

LOOK OUT

Helping to protect over 18,000 households

September 2010

From the Chairman, Keith Roberts

Annual General Meeting, 19 October 2010

Yes, it's that time of year again when we get together as an Association to review the activities for the year 2009-10. On this occasion we shall be meeting at a different venue as the old haunt is not available. The meeting is scheduled for a **7pm start** at the Pre-Prep School Hall, Ashville College, Yew Tree Lane, Harrogate, HG2 9JP, and directions can be found on www.ashville.co.uk. The building can be found to the right of and behind the sports centre where there will be NHW signs and plenty of parking spaces. Our guest speaker will be the H&D Safer Neighbourhood Commander, Supt. Ken McIntosh and we hope to have the model for the recently announced new Harrogate Police Station on view. There will be an opportunity to ask questions of both the police and your NHW committee. Because we are unable to cater for ourselves at this venue we should inform you that there will be a small charge for tea/coffee and biscuits.

We are always delighted to welcome members and Co-ordinators, especially new ones; hopefully some of whom would be interested in joining the committee from Ripon, Ripon Rural and East of the A1, which are all areas that we need to develop further. If you wish to know more about the role please call me on 01937 584998 or send a message to info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk with a phone number and we'll call you back at a convenient time. A further reminder of the AGM will be sent out by Ringmaster messages nearer the time.

Safer Neighbourhood Group Meetings

Safer Neighbourhood Group Meetings are now well established and they address many local problems after prioritisation. At most of these meetings Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators are well represented but on the other hand there are few if any NHW members present and I am often asked to stimulate more interest by NHW. Could I suggest that if you would care to go along to one of the

meetings in your ward you can find out the date and location details from info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk or your police Safer Neighbourhood Team, or from the local press. In many cases, road safety, speeding, assisting the old and vulnerable, anti-social behaviour, graffiti and under age drinking are problems that are being addressed. NHW can help in many ways to combat these.

SmartWater

We continue to supply SmartWater to NHW members at a one off cost of £22 per phial (sufficient for 50 to 80 applications) compared with a normal price of £4.99 per month when purchased directly from SmartWater. This very attractive price has been negotiated via the police and ourselves. It is an excellent deterrent and assists in the return of stolen goods. For your information, recently some insurers are starting to offer discounts for properties protected by SmartWater and some even issue SmartWater free of charge to new policy holders. Check out the situation on the internet or directly with your insurance company and do let us know and we shall also try to find out more.

Graffiti Cleaning Kits

For some time now NHW has had available a cleaning kit and the positive results have led us to purchase further kits for use round our district. If you have a graffiti problem do contact us on: info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk

Development of Neighbourhood Watch

I made an appeal to Co-ordinators in the last Look Out for assistance in recruiting new Schemes. The response was not great and I would like to reiterate my request. Your committee works really hard at increasing the number of schemes, but covering such a large area is not easy without the support of our Co-ordinators. We are very keen to establish more schemes outside Harrogate and Knaresborough but we need help to achieve this.



**HARROGATE & DISTRICT
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION**

Registered charity number 1076228

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

TO PREVENT CRIME IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Communication

I am aware that not all Co-ordinators circulate Ringmaster messages and Look Out to their members. This is the most important function of a Co-ordinator. You are not necessarily expected to print lots of copies yourself. Why not just print two or three and ask members to pass them on? Your local police station may also be able to help by doing some photocopying for you. If you need help or advice on running your scheme please contact us on info@nwatchharrogate.org or phone 01937 584998 or come along to a Member's Support Meeting.

News from Tina Oates

Our work setting up new schemes has continued steadily throughout the summer and into the autumn, from Harlow Moor to Pannal, from Starbeck to Knaresborough and beyond; we are very well travelled these days!

It has been interesting to hear of your various activities during the summer, raising funds for H&DNWA – and obviously having a good time whilst doing so! Thank you. We've heard of barbecues, coffee mornings, someone had a 'Get to know your Neighbour' event (what a good idea!) and we know of other happenings in the pipeline.

The SNT officers from NY Police are happy to attend your gatherings if you give them a good choice of dates; it is often better to start with their availability and then fit your meeting around them. The Fire & Rescue Service are also very keen to come and give advice to groups about safety in the home, though you will probably have a fire engine parked outside your house! Personal experience recently has shown that not only will officers from Trading Standards attend large gatherings, they will also come to small meetings in the home to advise your members about what to expect with your 'No Cold Calling Zone' and other matters which arise in our dealings with companies: my own scheme will be having a visit from them soon. We will all shortly be thinking of Christmas and New Year events - maybe the H&DNWA 'begging bowl' could be displayed in a prominent position?! Despite our Chairman's pleas to The Home Office earlier this year, when for the first time ever they were distributing small grants to a chosen few NW areas, we were not considered 'needy' enough to be eligible for even a small amount so we go it alone raising funds when and where we can!

Plans to hold an autumn Members' Support Meeting are still ongoing and we aim to achieve this before the end of the year. We still intend to take it to those in the eastern area of our district. We shall keep you informed and a Ringmaster message will go out when arrangements have been made.

North Yorkshire NHWA

Neighbourhood Watch in North Yorkshire as a whole is definitely beginning to see the benefits of having the county body, NY NHWA, which was established just over a year ago - and I am proud to say it was a Harrogate-led initiative! All of the seven integral Districts have seen an increase in their numbers since the association's inception, with evidence of greater cohesion and spread of information in the remoter areas, where schemes are sparsely scattered. In August this year we had a total of 5254 schemes across North Yorkshire as a whole, which represents a growth of 21% since Oct. 2009.

I am pleased to say that we now have the potential for full NW representation of all seven districts of the county, plus City of York, around the NY NHWA committee table, having finally secured a representative for Richmondshire after some months of searching!

Nationally moves are afoot to involve the public in more community and volunteer initiatives: Neighbourhood Watch will be considerably involved in that. There are also plans in the more distant future to combine all types of Watch schemes – Neighbourhood, Farm, Golf, School, Pub, Badger etc. – into one big umbrella Watch Movement; after all we are really part of one big Watch family concerned for all sections of our neighbourhood and environment as a whole.

From the Treasurer, Katy Piazza

I would like to thank Park Edge NHW, St Ronan's Road NHW and Firs Avenue NHW for their recent contributions. Over the last financial year I have received 39 donations, ranging in value from £5 up to an amazing £225! So many thanks to all of you. There are now over 900 schemes in the Harrogate & District area but more than 862 of those schemes have yet to donate. If you are one of those schemes we need YOUR support to continue to help fight crime and the fear of crime. Please send your donations to Katy Piazza, 8 Woods Court, Harrogate, HG2 9QP. (Cheques made payable please to Harrogate & District Neighbourhood Watch Association.)

NB For information on becoming a member of Neighbourhood Watch:
Email us at info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk or phone 0845 60 60 247 and ask to speak to a police officer from your local Safer Neighbourhood Team.