



Community Speedwatch

You may have noticed that we have some new signs at the entrances to the village notifying drivers that this is a Community Speedwatch area. The signs were funded by the parish council from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds, a charge levied by the district council on new developments, a proportion of which passes to the parish council for us to spend on infrastructure and facilities within the parish.

If you are concerned about speeding in the village you might want to consider volunteering for our local Community Speedwatch group. This is a national initiative where proactive members of local communities join with the support of their local police to record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices. The Stanford Speedwatch group is supported by Thames Valley Police and aims to discourage speeding within the village. They are keen to attract more volunteers to enable more regular and effective coverage. Full training is given using online resources and on-site training. Volunteers' commitment is not onerous, it can be as little as one to two hours a month. If you'd like to find out more, e-mail our community Speedwatch coordinator, Richard Ryan at richardjryan@gmail.com and he will set up a call to tell you more about it.

Clearing up after your dog

Now that autumn is here could we please remind parishioners that dogs are not permitted in any of the village play areas or recreation fields. This is for good reason: people of all ages, but particularly children, can be infected with toxocariasis from dog faeces. This is an infection caused by roundworm parasites which are passed through animal faeces. It usually affects young children who come into contact with contaminated soil when they play.

If you are walking your dog around the village please pick up after it. Not doing so could be

expensive. If you fail to clear up after your dog you could be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £50. If the case goes to court this could cost the owner or person in charge of the animal up to £1,000.

Church Green repairs

The parish council has recently arranged for repairs to the southern corner of Church Green, which had become badly eroded. The corner has now been shored up with additional topsoil, provided free of charge by Earthline and sown with grass seed. The wooden posts protecting the edge of the green at the corner of Church Green and Chapel Road have also recently been replaced. Our thanks to Darren Rolls for carrying out this work on our behalf.

Anti-social behaviour

I'm sorry to report that we have several incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the village. One of the new picnic benches in the Millennium Green was set on fire and large quantities of, at times, quite unpleasant litter in the skate park have been causing our litter pickers some problems.

Please bear in mind the people who have to empty our public bins and be considerate when disposing of rubbish in them. They are provided for the disposal of 'occasional' litter and not for household or DIY waste. And please don't leave anything in the bins that you wouldn't want to come across yourself.

The picnic benches were only installed recently by the parish council, funded by a grant from the Public Purposes Charity. A considerable amount of time and effort, much of it given by volunteers, went into providing the benches to improve the green for all to enjoy. Despite the damage caused, it could have been much worse, as an accelerant was used and it was only the prompt action of passers-by that stopped the fire spreading to the nearby trees.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, we have obtained funding for security cameras that we can use for crime prevention and detection, and we will be looking at employing these in any vandalism hotspots. We will pass any evidence we collect of any future incidents to the police.

We also had a recurrence of motorbikes using both the QE Field and the adjacent, Oxfordshire County Council-owned former landfill area. For clarity, motorbikes, or vehicles of any kind, are not permitted on the QEII Field without the express permission of the parish council (which was not sought, and would not have been granted, in this case). The nearby site, which encompasses the capped former landfill and restored wetland and grassland is adjacent to a site of special scientific interest and using motorbikes in the vicinity risks damaging the fragile ecology there.

Internal auditor wanted

The parish council is required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2105, to 'undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance'.

Our current auditor is stepping down and we are looking for a replacement for next year. There is no requirement to be professionally qualified but an understanding of basic bookkeeping and accounting processes, an awareness of the principles and practice of financial and other risk management, and some knowledge of the process of auditing would be an advantage.

If you are interested in the role, please contact the clerk (clerk@stanfordinthevalepc.co.uk). The role has been carried out in the past on a voluntary basis but a paid role can also be considered.

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Want to protect your home?

Think WIDE(N)

(WINDOWS, INTERIOR, DOORS, EXTERIOR, (NEIGHBOURS) to have the best possible protection against burglary.

Research* shows that a set combination of security actions provides up to 50 times more protection for your home versus no security. A combination of WIDE actions is the most effective and recommended by police throughout the country. Additionally, at Neighbourhood Watch we believe neighbours keeping an eye out for each other is also key to preventing burglary. Click on each area to find out more:

- **WINDOWS: Lock your windows --** [Windows | Neighbourhood Watch Network \(ourwatch.org.uk\)](http://ourwatch.org.uk/Windows)
- **INTERIOR: Put your interior lights on a timer**
- **DOORS: Double or deadlock your doors** [Doors | Neighbourhood Watch Network \(ourwatch.org.uk\)](http://ourwatch.org.uk/Doors)
- **EXTERIOR: Put your exterior lights on a sensor** [Exterior | Neighbourhood Watch Network \(ourwatch.org.uk\)](http://ourwatch.org.uk/Exterior)
- **(N)EIGHBOURS: Keep an eye out for neighbours** [Neighbours | Neighbourhood Watch Network \(ourwatch.org.uk\)](http://ourwatch.org.uk/Neighbours)

As with all types of crime, prevention is much better than cure. Taking simple measures, such as locking your windows, leaving indoor lights on a timer, double or deadlocking your doors, and having exterior lights on sensors, can significantly reduce your chances of being burgled. Double-check you have left your home safe when you walk out your front door. Opportunity plays a big role in enabling crimes to be committed, particularly burglaries. Most domestic burglaries are committed by opportunists.

Criminals will look for homes that:

- seem unoccupied
- have little or no apparent security
- have doors or windows left open, or
- where they think they won't be seen.

A home's overall impression will influence whether a burglar targets it. As a general rule, if it looks like there is someone inside, the burglar is likely to go elsewhere. A home in a dilapidated state will seem easier to break into, so a simple deterrent might be tidying up a garden, or repainting doors and window frames.

One crime often produces the opportunity to commit another. For example, a burglar may return after a break-in because they know when the owners will likely be out and can expect the property to be full of new replacement items.

Before upgrading your home security think about what part of your home seems more vulnerable, how often you are at home, and when it is empty. Then speak to your local Neighbourhood Officer to get advice bespoke to your needs. Wherever possible, always ensure security products you purchase are Secured by Design or Sold Secure – these are good quality, independently tested products; and use Master Locksmith Association (MLA) approved locksmith to fit your locks or to ask for expert advice about upgrading your home security.

Remember, many security products may fail because of how they have been fitted or the quality of their fixings. Products must be fitted correctly and with robust fixings.

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