

LOOK OUT

Helping to protect over 18,000 households

April 2011

From the Chairman, Keith Roberts

The development of H&D NHW continues apace with the latest statistics showing 917 coordinators of groups and a total of 1339 deputies and individual message recipients in our District. Additionally there are several hundred farm/rural watches, both individuals and groups, and other watches such as pub, shop etc.

All have similar objectives of reducing crime and the fear of crime as it relates to people or property. In the past the various watch schemes have been somewhat insular and currently there is an effort to integrate schemes through improved information flow. Criminals don't have boundaries!

Your H&D NHW Committee

We are very pleased to welcome to the committee Catherine Park Peyton from Bilton and Graham Slights from Nun Monkton. Catherine has recently set up a new scheme in her area and is a NHW enthusiast. Graham has been longer serving and is proactive in the integration of NHW and Farm Watch in Nun Monkton and will certainly contribute to the development of watches to the east of the A1. All we need now is representation from Ripon (because of the resignation of Joyce Pearson) and Ripon Rural in order to have good representation for the whole District.

Consequence of Financial Pressures

Financial pressures are having an effect on everything from the funding of National NHW, the cessation of Home Office support with crime fighting leaflets, the impact on Police Service as indicated in Supt. McIntosh's article below and also on reduced personal contributions from member schemes. Furthermore, the costs of hiring meeting venues are increasing and printing, postage and travel costs are escalating. However, we have not been complacent and anticipating the big squeeze we have made two moves to help offset our costs. As a registered charity we are eligible to apply for gift aid thus enabling the recovery of tax from the Government on public donations received from tax payers. We await confirmation that our application has been accepted and gift aid has been granted. We have already discussed the case with our auditor, submitted an application and will enlarge on the procedure on our website. The main implication is that the donation has to be accompanied with a simple declaration about paying tax. Secondly, also because of our charitable status, we can take advantage of the funding that many retail outlets give to charities favoured by their website ordering customers. Over 2000 retailers donate 1% to 15% of the value of goods purchased. Marks & Spencer, Amazon, John Lewis and many others, both small and medium sized enterprises, take part. The website that links purchasers,



**HARROGATE & DISTRICT
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION**

Registered charity number 1076228

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

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suppliers and funding is www.easyfundraising.org.uk. Our very efficient Treasurer has already registered our charity – now coded as <http://easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hdnw>.

This is the link that takes you directly to our site and any individual who supports us can register by signing in with their name, e-mail address and a password. Once signed in use the links to the retailers on the 'easyfundraising' site. It does not cost the purchaser anything and the benefits come directly to us from the retailer. The step by step procedure will be explained on the website for future reference. As more and more people shop on line this is seen as a potential money earner for H&D NHW once it is established. It is not necessary to be a member of NHW to help, so friends, neighbours and relatives are all eligible to support us.

Communication

Can we remind coordinators that we urgently require those with computer links to inform us of new or changed e-mail addresses? Escalating postage and telephone costs are becoming a matter of concern to both NYP and NHW. Please ensure that we have a telephone contact number even though your usual messages come by e-mail. In that way we can contact you if there are undeliverable messages/phone calls/letters and we can amend our records.

Good News

Since the last newsletter, we have made good progress on – Community (Neighbourhood) Speed Watch, the integration of Rural Watches (50+ new ones) and the introduction of high tech communication systems – more to follow.

Safer Neighbourhoods Policing by Superintendent Ken McIntosh

In the January edition of LOOK OUT, in a few succinct paragraphs, I tried to outline the importance of the development of the partnership between the Harrogate & District Police and Neighbourhood Watches. It is encouraging that we have not been inundated with criticism and I can therefore assume that it is in order to develop the themes outlined and I would hope to do that in future editions. However, perhaps in light of the recent announcements of restructuring and North Yorkshire Police cost savings, a few points should be highlighted in this edition, which, if nothing else, will keep you informed and will help explain the essential contribution that the public can make to support our task of reducing crime.

North Yorkshire Police looks to save £24m over the next four years and the annual expense savings expected are loaded into the early years but it has been agreed that the effect on front line services should be minimised. Locally we have made a critical examination of our services and whilst we still are going through a consultation phase we consider that through streamlining we can, following the change, be a far leaner, more efficient service which will not materially detract from the performance of reducing further our criminal activity levels. Priority has been given to reducing the number of back office staff through consolidation of duties thus minimising the impact on the number of front-line police officers and PCSOs. The support of volunteers will become essential.

The significant change that has been introduced to operational resources has been as a result of combining the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and the Response

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.

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Teams. In the past there were dedicated Response Officers, working 24hrs who respond to emergency calls covering a large area of responsibility for tackling burglaries etc and a number of separate SNTs focusing on the prevention of crime through developing, with NHW, new schemes and encouraging the contribution of the public to improve security. The merging of the two teams into one, working together in dedicated geographical areas, will further integrate police into the community getting to know the people and the associated problems. A change in working patterns in the 'new system' will enable 'demand led' police coverage i.e. more police on duty at peak times.

The new system for Harrogate & District will have four entities directly responsible to me, each led by an Inspector. Inspector Will Scarlett will lead Harrogate Town area (Harlow Moor, Low and High Harrogate). Insp. Penny Taylor will lead Harrogate Outer area (North and South Harrogate – Killinghall, Saltergate, New Park, Bilton, Woodfield, Granby, Starbeck, Beckwithshaw, Rossett, Stray, Hookstone and Pannal). Insp. Andy Chapman will lead Knaresborough, Boroughbridge and rural areas. Insp. Steve Breen will lead Ripon, Pateley Bridge and their rural areas. Each inspector will have an appropriate number of Sergeants, PCs and PCSOs. As a result of these changes it should soon become apparent that the police presence is increased at weekends and on an evening through more flexible working – a consequence of which results in the police having fewer days off than with the previous pattern.

The old adage of NHW being the 'eyes and ears' of the police is equally relevant to today's policing, if not more so. The reporting of any suspicious incidents is

important for not only reducing crime but also for improving our detection rates. Please keep up the good work and remember that: 'TO PREVENT CRIME IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY'

News from Tina Oates

Have you ever felt that someone is watching you? Well, it is just possible that they are! After a recent burglary at a friend's house the CCTV system shows burglars on the premises just 4 minutes after the owners went out for the evening – that cannot have been a coincidence! So please be aware of your surroundings and note anyone who seems to be hanging around for no good reason. In another incidence some while ago the householder found a man peering in through her kitchen window, very early one Sunday morning. So 'Big Brother' might not be watching us, but those with nefarious intent are!

Several times recently the police have warned us of the current spate of sheds and outhouses being broken into. Expensive bikes are being stolen, plus other stored equipment, so do ensure you have a secure locking system on all outbuildings and make use of one of the property marking systems currently on the market, which will help retrieve your belongings, should they be stolen and subsequently recovered.

On a more cheerful note I am pleased to report that the Nominated Neighbour Schemes which I spoke of in our last issue are now in hand, with one of Harrogate District's Police Inspectors supervising it and a PCSO having volunteered to take it under her wing. This is to help frail, elderly or vulnerable residents when accosted at their doors by strangers and a nominated neighbour will act on their behalf. Should anyone feel the need for this type of help or

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know of a vulnerable person who would benefit from this please contact us on info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk or speak direct to your SNT officers or alternatively ring NYP on 0845 60 60 24 7 for further information.

Our work furthering the cause of Neighbourhood Watch goes on, with more schemes having been set up in the last three months plus others in the pipeline. We are still hearing of the occasional scheme being set up without our involvement, with the result that we are not able to give assistance or information to those residents. We do occasionally pass on important information from National NW by email, regarding schemes' insurance and new legislation etc. If yours is one of those schemes, where no representative from H&DNWA was present at the set-up meeting, do please contact us to ensure we know of your existence. You may not be aware of how big Neighbourhood Watch has become in recent years. Nationally we are now recognised as the biggest voluntary organisation in the UK, with approximately 8 million households registered with us, and representation at every level right up to The Home Office in London. So you are well supported.

In the interest of keeping everyone well informed may I remind all co-ordinators of their two basic responsibilities: to keep their members informed of the relevant Ringmaster messages and secondly to pass on copies of LookOut. We know most people do - so thank you - but just very occasionally we are told about lack of information being passed on, with residents wondering what is happening in their area.

Our next **MSM** (members' support meeting) is to be held at **Ripon Fire Station on Tuesday 12th April 7 – 9pm.** This is

primarily for members – not just co-ordinators – from the Ripon area and surrounding villages etc., but as usual all H&DNWA members are welcome to come along and benefit from a discussion evening with the committee, other members and police officers.

Summer is fast approaching and the season of barbecues, garden parties and other outdoor gatherings will begin – not to mention street or garden parties for the Royal Wedding at the end of April. We are always grateful to those who remember us on these occasions and pass the hat round on behalf of H&DNWA: the only funding we receive is that provided by your kind donations!

Summer also means district and village Galas and this year we hope to have a presence at one or two of them. Our first definite booking is for **Oatlands Gala on Saturday 25th June** on Oatlands Playing Field/Park where this year we are taking a stall in the main area. So if you live in the district do come over and talk to us. Whatever you are doing in the next few months we wish you success.

From the Treasurer, Katy Piazza

I would like to thank the following schemes for their recent donations: Norfolk Rd NHW, Woodpark Dr & Ave and Scotch George Lane NHW, Long Marston NHW and Hamilton Ave NHW. We have received just these 4 donations since the last Look Out. If we are to continue our fight against crime we need your support. Please send donations to Katy Piazza, 8 Woods Court, Harrogate, HG2 9QP. (Cheques made payable please to Harrogate & District Neighbourhood Watch Association.)

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