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News from your local police

Autumn/Winter 2009



Blackheath Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) at St Margaret's May Fayre

Welcome to the July 2009 newsletter

With summer finally upon us the warmer weather brings with it its own challenges. In the upcoming months the team are involved in several community events including street parties, the Kite festival and several licensing events. We will also be holding



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regular street briefing's in key places across the ward in conjunction with regular patrols in order to combat alcohol related disorder. This newsletter aims to give an oversight of some of the activities that the team have been involved in between March and July 2009.

Road safety event

On March 23rd the Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) along with officers from the Lewisham Council road safety team held an event on Royal Parade. The ethos behind this event was to educate rather than punish drivers found committing offences. The majority of motorists were stopped having been observed not wearing their seatbelts or driving whilst using a mobile telephone. Once stopped and spoken to by police the drivers were offered the opportunity of an educational talk with the road safety team rather than being issued with a fixed penalty notice. The event was highly successful and further events like this one are being planned over the rest of the year. Road safety is always a high priority to the team and education rather than penalisation is our preferred method of engaging with the community.

St Margaret's May Fayre

St Margaret's Primary School on Lee Church Street held its annual May Fayre on Saturday the 16th of May. With the theme changing for each Fayre this year's theme was Victorian. As well as a Queen Victoria, town crier and several Victorian gentlemen, PC Gary Washington and PC Derek Bettany dressed in authentic Victorian police uniforms. Our Mascot PcsO Steve handed out balloons to children and the rest of the team gave



crime prevention advice and offered a free property marking service. Other attractions at the event included magicians, a punch and Judy show and several raffles. The SNT are always delighted to take part in this kind of event as it is a great way of engaging with young people in a fun and positive way.

Bike and kite festival

The annual bike and kite festival was held over the weekend of the 13th and 14th of June. The team attended the event on both days offering a free bike marking service and crime prevention advice to members of the public. Over 100 bikes were property marked across the weekend. The team patrolled the event on cycle and at one stage met up with cyclists from The Red Cross and the London Fire Brigade for a photo opportunity. The glorious weather and the backdrop of a stunning display of kites ensured that everyone had a safe and enjoyable weekend.

Vagrancy around the village

A good quality of life is important to everyone. With complaints being received from all areas of the community, the team have been working with social services, Lewisham Council and Lewisham homes in a joint effort to tackle vagrancy within the Village. These efforts have been successful with one long term vagrant accepting a tenancy on a flat. The team were pleased with this result and will continue tackling all forms of anti social behaviour ensuring a better quality of life for all residents.

For Further Information

To find out more about more about safer Neighbourhoods Policing visit: www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods



Antisocial behaviour

As part of the teams current set of priorities we have been focusing issues arising from St Matthews Academy. With the help of the dedicated schools officer, PC April Ryan, we have been conducting high visibility patrols outside the school and in the surrounding roads. It was also clear that extra patrols were essential in dealing with problems that arise. The team have now changed their shift pattern to meet this need ensuring that the school can be patrolled before and hours.

Upcoming Street Briefings

Tranquil Passage 18th Sept 2030 - 2230

Lethbridge Est 24th Sept 1730 - 1930

Tranquil Passage Oct 22nd 2000 -2130

Lethbride Est Oct 21st 2000 - 2130

Online Youth Survey

The Safer Neighbourhoods online youth survey launches on the 21st September giving 11-18 year olds an anonymous way of telling their local police team about any areas on their school journey and in their neighbourhood that make them feel unsafe.

Safer Neighbourhoods teams drive a range of initiatives that get young people involved in their community. These include:

- Youth ward panels - young people set and resolve local policing priorities that matter to them
- Volunteer Police Cadets - develop new skills and carry out activities that directly support community issues and policing operations
- Safer Schools Officers - engage with pupils and teachers to help reduce the risk of young people getting drawn into crime or anti-social behaviour.

Find the survey at www.met.police.uk/youngpeople

