

LOOK OUT



Helping to protect over 18,000 households

July 2012



From the Chairman, Keith Roberts

There has been a lot going on recently so I take this opportunity to update our NHW co-ordinators and members. Of necessity we keep the articles short but encourage you to access our website for more information on topics that are of particular interest. Are you aware, for instance, that the minutes of all of our committee meetings are on the website, as are the dates of future meetings? You are encouraged to come along to meetings in order to express your views or raise topics.

The NHW Database

Many of you may not be aware that for ten weeks we were unable to access the NYP-NHW database and therefore it was not possible to follow up queries about schemes and co-ordinators. However, the frustrations are over and we now have access to a more secure system and are steadily catching up on the backlog.

Apologies to those who await a response from us but should you have urgent matters please contact us again.

Crime Reduction

It is well known that Harrogate & District is a low crime area and we regularly feature as one of the lowest in the country. The Police, The Community Safety Partnership and NHW have stressed the importance of not being complacent and have been involved in various initiatives

(the PREVENT Programme) to avoid incidents and a reactive response where incidents or trends become apparent. All those associated with crime reduction are very pleased to report that on the basis of volume statistics, year on year there has been an overall reduction of 29% and each crime category shows a reduction.

Hate Crime

Antisocial behaviour (ASB) has its impact on society but is often a precursor to criminality called hate crime. Hate crime is an offence committed against a person or property that is motivated by an offender's hatred of someone because of their nationality and upbringing, their religion, their gender and sexual orientation and in many cases their disability. The similarity between ASB and hate crime is not easy to differentiate, but the latter is generally the more serious. However, we encourage you to become more acquainted by reading and circulating the leaflet produced by NYP and available on our website and on www.northyorkshirepolice.uk/hatecrime.

Please do not hesitate to report suspicious incidents to the police and let them take appropriate action.

Neighbourliness

In our last edition of LOOK OUT we reminded you of the founding principal of working together with your neighbours and the police in order to reduce local crime and make your neighbourhood a

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better place to live, work and play. Recently of course, there has been ample opportunity to do so through the celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee, and other activities. We specifically mentioned close working relationships with other agencies as well as the police and that through various meetings it has led to contributions from Trading Standards and Environmental Protection. Both agencies value our NHW structure and wish to use this newsletter to state that feedback from our coordinators and scheme members would be welcomed for the prioritisation of their actions. In order to use our facilities economically, and reduce printing costs, we summarise contributions in LOOK OUT and suggest that, as appropriate, the expansion of the detail can be found on our website, where regular updates can keep everyone well informed.

No Cold Calling Zones (NCCZs)

NCCZs are formally set up by NYCC Trading Standards as part of an initiative designed to reduce distraction burglary and rogue trading (doorstep crime). Recent changes in the requirements to support the creation of zones include new criteria, such as experience of door crime incidents, prevalence of cold calling and police crime figures. Mandatory support of 75% of the residents in a proposed zone and that of the local councillor are essential. More detailed information and advice is available with a form for the 'Request for the Creation of a NCCZ' on our website. Additionally there is a new 'NO DOORSTEP CALLERS' door sticker, which clearly states that unsolicited callers who do not leave when asked or return later are committing a criminal offence. We at H&D NHW hold a stock of these. On the part of residents, it is important to report incidents of cold calling

to 01609 534860 or to your local Safer Neighbourhood police team on 101 ASAP or 999 in the case of serious harassment.

Environmental Health – Dog Fouling

Those of us who attend the Safer Neighbourhood Group meetings hear more complaints about dog fouling than criminal activity and we have been asked by the Area Environmental Health Officer to promote the reporting of such incidents. This should be seen as raising the awareness of the service of the enforcement officers and another part of developing neighbourliness. Read more about the Dog Warden Service in an article on our website, under Security Advice. In order to target the enforcement work please report fouling incidents to 01423 556935 or by email to environmentalprotection@harrogate.gov.uk recording both the location and time of day, supplemented with any other description.

Charity Bags

There is a recurring problem of the theft of charity bags. Empty bags are left for households to fill with unwanted items for collection from the doorstep on an appointed day. Some rogues collect the bags early morning for their own benefit rather than the intended charity. If you see this occurring please take the vehicle registration number and report it to the police on 101. The most secure way of helping the charity is to take your unwanted items directly to their shops or, if you have large quantities, perhaps request a collection.

Graffiti

Just to remind you that H&D NHW holds a supply of cleaning kits for the removal of graffiti. Early removal reduces the risk of further extensive damage.

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Communication

A recent message from NY NHW added confusion as to how and to whom to report changes of circumstances, such as resigning as co-ordinator or sending a change of email.

May we make it clear that all communications for H&D NHW should be sent directly to us and copied to your local Police SNT. In that way we can recruit replacement co-ordinators, refresh existing schemes and update the database.

Nominated Neighbour Scheme

The Nominated Neighbour Scheme was launched in Boroughbridge and Ripon. We are very keen to expand to other parts of the district and would encourage those co-ordinators living near to elderly or vulnerable persons to investigate if setting up a scheme on an individual basis is appropriate. More information is available on our website.

Diary Dates

The next Members' Support Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 11th September at Ripon Police Station commencing 7pm.

The AGM will be held on Tuesday, 6th November at Hornbeam College Lecture Theatre from 7 to 9 pm (subject to confirmation)



From Tina Oates

You may be aware that the committee have been promoting Neighbourhood Watch at local galas recently. Our objective is to make ourselves even better recognised as working for increased safety in our neighbourhoods, encouraging people to be more aware and prepared, plus discouraging would-be intruders and vandalism. The greater our numbers the greater influence we can have in the community.

However, there are only 10 of us (all volunteers and with other commitments) on the committee, covering the whole of Harrogate District - so we need some help please!

It would be useful to establish a small core of members who would be willing to lend a hand at galas and other events to which we are invited. We currently attend Bilton Gala; Oatlands Gala and The Aldborough & Boroughbridge Show.

We have a gazebo to erect - which is impossible for one person alone, plus some fold-up tables and display stands. So please, we could use some help; a) at setting up time; b) manning the stall with a committee member and c) some help in dismantling at the end.

Ideally it would be people who live near the areas where the events are held but anyone would be gratefully welcomed. If you would care to be a 'Good Samaritan' please let us know on info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk

Police & Crime Commissioners

In November of this year the public will be able to vote to elect the new Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) for North Yorkshire.

This person will have considerable powers, including, the choosing and appointment of a new Chief Constable, deciding how North Yorkshire will be policed and what the priorities of NYP will be.

The recent AGM of the North Yorkshire NHWA hosted Mrs Gina Allen, External Relations Manager of the North Yorkshire Police Authority, who explained the whole process in her presentation and exactly what will be entailed after November.

Details of Gina Allen's presentation can be found on the NY NHW website www.nynhwa.co.uk and are more fully explained at www.nypa.gov

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War Memorials and Free Smart Water

Your local war memorial is at risk from vandals and metal thieves so the War Memorials Trust, in partnership with The SmartWater Foundation are to launch a campaign to locate, log and protect thousands of war memorials across the UK, using cutting edge forensic technology.

The campaign, 'In Memoriam 2014', by this partnership is working towards marking the 100th anniversary of the start of World War One, and seeks to offer greater protection to war memorials across the UK. It aims to prevent any more communities witnessing the desecration of their memorials.

Thanks to the SmartWater Foundation, SmartWater is being made available free of charge to those who look after war memorials. All applications will be assessed before the product is sent out. More information on this project can be found at www.inmemoriam2014.org



Rural Watch from PCSO Alastair Graham-Merrett

There is an increase in the following crimes: Burglary of dwellings, theft of horse trailers, 2-in-1 burglaries (to steal vehicle keys) at both dwellings and commercial premises and an unusual crime of the theft of used cooking oils from pubs and restaurants.

With house burglaries, cycles are being stolen, so if anyone requires cycle marking please phone 101 and ask for your local PCSO. If any members live in an area where it would be easier to do cycles *en masse* please contact me and I will be happy to assist.

I am currently contacting rural watch members to offer crime prevention advice. This enables me to see exactly how secure vehicles and properties are and to

talk to property owners about security. This has been well received so far so if any other members would like crime prevention advice can they phone 101 and request to speak to their local PCSO.

I must stress that people should lock vehicles securely and remove valuables and keys. Please report suspicious activity in relation to persons and vehicles on 101 or 999 if a crime is taking place. The same applies to scrap metal and diesel thefts which are still taking place.



From the Treasurer, Katy Piazza

Thank you to the following schemes for their recent kind donations: Kingsway Drive, Daleside Close, Rossett Beck, Timble Suburbs and Nesfield Village Fund.

We have had quite a few expenses this quarter. We bought a gazebo for £88 to keep us dry at the outdoor events. We purchased some presentation materials, including a folding literature display and a folding table, totalling £160.00. These should get plenty of use at both indoor and outdoor events. We commissioned some business cards which include our own logo plus website and email addresses. These can be handed out at events to potential new members so they can contact us later or visit our website. We also bought more SmartWater units and some small signs, spending another £500. These are sold to members at a preferential price.

Please help us to continue our fight against crime and send your donations to Katy Piazza, 8 Woods Court, Harrogate, HG2 9QP. (Cheques made payable to Harrogate & District Neighbourhood Watch Association.) Please remember to include your Gift Aid Declaration if you are eligible.