

LOOK OUT



Helping to protect over 18,000 households

April 2014



From the Chairman, Keith Roberts

It is surprising how quickly the time flies by and we are again engaged in the preparation of another issue of our newsletter. Peter Dallas does an excellent job in collating snippets of information for communication with our H&D NHW members and with an ever expanding number of schemes and engaging with the Rural Watch there is inevitably an element of duplication in editions. We do not make apologies for this as, for instance, we do need to keep reminding residents of the need to take the simplest of precautions to protect their personal possessions and secure their household property. We would particularly welcome any contributions from our members to add to future news. Topics could range from local problems to suggested methods of increasing security.

In the January 2014 edition we summarised the full year crime figures highlighting the main problems and included advice on anti-social behaviour, the importance of reporting suspicious criminal incidents and asking coordinators to please pass on copies of LOOK OUT and Ringmaster messages to all of their members. Total crime is still on a downwards path but unfortunately the adverse statistics for the theft of cycles and shoplifting are still increasing everywhere but

particularly in the Ripon area.

Senior Harrogate Police Change

It has recently been announced that Chief Inspector Ian Thompson of Harrogate police has been seconded to NYP Headquarters at Newby Wiske for a six month assignment. Ian has been our main NHW contact and we have enjoyed working with him and his team of Inspectors. We wish him well and look forward to working with him again, when he returns to Harrogate Police.

Succeeding Ian is Temporary Chief Inspector Joanne Brooksbank, who joins us from NYP York. We wish Joanne a successful career development and hopefully she will join us at some of our meetings.

We always appreciate the experience that others can add to our partnership working and it has been particularly useful to have a regular police presence at committee meetings.

Security – Personal and property

Personal Security - Our everyday security should be kept under constant review but occasionally there are events which could pose additional threats. We are rapidly approaching 'Le Grand Départ', when for a period of about three weeks there will be a massive influx of visitors - many cycling enthusiasts from the continent of Europe

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and from within the UK - whom we welcome, but past experience also indicates that there can be a surge in criminality in close proximity to the racing route. If you are involved in the usual thrust of 'pushing and shoving' to gain a good viewing location, do remember to be aware of thieves who are keen to help themselves by bag and purse snatching facilitated by some local distraction. Remember to use the personal alarms which you may rarely use. Should your bag be snatched the high piercing alarm will go off and remain with the bag/purse giving the police or security persons the high chance of recovery or the thief will rapidly throw it away enabling a chance of immediate recovery. Similarly there will be a high utilisation of mobile telephones and many observers seeking a 'free upgrade' at the owner's expense. After use immediately secure phones in a zipped inner jacket pocket or alarmed bag. Particularly vulnerable are items left insecurely in 'baby buggies', not least your baby of course!! Never leave them unattended.

House Security - never leave your house without securing doors and windows. It only takes seconds for the opportunist burglar to enter and take items identified previously. Cold Callers are in the forefront of identifying potential gain of your valuables. If you see vehicles dropping off passengers who look suspicious inform the police of the vehicle registration number, and any details of the location, passenger descriptions etc. Again don't open your door to unsolicited callers – use an intercom to communicate (they only cost £15 from H&D NHW) and mount a £1 warning sign indicating that they are not welcome and will be reported to the police if they do not leave immediately.

Cycle Security - As mentioned previously the theft of cycles is a major problem. About 50% are thefts from the home – usually an insecure shed, where typically a wooden shed is readily accessible through poor door construction so consider the use of ground anchors, shed shackles, padlocks and chains. It can also help to use a shed alarm as a deterrent. Consult our website www.nwatchharrogate.org.uk under Security Goods. Another excellent website is: www.securityforbikes.com. All products are Police 'Secured by Design'. Did you hear about the Harrogate lady, who was very proud that she protected her very expensive cycle inside the bedroom because her shed was unreliable? We complimented her for using her initiative and remarked that "...well at least it doesn't snore!!"

There is lots of security information available on our website and also from the Harrogate Safer Community Partnership. If you need help or advice on improving your security we can be contacted for advice on info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk your local PCSO will also be pleased to help.

Public Liability Insurance

Recently we were asked if the National NHW PLI scheme covered an individual who is not a member of a NHW scheme but is involved in scheme activities. We have now received confirmation from National NHW and Towergate Insurance that cover does extend to all those associated with a recognised NHW activity. For example, a person who is a 'signed up' Nominated Neighbour would be included in the PLI cover even though he/she may not be a formal member of a scheme.

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Private Household Insurance Policy

It seems that not all NHW, including Rural Watch, members are aware that most Insurance Companies do offer a discount on their premiums for members. Do not forget to check with your provider!

Closure of NHW Schemes

Occasionally some of our schemes 'fall by the wayside'. Usually the collapse of a scheme is because an active coordinator moves house to a different area or perhaps becomes less mobile and cannot carry on with the role. The first priority is to advise your PCSO and NHW to find a successor in order to maintain continuity. If this is not practical then there are certain actions to be taken to formally close the scheme. A scheme member must remove the NHW lamp-post signs and then all members in the affected scheme must be notified so that if necessary they can inform their Insurance Company of the change and no longer take advantage of the premium reduction benefit.

Communication

Good communication is the key to making Neighbourhood Watch work. Your committee, in cooperation with the police, put in a lot of effort setting up schemes, sending out Newsletters and Ringmaster Messages and attending local events. In most cases coordinators do a magnificent job themselves in keeping their members informed and making sure their watches run effectively. However we do from time to time hear that in a few areas members claim that they never see Look Out newsletter or Ringmaster messages. This is very disappointing to hear. We do recognise the difficulty if you have few members with email as communication that way is the easiest. Otherwise you could

print off a copy which can be passed on from one neighbour to another. If you don't have a printer perhaps one of your neighbours will help or you can get a cheap copy at a nearby shop. If you need help or advice in this please get in touch.

Knaresborough Rural Watch Report



Diesel thefts have spiked again and due to the improving weather poachers have become more active.

A large amount of cabling was stolen from Long Marston. The cabling has been recovered but the offenders are as yet unknown. Please report any information by phoning 101 or by email.

Some good news

Garden ornaments stolen from North Deighton were located in Leeds and returned to the owner.

Repeat diesel thefts in Lingerfield and Follifoot led to two offenders being arrested.

Thanks to all residents for reporting suspicious vehicles and persons and also for assisting with looking after their communities and villages. Please keep it up so that together we can beat the criminals.

PCSO 3537 Alastair Graham-Merrett
Alastair.Graham-Merrett@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk
(Primarily covering Marston Moor, Scriven and Claro and also supporting Washburn, Spofforth & Lower Wharfedale and Ribston)

If readers have any questions about any of the above or have any useful information please contact me on my email address above or by calling 101 pressing

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option 2 and asking for me by my name or collar number.

Ripon Rural Watch Report



There has been a recent increase of domestic fuel and diesel thefts within the Ripon Rural area. Because of this we ask that you please look at the security of your storage tanks: for example by investing in good quality locks, sensor lighting and CCTV.

At the beginning of the year a farm in the Pateley Bridge area had a quad bike stolen and on the same evening another farm nearby had an attempted theft of a quad bike. Please make sure that all quad bikes and farm machinery are securely locked away and it is recommended that quad bikes are fitted with Trackers and also marked with SmartWater along with all valuable items.

With the good weather now coming upon us, many of you will be heading down to your allotments and now is the time to look at the security of your locks and think about registering your garden tools and machinery on www.immobilise.com and also consider marking with SmartWater. Details on how to obtain SmartWater can be found on the Neighbourhood Watch website: www.nwatchharrogate.org.uk

We have a Rural Watch up and running in the Masham area and are now in the process of rolling this out in the Pateley Bridge area. This simply entails signing up to Ringmaster which is a police messaging system along with getting a sign to display on your property to make criminals aware you are part of a Rural Watch Scheme. We hold several operations where volunteers along with the Police come out for a couple of hours on an evening to look out for any suspicious activity. This is not compulsory if you sign

up but we are always looking to recruit new volunteers.

PCSO 5548 Stephanie Jones (Pateley Bridge area)

stephanie.jones@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

PCSO 5559 Sharon Wilson (Masham/Burton Leonard area)

sharon.wilson@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

If readers would like to discuss any of the above please contact us on our email addresses above or by calling 101 and pressing option 2 and ask for us by our name or collar number.

Treasurer's Report from Katy Piazza



I would like to express my thanks to the residents of Daleside Close NHW and Manor Drive Scheme C NHW for their recent donations. I also received an individual donation from a member on Fulwith Avenue.

Our expenses have included £60 for a meeting held to advise and support the coordinators and residents of Bilton & Woodfield following a spate of burglaries in these areas, £67 for a selection of locks and door handles to demonstrate the new TS007 standard for replacement Eurolock cylinders and £7 on signs.

As a charity we rely solely on donations to help us in our work. Please send donations to Katy Piazza, 8 Woods Court, Harrogate, HG2 9QP. (Cheques made payable to Harrogate & District Neighbourhood Watch Association). Please include your Gift Aid Declaration if you are eligible. The form can be downloaded from our website at www.nwatchharrogate.org.uk where you can also find details about Easy Fundraising so you can support us when you shop online.