

The NEWSLETTER for Harrogate & District Neighbourhood Watch Association

Serving Harrogate, Knaresborough, Ripon, Boroughbridge, Pateley Bridge, & surrounding areas

LOOK OUT

Helping to protect over 18,000 households

October 2011

From The Chairman, Keith Roberts

Farewell to Supt. Ken McIntosh

It seems like only yesterday that we introduced Supt. McIntosh, Harrogate District Commander, to H & D NHW at last year's AGM. From the start it seemed that a good leader supported by a well-managed team could lead to rapid promotion. Well the inevitable has happened - Ken has moved on to pastures new in a headquarters-based role having successfully completed an intensive course at the Senior Police National Assessment Centre.

During his period at Harrogate, the partnership working with H & D NHW and others has developed considerably, and it is fair to say that it has resulted in reduced crime, notably a 20% reduction in dwelling house burglaries this year, less disorder, and fewer people being killed or seriously injured on our roads. Several ideas that we have jointly discussed still have to reach fruition, but his successor is committed to continuing Ken's good work in NYP. We say farewell and a big thank you to Ken and wish him well and every success in

his police career. Ken, we shall be following your progress with interest!

Acting Supt. Barry Smith is Ken's replacement. Besides being his own man with his own ideas, Barry will help us all to see through the changes under the development of Safer Neighbourhoods. Barry has joined us from Skipton but has previously served in Harrogate.

AGM – Tuesday 8th November

You are invited to attend our AGM which will be held on 8th November, commencing at 7 pm, at a new venue, Bilton Community Centre, Bilton Lane, Harrogate. We endeavour to move meetings around our district, encouraging others who are not regulars, to join us. To start we shall be pleased to welcome a retired judge, His Honour Leslie Spittle, as our guest speaker. After a short refreshment break there will be the usual AGM business and a Q & A session. We look forward to seeing you there.

Reminder to Co-ordinators

We still receive a number of Ringmaster messages and emails returned as 'undeliverable'. These result in scarce



HARROGATE & DISTRICT

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

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resources spending much time tracking down who should be the recipients. These so-called 'daemon mailings' are often due to a change of email address/ISP. Could you please inform us of changes via info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk. Secondly, if you have not done so already, could we also request that you send us an active phone number so that we can contact you if necessary?

Stop Burglary and Stop Theft Campaigns

The Police, The Community Safety Partnership and H & D NHW, have all been involved in initiatives which have focussed on the five worst affected areas for specific types of crime – initially burglary and theft. These have involved a letter drop to 350-500 residences incorporating simple messages and inviting people to a local point where a gazebo was positioned and manned to give advice. These events were well attended by residents. They did also assist in identifying specific locations which did not have NHW schemes and much interest was shown in forming new schemes. The more that we can assist in crime reduction, the more satisfying it is for all concerned; however we tend to rely on the same few committee members and we could do with further assistance – occasionally from co-ordinators or scheme members. If you are willing to help or would consider helping us, please email us your phone number at info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk and we will call you to discuss what is involved.

Nominated Neighbour Scheme

H & D NHW and your local police recognise the benefits that these schemes can contribute to the safety, security and well-being of the elderly and vulnerable residents in our community. The scheme has been trialled in Ripon and Great Ouseburn and it has been

agreed that it can be extended to other parts of our district. If you as a co-ordinator feel that it would be appropriate to protect any of your neighbours, please contact us at info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk or discuss with your police Safer Neighbourhood Team. Further information is available on our website about this scheme and No Cold Calling Zones which both contribute to FIGHTING DOORSTEP CRIME.

News from Tina Oates

Following the STOP Burglary initiatives in Pannal and Woodlands areas by the Community Safety Partnership - at which we in H&DNWA assisted - we have received numerous enquiries regarding NHW schemes in both areas. These two areas were found to be the worst for burglaries in previous months. At present we are in the process of creating - or regenerating - as many schemes as possible in Pannal. The PCSO there is working through road by road from Burn Bridge to Leeds Road at Pannal Bank. To date 3 new schemes have been created and more will follow. Alongside that a start is to be made soon in the Woodlands area in response to the many requests made at, and after, the community safety event there. We hope to have both areas well covered by spring/summer 2012.

H&DNWA scheme numbers are expanding rapidly and committee members are out setting up new schemes almost weekly at present.

May I once again appeal to those very few co-ordinators who no longer feel able to carry on, through illness or moving house etc., to please inform us as soon as possible so that we can help. The majority do manage to find a replacement co-ordinator but occasionally we hear of much older schemes which have

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ceased to exist through neglect or even the death of the co-ordinator.

Now that NHW is recognised nationally as contributing significantly towards community safety most insurance companies are giving reduced premiums to members of registered Neighbourhood Watch schemes. If members have secured this reduction and the scheme subsequently folds their insurance policies could be invalidated. So it is important that every effort is made to enable the scheme to continue and remain active.

There is much talk about the new 101 non-emergency police phone number. Over recent years NHW has received several complaints from members regarding the cost of calls made to the current non-emergency number 0845 6060247 number. Callers often have had to hold for long periods resulting in considerable expense. That will cease once 101 comes into place on 12th December this year. The maximum charge will be 15 pence, whatever the time of day or night, or the length of the call. It is certainly about time that the public should be able to report incidents or problems to the proper channels at a reasonable cost.

The county NHW association (NY NHWA) continues to grow and has recently achieved 2 significant victories on behalf of all NHW schemes across North Yorkshire:

1. NYP had warned that due to cost-cutting measures all new street signs would have to be paid for once the existing stock has been exhausted. We pointed out that these signs are a proven deterrent to crime and with police concern that we should be encouraging and creating safer communities, we should not have to pay to do so! The NY NHWA committee brought this to the attention of the NY Police Authority, with the result that this will

not now happen and our street signs will continue to be free.

2. Also saved, due to another county appeal to the Police Authority, is our Ringmaster messaging system. The county association learnt that in another cost-cutting exercise NYP were looking at finding a cheaper alternative. Ringmaster is the key to communicating with members by NHW and the police. It also has a mapping system which can relate crime statistics to scheme locations, so it is too valuable an asset to lose - for both NHW and the police. Once again the PA interceded on our behalf with the result that Ringmaster is now saved – at least for the foreseeable future!

Co-ordinators are reminded that the latest free NHW window stickers are now available to order from branches of Towergate Insurance. Details of how to do this are on the new National Neighbourhood Watch website www.ourwatch.org.uk. Also on this site co-ordinators are now able to register their scheme which can then be mapped to show newcomers to an area where to find their nearest NHW scheme.

One last interesting piece of NHW news which demonstrates the national recognition of NHW's work, is that Neighbourhood Watch now has its own dedicated page on the number 10 Downing Street website www.number10.gov.uk

From the Treasurer, Katy Piazza

Are you doing any online shopping this Christmas? Please help our funds, at no cost to you, by registering us as your chosen charity on the 'easyfundraising' website at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hdnw Once logged in to this site, click on its links to hundreds of popular retailers including Tesco, The Body Shop, The Train Line, Thomas Cook,

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Sainsbury's, Phones4U, M&S, Curry's, Comet, Argos, ASDA and Amazon to name but a few. Just shop online as normal - **There is no cost to you (other than your shopping) but the retailers will donate up to 5% of your spend to us!**

After the end of our financial year on 31 August I was very pleased to fill out a 'Gift Aid and Tax Repayment Form' from HMRC so we can hopefully reclaim £21.00 of income tax based on £84.00 of donations made since Gift Aid approval 3 months ago. If you are a taxpayer fill out the Gift Aid Declaration, we can make your donation go a little bit further. Forms can be downloaded from our website under Templates/Forms or please request a form from me when sending in your donation.

Since the last Look Out I have received donations from the generous residents of two different Manor Drive Schemes and individual donations from Mr Knowles, Mrs H Brown, Mrs V. Eddison, Mrs M Smith, I. Loney, T. Stoddart, Mrs McGillivray and Mr K Tilford. Our expenses this quarter have included room hire, postage, stationery and printer cartridges. Our year-end audited accounts will be available at the AGM on 8th November

If your scheme has not donated recently, please do so now and send to Katy Piazza, 8 Woods Court, Harrogate, HG2 9QP. (Cheques made payable please to Harrogate & District Neighbourhood Watch Association.) Please remember to include your Gift Aid Declaration if you are eligible. **HELP US TO FIGHT CRIME.**

A Message from Barry Smith, Harrogate Safer Neighbourhood Commander

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a few words for your newsletter.

I am Barry Smith, currently acting as Safer Neighbourhood Commander for Harrogate and

would like to share a couple of thoughts about policing and the opportunity we have to work closer with our NHW schemes. The communities and Harrogate District and North Yorkshire can be reassured by the national crime figures this week; we remain the safest county in England which is fantastic news. Crime and anti-social behaviour reports are down again this year across North Yorkshire. However, Harrogate District's crime levels are at this date compared to last year a little higher. In particular, theft is a key issue. Various types of property are being stolen from across the District. This is where NHW can play a key role in support. I would ask that your members take every opportunity to report suspicious incidents - that car or van not in the right place or those people who don't work at a particular location. Please tell us and please encourage your members to act as our eyes and ears to help keep Harrogate as safe as it is.

You can tweet@ us or contact us via facebook, or simply call us on that old favourite, the telephone! I do hope you are able to increase our call rate!
Regards,
Barry

From the Editor, Peter Dallas

To encourage wider communication, particularly from younger people, we now have a twitter account [twitter@hdnwa](https://twitter.com/hdnwa). We look forward to your tweets! You can still contact us directly through info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk These message are picked up by the chairman and myself. For more information please visit our website www.nwatchharrogate.org.uk

This is the last newsletter for 2011 so on behalf of your committee may I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. When Christmas shopping please take extra care of your purse or wallet, mobile phone, and presents. Thank you all for your support over the past year.

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