ask for POLICE



A Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all Crown Watch Residents

Please remember at this time of the year to you keep christmas presents out of sight. Draw curtains at dusk so you don't advertise what is inside your home once the lights are on! Make sure that presents are not left under Christmas trees when you go out as this encourages the opportunist thief (and most are opportunists) to break in.



safer-neighbourhoods.co.uk



Safer neighbourhoods are what most residents say they want and their expectations are increasing all the time in terms of the level of security they and their community receives. The police service that covers Crown Watch area is known as Kenilworth Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). They are led by Sergeant Stuart Bosworth and are all based at Kenilworth Police Station.

The Kenilworth SNT is here to serve you and help you wherever they can. You can learn more and contact Kenilworth SNT in a number of different ways;

- By visiting them online at;
www.safer-neighbourhoods.co.uk/your-neighbourhood/warwick-district/kenilworth/your-team
- By telephoning them on; 01926 684404
- By emailing them using the email facility at the website address above
- By visiting Kenilworth Police Station (Open Monday to Friday)

Remember, if your call is about something that is taking place and is suspicious or criminal, do not use the above contact details but **dial 999 and ask for POLICE**. This includes suspect callers, particularly those suggesting they need to get into the property. We need to catch these criminals so an emergency call is the best way to help the police achieve that aim and thus protect others from falling prey to crime.

Darker Nights are Here.....



Please remember to take appropriate measures now the darker nights are here. Check the outside lights are working, think twice about opening the door after dark. Draw your curtains at dusk - don't let others see what's in your home. If you are going out leave a light on. Check you have a torch in case of emergency.



New to the Crown Watch Area of Kenilworth?

Are you new to the Crown Watch area, indeed perhaps you are a newcomer to Kenilworth. If you are we would like to welcome you and hope you come to enjoy the many things that Kenilworth has to offer.

It's a vibrant community with a growing number of shops and eating places together with community facilities to match. If you cannot find what you are looking for then visit the local library (near the clock tower) or give your Co-ordinator a call - we are here to help you.

With these Burglaries going on - Is there something you can do ? YES

Smartwater is a clear liquid, you simply put a little of it on each item of any value and its there forever. Each bottle has its own unique DNA linking it to your property. It's approved by the Home Office and recommended by most UK police forces as a real deterrent. Criminals that know your property is marked with Smartwater are put off because it places them at the scene of the crime.

Crown Watch strongly advises that you consider getting Smartwater and marking all your property with it. You can get more information at www.smartwater.com by contacting Kenilworth SNT or your Crown Watch Ordinator. You get a sign to put in your window that says your property is protected by Smartwater.

General Enquiries about services in Kenilworth

Kenilworth Library, Smalley Place, Kenilworth or go to www.kenilworthweb.co.uk

Feedback to Crown Watch; www.kenilworthnwatch.wordpress.com

How does Crown Watch work for you?

Crown Watch is all about us looking out for one another. If you are going away for a few days let your Co-ordinator know so we can keep a lookout for anything suspicious. If we keep ourselves informed about what is going on around us and in our community then we stand a much better chance of protecting our homes and property, many of the things that are most precious to us.

How can you help? - by simply engaging with your co-ordinator and taking the steps and actions as a good citizen. If you choose to do nothing at all and disregard this then there is little more that the 7 Co-ordinators can do to help keep our neighbourhood safe and pleasant.



Speeding and Noisy Cars and Motorcycles

There has been a noticeable increase in recent months of noisy vehicles (both cars and motorcycles) travelling along Windy Arbour and Whitemoor Road.

Most of the offending vehicles have been adapted and possibly are breaking vehicle noise suppression laws. This is combined with bouts of speeding and wheel spinning (usually late at night). Police have said they are prepared to check these vehicles and deal with the drivers appropriately but we need details. If you see (and hear!) one of these cars try and take the registration number and pass it to your co-ordinator, we will do the rest and your name will not be involved.



Fraser Pithie

Notes from the Editor

Its great to have our Newsletter back up and running again and we hope to have two or three published next year (that's not long away now!). The newsletters are delivered by your Co-ordinator. We have a small float of money and we spend very little, however, donations to the funds are always gratefully received!

Its worrying that in this newsletter we are reporting a rise, in the last week or so, of both burglary and distraction burglaries. This reinforces the need for us to question what we see going on around us and be extra vigilant, simply if it doesn't look right it probably isn't and that where we call each help by making that call. You will see that we mention Smartwater in the newsletter and we recommend this as a really good way to put off criminals from breaking into your home. Recovered property is put under Ultra Violet light by the Police and its this that shows up Smartwater, its then forensically analysed and this then determines the address and owner.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute and thank Pauline Edwards of Tulip Tree Avenue who continues to chair our meetings and has ensured that Crown Watch has kept going for many years. Pauline, who is a Town Councillor and past District Councillor, puts a great deal into the community, so a big thanks from all of us. Best wishes - Fraser.