

LOOK OUT

Helping to protect over 10,000 homes

Spring 2008

From the Chairman, Ron Sneddon

The good news is that crime in our area is still decreasing. The bad news is that one crime is one too many. So please continue your good work of reminding your neighbours to lock doors and windows and generally look after their property.

Safer Neighbourhood Teams

On the 1st February, dedicated "Safer Neighbourhood Teams" (SNT's) were introduced. This is a further development of the National Neighbourhood Policing Programme. In our area there are three SNT's :-

- Harrogate SNT, headed by Inspector John Greveson
- Ripon SNT, headed by Inspector Craig Linton
- Knaresborough/Boroughbridge SNT, headed by Inspector Andy Chapman

These teams will consist of a number of dedicated ward based officers, separate from reactive policing. The main difference now is that there should be more of these officers. In time, this should have a very positive effect in the fight against crime.

Email

If you have an email address which we do not know about, could you please send it to: info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk. This will enable us to send you Ringmaster messages by email.

Training Session

We will be holding a meeting starting at 6pm on Tuesday, 13th May at the Harrogate College Lecture Theatre, Hornbeam Park. This meeting should be a must for new co-ordinators and for those who would like to meet their fellow co-ordinators to discuss ways of keeping their members motivated and vigilant. We hope to have a talk on SmartWater and an input from the police. For further details please contact Eric Walker on 01423 711092.

Website

By logging on to www.neighbourhoodwatch.net you can create your own Group Home Page and if your group already has a website, use your Group Home Page to drive traffic to it.

Setting up takes about five minutes; you can add photographs and any other information you wish to include. Why not give it a go?

Farewell

Our main police contact, Sue Hucknall, has now moved to a new position, although she will still have some involvement with Ringmaster. Consequently, we are now more or less on our own again.

I would like to publicly thank Sue on your behalf for all the hard work she has done for us. She will be sorely missed. I have presented her with our Award Certificate in appreciation for helping the Association in a significant way.

From the Treasurer, Keith Roberts

Funding

We are pleased to receive the contributions made by our existing schemes to the Harrogate & District Neighbourhood Watch Association and these have been acknowledged and receipts forwarded. They have enabled us to continue with our geographical expansion programme in our extensive 505 square mile area. Perhaps some of the recently set up schemes would like to make a small contribution to our funds.

We are totally dependent on the flow of small donations, which should be sent to Keith Roberts, Ribston Grange, Little Ribston LS22 4ET.

(Cheques to be made payable to Harrogate and District Neighbourhood Watch Assoc. please)



**HARROGATE & DISTRICT
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION**

EMAIL: info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk
WEB: www.nwatchharrogate.org.uk

Registered charity number 1076228

TO PREVENT CRIME IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

SmartWater Initiative

Further to the last edition of LOOK OUT SmartWater has been well received by residential users in Harrogate & District. With an earlier edition of LOOK OUT we enclosed a product description sheet and order form requesting that Co-ordinators inform their neighbours and copy the order form to those interested. In the meantime copies of the product description and order form have been made available at our police stations.

SmartWater is recommended by the police as the ideal domestic protection system and a very effective burglary deterrent. It works on all possessions such as, valuables, photography and IT equipment, garden and DIY equipment, sentimental items, jewellery, antiques, marine and equestrian items, vehicles etc.

We recommend that members with internet access read the link to SmartWater Technology on our website www.nwatchharrogate.org.uk for more information and order forms. There is also a useful sub-section on FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions).

Unfortunately, 'out of the blue', we have been landed with a bill for VAT from NYP for the purchase of the product, having previously, on more than one occasion, been told that the product supplied by NYP would be VAT free. Therefore we regret that the selling price in the future will be a one-off £22 (inclusive of VAT) for a 10ml applicator, which is sufficient to mark 50 to 80 items. The current cost of purchasing directly from SmartWater is an annual fee of £43.48 (incl. VAT), so if you value your possessions the £22 one-off cost is a small price to pay for a theft deterrent and recovery mechanism. Don't take our word alone on its success, read the hundreds of independent articles from UK countrywide on the website: www.smartwater.com.

The Police Partnership Manager of SmartWater Technology Ltd. will be our guest speaker at the H&D NHW Training Session at Hornbeam Park (see Chairman's article above). Come and hear about it first hand.

Some General Reminders for us all

Basic Home Security

We should all ensure that our property complies with a basic security that all homes should have. All external doors and ground floor windows should have proper locks suitable for the type of frame. Any other window or point of entry which is

accessible, such as those above flat roofs, should also be secure.

During the summer months many of us like our windows left open most of the time. This is not a good idea when you leave your house unoccupied, even if you are in the back garden. It can seem a nuisance having to shut all windows each time you go out but it is better to be safe than sorry.

External doors, in addition to having a good quality deadlock should have a door chain and a door viewer. Keep keys out of door locks and out of sight.

Lighting is also very important both inside your house and out. It is essential that you give the impression that someone is at home. Table lamps can have time switches plugged in and left on permanently so that for whatever reason you do not switch your lights on at dusk, they are still activated automatically. Similarly, exterior sensor lights can give lighting to vulnerable areas to the side and rear of your property to prevent anyone skulking there.

Very often, even with all the above security equipment, householders still fall foul of confidence tricksters by being gullible and failing to check out strangers before opening the door. These people usually prey on the elderly and infirm knowing they cannot physically resist.

Remember, many of your valuable possessions could have sentimental value far above a monetary one and can never be replaced.

A little thought before you leave home could save you a lot of heartache.

Did You Know?

Myth: You are most likely to be burgled in the middle of the night.

Fact: Most houses are burgled when they are unoccupied. Therefore, most burglaries occur in the afternoon, when houses are more likely to be unoccupied, rarely in the dead of night when people are in.

And Finally

If you see a crime in progress, or anything suspicious, or you have some information useful to the Police, report it on the appropriate phone number below:-

Urgent	999
Non-urgent	0845 60 60 24 7

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

NB For information on becoming a member of Neighbourhood Watch you can speak to the Police Community Safety Officer, in business hours, on 01423 539347 or you can approach any member of your local Neighbourhood Policing Team.