

The NEWSLETTER for Harrogate & District Neighbourhood Watch Association

LOOK OUT

Helping to protect over 10,000 homes

September 2008

From the Chairman, Ron Sneddon

Annual General Meeting

Please find enclosed with this Newsletter details of our AGM to which you and your members are cordially invited. This is an opportunity to get together to hear about the work of the Association during the past year and our ideas and hopes for the future.

We shall also have a Speaker from "Crimestoppers" who will bring us up to date on this invaluable information tool that can be of great help to the Police.

A copy of last year's AGM minutes is available on our website: www.nwatchharrogate.org.uk. Some copies of the minutes will be available at this year's AGM.

National Association

In theory, there is a National Association. Unfortunately, we do not have a North Yorkshire Association so there is a break in the chain. We are, however, trying to establish some links so that we can communicate with the wider Neighbourhood Watch community.

New Schemes

We are still spreading the word by increasing the number of Schemes in our area. We have now approximately 850 Schemes but we are still short of our target of 1000 Schemes. More work is still to be done.

Your Committee

I am pleased to say that your Committee is working well and considerable improvements all round have been made. We would still like to see one or two new faces at our meetings so if you feel you could contribute to our Association please contact me on 01423 324003 for a chat.

E Mail

If you have an email address that we do not know about, could you please send it to: info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk to enable us to send your copy of LookOut by email as well as ringmaster messages.

Coordinator Training Session

We will be holding a meeting starting at 7pm on Wednesday 12th November at St Georges Social Club, St Georges Road, Harrogate. This meeting should be a must for new co-ordinators and also for those who would like to meet their fellow co-ordinators to discuss ways to keep their members motivated and vigilant.

Recession

There is no doubt that whether or not we have a full blown recession, it is more likely that there could well be an increase in burglary and theft. This is where you can play a vital role by encouraging your members to review their security and to make sure they have taken all the necessary precautions to protect their homes.

Finally

This will be my last report to you as I will be relinquishing my position as Chairman at the AGM. I would like to thank all of you who have worked so hard to help your neighbours to prevent crime and the fear of crime. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

From the Treasurer, Keith Roberts

Funding

As a charity we are pleased to receive contributions to cover running costs. We are always striving to start new schemes and develop training, and aim to spend our limited funds wisely. We are totally dependent on the flow of small donations, which should be sent to Keith Roberts,



**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

Ribston Grange, Little Ribston, LS22 4ET.
(Cheques payable to Harrogate and District
Neighbourhood Watch Assoc. please)

SmartWater Initiative

Further to the last edition of LOOK OUT on the SmartWater Initiative, we have stocks of this product for immediate delivery at a one off price of £22 (instead of £44 annually), when we purchase directly from SmartWater Ltd.

SmartWater is recommended by the police as the ideal domestic protection system and a very effective burglary deterrent and lasts indefinitely. It works on all possessions. For more information, check out our website for a data sheet and order form or request one from police stations. This product will be available at our AGM on Tuesday, 14th October.

Cycle Coding

Over half a million cycles are stolen every year in the UK and our area of North Yorkshire is no exception. A simple free coding system provided by the police can, when prominently displayed, be an effective deterrent and the registration procedure is used by the police to recover and return stolen items to the rightful owner. Seek advice from your local police station or Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

“Graf Kit”

We have available a sample kit provided by the manufacturers for the removal of graffiti. Is there a problem in your area which the council have refused to clean up? We have had excellent feedback from co-ordinators who have used it for cleaning a variety of surfaces. Please send any requests via our website.

Never see the Police in your area?

This is a regular complaint we hear. Why not invite your local PC/PCSO round for coffee with a few neighbours and use the opportunity to walk the area and stop and speak to other neighbours. Members of your committee will come along to update you on NHW activities and assist in 'refreshing' schemes.

Never receive any feedback from reported incidents?

Another frequent complaint from NHW members! There are often very good reasons why the police cannot report back immediately and often

investigations can take a long time. However, it is recommended that when reporting incidents, members request an incident number from the police. This ensures that it is recorded and regularly reviewed and facilitates the update and report back process.

Shed Security

Theft from garden sheds is currently a big problem. Check your security now. Consider upgrading locks, fitting an alarm, and security marking the shed's contents. Our website gives advice on further measures that can be taken.

News from Tina Oates

Several more Watch Schemes have been launched since our last edition and others are being processed. We continue to thrive and grow and our target of 1000 schemes within the District grows ever closer!

Some groups have been quite active during the summer. A few barbecues have been held when the weather has permitted! Everyone in one street gathered patio furniture and barbecues into adjoining front gardens and had a big 'cook-in' - sounds fun! Another group went go-karting in Leeds a few times.

As I write, one of the Daleside schemes is just about to hold its third annual meeting. As a fundraising and coffee evening it is a good get-together for neighbours to catch up on local news and information and at the same time raise money for a much needed donation to H&DNWA funds. The local Neighbourhood Policeman and PCSO have also been invited to get to know everyone and tell them about their roles in NYP. Hopefully the evening will be as successful as previously.

Neighbourhood Watch was due to be represented at several of the annual shows within our district, but sadly many of them were rained off. However, we have hopes for the Nidderdale Show on September 22nd where we have been invited to display security goods and sell SmartWater. Hopefully we may gain even more new members!

We continue to work closely with NYP and as such you will often see some of your committee manning the Mobile Police Unit in supermarket car parks and Knaresborough market. Come and say hello - and pick up a few useful leaflets and information at the same time!

Remember, if you've had an annual get-together, outing, or got a good idea then we want to hear about it and spread the good news to others. Simply email the subject 'News' to info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk and it will be passed on to me.

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.