

LOOK OUT



Helping to protect over 18,000 households

January 2013



From the Chairman

Keith Roberts

Welcome to the first quarterly newsletter of 2013. The Association Committee wishes you and your members a happy, healthy and safe, crime-free new year.

It is with deep sadness that we report the death of PC Andrew Brama in a road accident while on duty driving from Ripon to Masham to attend a motoring accident. Andrew leaves a very young family – wife Kathryn and two small children, Jack and Sam. He will be sorely missed by family and colleagues. Harrogate & District NHW sends its condolences and has made a contribution to the family support fund.

Crime Fighting Successes

The past year has seen the continued yearly reduction in crime in all categories in spite of the anticipated increase due to the economic situation. These results are quite remarkable when they are compared with other forces and reflect a very constructive approach to fighting crime by tackling known criminals and cross border crime. Quantifying the success is easy – there were 900 fewer crimes last year. However it should be noted that approximately half of the burglary and residential thefts have been due to the carelessness of owners – such as unlocked doors, windows and car keys and valuables left un-

SECRETARY NEEDED

to join our friendly committee of volunteers.

Put something back into your community and help to make a difference.

Only 6 evening meetings a year.

Must be computer literate in order to produce minutes and assist in updating the website.

Work with the committee in developing Neighbourhood Watch throughout Harrogate District.

If interested please phone me, Keith Roberts, for a chat on 01423 562743 or send a message to:

info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk and I'll contact you.

attended. We shall be working with the Community Safety Partnership to get the message across through the 'Beat the Burglar' campaign.



Watch out for
Billy the Burglar!

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Cold Callers

The police also request that we remain wary of cold callers – such as the door-step salesmen trying to sell dusters etc. but in many cases are primarily assessing whether the property is ripe for burglary. Please ensure that you have the latest window stickers which point out that cold callers are not welcome and they are committing an offence if they return. Ideally the signs should be located away from the windows and under no circumstances open the door to these people. Report them immediately to Trading Standards on 07814 232611 (24 hours) and your local police SNT on 101 or 999 if urgent. To reduce the risk to the elderly and vulnerable from these crimes a Nominated Neighbour Scheme has been developed with the police. Details can be found on our website. H&D NHW now have available both the internal window stickers as well as the two- part external stickers.

Ripon Policing Area Initiative

Ripon and its surrounding villages cover a vast area and the existence of active NHW schemes is relatively low compared with the rest of our District. In the past the development of new schemes and the refreshing of older established schemes have been rather few and far between. However, we have a new Inspector, Nigel Slater, and a new Sergeant, Andy Tiffany, supported by proactive PCs and PCSOs, who are all very keen to initiate and spread the word about NHW and its effectiveness in deterring crime. Crime is still fairly low but there have been quite a few incidents, particularly in the rural areas. We have jointly decided to target larger sections of the community – for in-

stance Birstwith village as a whole and Sharow similarly. That approach, used in Masham and other smaller conurbations, has been very successful in the past and we seek potential co-ordinators and deputies to interface with the police, H&D NHW and neighbours, to provide that important deterrent. We stress that the involvement with NHW is not an onerous task and we are always there to give support if needed. When a letter arrives inviting you to come and discuss the formation of schemes, please make every effort to join the police and H&D NHW committee, where we can discuss the advantages and the simplicity of formation. Also the presence of existing co-ordinators from adjacent areas at these meetings always helps in reassuring new schemes.

Vacancy for a Secretary

Please see the advertisement on the front page. We are looking for someone to fill the gap left by the resignation of David Siddans who has gone into local politics. Committee meetings are held on the first Tuesday in alternate months in the evening commencing at 7.15 pm at the Harrogate Fire Station. The next meeting is on March 5th 2013. There are only six meetings per year and you can look at previous meeting minutes on our website to get an idea of involvement.



News from Tina Oates

Royal Recognition!

Refreshingly our year starts with some positive and encouraging news: recent recognition for the work of Neighbourhood Watch has come from both national and local quarters.

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Neighbourhood Watch as a whole was given the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Volunteering Award at the end of 2012 in recognition of our commitment to community safety and the voluntary work we do across the UK. This award entitles us to display the above logo on any or all of our literature.



A Boost for North Yorkshire NHW

More locally the meagre funds of our county NHW – the NY NHWA - were boosted by an award of £500, made jointly by the retiring NYPA and the Chief Constable, from the police 'recovered proceeds of crime' funds in recognition of the work done in supporting, uniting and developing NHW across the whole of North Yorkshire. So keep up the good work everyone!

New Schemes

Here in Harrogate District we have set up numerous NHW schemes since the last edition of Look Out thus the total number of schemes in our District now amounts to almost 1400 - and there are many more in the pipeline! Thank you to all who contribute so much of their spare time to NHW; let us hope that the year continues in this positive and successful vein.

SmartWater Property Protector

SmartWater orders have suddenly surged; so much so that we have had to fast track new supplies to furnish an order from almost an entire village – and it looks like another village will soon be placing a similar bulk order. Once supplies are replenished we can turn a local order round in 24 - 48 hours if need

be. The order form and contact address are on our website. SmartWater has proved to be one of the most successful protectors of your possessions and valuables - and the burglars and felons are terrified of it as they know they cannot dispute ownership of marked goods found in their possession. The daintiest precious ring, the stone paving in your garden or the children's garden play equipment can all be marked with the same bottle of the liquid, which does not fade in sunlight. H&D NHWA's agreement with SmartWater – which is solely for NHW members – is such that we can supply at less than half the manufacturer's normal price, lasts indefinitely and no annual contract renewal costs are required.

Planned Outdoor Events

In looking forward optimistically to some decent weather in the coming spring and summer months I am reminded of H&D NHWA's outdoor activities where we promote the work we do, give out community safety information, increase awareness of safety issues and try to develop more NHW schemes. However we have reluctantly decided that much of this promotion work will have to be curtailed unless we can get some on-site help at these events and galas. Like everyone else committee members also have family responsibilities and commitments which sometimes means that just 2 people are left to represent us on the day. This makes the tasks of setting up a stall, assembling equipment and displays, blowing up balloons - plus erecting a large, unwieldy 3-sided gazebo - extremely difficult, if not impossible at times! I would very much like to compose a list of willing helpers who live near each

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area and who would be prepared to give an hour or so before an event to assist us with setting up and then dismantling at the end. If we had a separate list for each area then no-one would be asked to help at more than one. The three events we have been regularly attending are Bilton Gala, Boroughbridge & Aldborough Show and the Oatlands Gala. If we cannot get help then we are going to have to stop. Please, if you feel what we are doing is worthwhile and would be willing to give some assistance then email me at info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk, saying which of these events you could assist at and your message will be passed on to me.



From the Treasurer Katy Piazza

Thank you so much to the following schemes for their recent donations: Fulwith Mill Lane, Beckwith Rd, Daleside and Stonerings plus Marton-Cum-Grafton NHW. We also received cash donations of £10.46 towards the cost of refreshments at the AGM. Total donations for this period totalled £228. In addition we received £88.57 from HMRC for Gift Aid repayment which made all the paperwork worthwhile.

Our expenses have included: £99 AGM-related expenses (audit, refreshments, etc.) and £127 on a pull-up banner display stand.

While we really appreciate the recent contributions, donations are down by nearly £250 over the same period last year. There are many schemes, old and new, that have never donated and we need to hear from you. Please help us to continue to fight crime and send your donations to Katy Piazza, 8 Woods Court,

Harrogate, HG2 9QP. (Cheques made payable to Harrogate & District Neighbourhood Watch Association.) Please include your Gift Aid Declaration if you are eligible.



Rural Watch Report

If the Ringmaster messages circulated by the police can be considered as indicative of incidents in our District, then in the last thirty days the rural areas have suffered most. About 90% of all reported incidents were in rural areas with the bare minimum in urban localities. Incidents occurred from Ramsgill, Blubberhouses and Nidderdale in the west to Tockwith, Angram and Green Hammerton in the east and all places in between. Thefts of Quad Bikes, cycles, power tools, diesel fuel and logs feature repeatedly. House burglaries occur in all areas and access is usually gained through rear doors and windows.

There is evidence that thieves have come from outside our district and in one case five were apprehended by the police stopping them when returning 'home'. Rural areas are very difficult to police because of the vast area to be covered. However, it is even more important that any of our co-ordinators or NHW members should without hesitation report anything that appears to be suspicious to the local SNT. Slow moving or unfamiliar vehicles, cold callers who can often be potential criminals.

NHW have been very successful in making residents aware of the weakness of the 'standard' Eurolock cylinder. Rural property owners are probably less aware of this problem and the solution. Information is available on our website but if in doubt contact us on

info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk