

LOOK OUT



Helping to protect over 18,000 households

April 2012



From the Chairman, Keith Roberts

Neighbourhood Watch is a long established (for over 30 years) countrywide voluntary organisation based on the simple philosophy of:

‘Getting together with your neighbours to reduce local crime and disorder and to make your neighbourhood a safer and better place to live, work and play.’ It is all about building community spirit and good relations with the police, tackling crime and disorder, keeping an eye out for one another and on each other’s property, working together as the ‘eyes and ears’ of the neighbourhood, picking up and taking action on anything that causes concern or worry.

H&D NHW was formed over 20 years ago. Some people may not be aware of the number involved in the various Watches in Harrogate & District. The original Neighbourhood Watch scheme has expanded to incorporate types such as Business Watch, Rural Watch, Pub Watch, Shop Watch etc. In our District the database shows that there are 2870 co-ordinators covering all watches and the H&D NHW alone has 1300 co-ordinators and recipients of Ringmaster Messages.

The most effective schemes are those working in close partnership with the

Police and other agencies. The sharing of information about activities such as recent crime trends, bogus callers, anti-social behaviour or vandalism, together with details on personal and property security and any current local initiatives, provides the opportunity for members to take appropriate precautions to avoid becoming victims themselves and, through increased vigilance, obtain and provide useful information to the police.

In recent years we have concentrated on expanding the number of schemes, prioritising the troublesome areas and proposing solutions to overcome problems. We have worked productively in partnership with the Community Safety Partnership and the Police. However, the widespread geographical area we cover and the increased activity in setting up schemes and taking part in local galas does mean that we are desperate to find more volunteers. At present we rely on the few committee members, who are mostly retired but highly motivated people and I do not wish NHW to become a burden. Please give me a call if you can help us at the galas or if you would like to join us at one of our committee meetings. The dates are on the website – the next meeting is on Tuesday, 1st May commencing 7.15pm at Harrogate Fire Station, Skipton Road and the next Gala is at Bilton on Monday 7th May.

Out of the 1300 co-ordinators and Ringmaster recipients in our schemes I

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would hope that we could find at least ten supporters – the risk being that unless we do so survival will be at risk. Those already involved find it a very rewarding and stimulating experience and enjoy working with a friendly bunch of people.

Please phone me on 01423 562743 or contact me by e-mail on: info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk and I will call you back.



News from Tina Oates

Spring is now officially here and with it comes new hope and anticipation in all of us. We look forward to outdoor events and parties, family or neighbourhood barbecues and hopefully one or two events where NHW can be promoted.

I see that The Big Lunch – the National Day of Communities Coming Together, led by The Eden Project – is this year to be held on 3rd June in a joint celebration with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Many towns and cities right across the country are planning community picnics in local parks and recreation areas to bring people together and recreate that neighbourly spirit of yesteryear, which sadly has been lost in our modern society. Once again there is also talk of street parties being held and I am sure many clubs and societies have plans to gather members, friends and neighbours together for parties, picnics and barbecues. What a wonderful year this will be for neighbours and neighbourhoods – bringing people together, making new friends, strengthening communities, promoting care and concern for one another – and in doing so increasing community safety;

in fact the very essence of the Neighbourhood Watch movement.

The other great event this year will be The Olympic Games, based in London. Whilst we here in North Yorkshire will be little affected by the occasion it is hoped that tourism in the country as a whole will be greatly increased and of course Harrogate District is a tourist hot-spot. Sadly with all these events come the less desirable and more regrettable members of our society; those who wish to use these occasions to prey upon unsuspecting visitors and residents alike. Enthusiasm for the days' events must not curb our vigilance: barbecues in back gardens mean front doors and windows should be closed and locked: conversely street parties mean back doors and windows need locking and all the usual security precautions must be taken when heading off elsewhere, away from your house. Pickpockets and bag snatchers will be out on our streets and we need to be aware of the people around us, especially in crowds. However I have no wish to paint a picture of doom and gloom! - I am sure we will all have a great time, especially if the weather holds good, and hopefully there will be no nasty surprises at the end of the events!



Street Signs

Message for Co-ordinators: I have noticed recently that some areas are having trouble with their yellow street signs on the new smooth, black lamp posts; the ties keep slipping and the signs slide down the smooth surface. One or two signs are dangerously low at present and could pose a hazard to pedestrians: also they are contravening NYP's conditions of use:

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I quote: "**Signs must not have the lowest point below 2.1m (6' 9") above ground level if erected adjacent to a footpath or any area used by pedestrians**" I am told the older signs are in danger of splitting if the ties are over-tightened but the smaller, new signs will withstand the extra strain. We are searching for a solution; if anyone has an answer to the problem please let us know and we will put the details on the website

So if you can make a temporary improvement – someone has suggested using electrical tape, gaffer tape or duct tape - please do so and we will keep you informed as to what more permanent solution can be found. We have a few heavy duty ties available and the police also have a supply of them; they may work better than the standard ones issued. If some of your older signs do split do remember that existing signs can be replaced free of charge and without planning consent. Simply print off the form on our website, fill it in and take it or post it to the police station from where a replacement will be issued in due course.



Member's Support Meeting

The next Members Support Meeting for Harrogate area is imminent: Monday 23rd April at

The Kestrel, Wetherby Road, Harrogate at 7:30pm (in Area 1 - the room at the bottom end down a few steps)

A Ringmaster message will be issued immediately prior to it.

NHW at Local Galas

The local Gala season is upon us again and once more the committee will be promoting NHW at as many of them as possible. However we are few in number and would always be grateful for any

volunteers to help us man the stall for a couple of hours at your local event.

This year for the first time we shall be present at Bilton Gala on Monday 7th May. We have taken a stall in the main area where we are hoping to widen awareness of NHW and the work we do, encourage new schemes and promote security goods, Eurolocks and SmartWater. Do come and say hello even if you haven't time to help out.

Oatlands Gala takes place on Saturday 23rd June and for the third year running we shall be there, in the midst of things!! Many of you came over to see us last summer and we had several enquiries about schemes, which we have followed up since.

On 12th July will be the Aldborough & Boroughbridge Show where once again we will be promoting NHW.

Lastly I must thank the 2nd Harrogate Brownies Pack who recently invited me to talk to them about Neighbourhood Watch and community safety in general for their Crime Prevention Badges. They, their Brown Owls and helpers made us so welcome and the children were attentive and interested throughout.

The barrage of questions which followed was very pleasing and it proved to be a very pleasant occasion.

From the Treasurer, Katy Piazza



I want to express many thanks to Ridding Dower Management, Whitsundale Close NHW, and Hamilton Avenue NHW for their recent generous contributions to our funds. Donations have otherwise been a little thin on the ground this quarter. Expenses

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have included purchases of stock and SmartWater, printing costs for our information sheets and the cost of stalls and materials for the upcoming galas we are attending.

Please show your support for NHW and send your donations to Katy Piazza, 8 Woods Court, Harrogate, HG2 9QP. (Cheques made payable to Harrogate & District Neighbourhood Watch Association) Remember to include your Gift Aid Declaration if you are eligible. (The form may be downloaded from our website)



Rural Watch Report from PCSO Alastair Graham-Merrett

With the help of reports from the public and Ringmaster recipients NYP were successful in arresting a Harrogate suspect and also conducted a premises search. This suspect was seen in suspicious circumstances using a vehicle at various locations.

Through our efforts crime is quite low at the moment across the rural areas and this has allowed increased time for patrols in some of our cross border areas.

Unfortunately we have seen a slight rise in thefts of horse tack. This has been isolated to two villages and as a result new members to Rural Watch have been signed up.

Hopefully within the next few weeks Knaresborough and area will possibly have a Horse Watch Scheme. I am going to Selby to see how theirs is operated and then try to roll it out over here. Selby's is very successful so hopefully ours will be too.

Please can we ask members to report all crime and all suspicious persons and vehicles by calling 101?

If anyone requires any crime prevention advice please feel free to contact me by calling 101 and asking for PCSO 3537 or e-mail me on:

Alastair.graham-merrett@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

From the Editor, Peter Dallas

Website: www.nwatchharrogate.org.uk

The new website has been up and running for well over two months now and I am pleased to say that we have had some very complimentary feedback. I recommend that all Co-ordinators and members should visit the website and browse through the wealth of useful information. You will find out who the committee are and how to contact them; there are articles on Security Advice, Setting up a Scheme, Minutes of Meetings, SmartWater and much more. Have a look and let us know what you think – we are always open to suggestions on how to improve it. After all it is YOUR website and it is designed to help you in protecting your neighbours, yourself and your property.

Street Party Insurance

Most local councils don't ask you to have insurance in place, but depending on the scale of the event and the liability risks involved, it could be worth looking into. Some council's will ask you for proof of appropriate insurance, or alternatively sign an indemnity waiver if they want to protect their liability when no insurance is in place. For more information have a look on National Neighbourhood Watch website: <http://www.ourwatch.org.uk>