

LOOK OUT



Helping to protect over 18,000 households

April 2013

From the Chairman, Keith Roberts

It's that time again for the committee, and particularly Peter Dallas, to prepare and issue the latest edition of our newsletter LOOK OUT.

On this occasion, we have a special announcement to make:

Our longest serving Co-ordinator retires!



Tom Wright has been the Area Co-ordinator for Birstwith for over thirty three years. Not only is he the longest serving for Harrogate & District, he's probably been involved with Neighbourhood Watch for longer than anyone in the country. This outstanding achievement was celebrated and acknowledged by the presentation of a framed 'Certificate of Merit', signed by the NYP Area Commander, Supt. Aubrey Smith and the H&D NHW Chairman, for his contribution to Neighbourhood Watch and the local community. The presentation was made by the

Chairman of NHW, Keith Roberts, in the presence of the Ripon Safer Neighbourhood Inspector, Andrew Tiffany, and Tom's successor, John Reed.

Review of our newsletter

We continually review the value of this document; in particular the distribution of a printed copy delivered by post is becoming ever more expensive. 75% of recipients receive it by email. A lot of the information is available on our website. Could we request some feedback as to whether or not you feel that the newsletter serves a useful purpose? Please send me a message to info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk or phone me on 01423 562743 with your views. If you value the continuation of this newsletter are you happy with its content or are there specific items you would wish us to include? In order to keep costs down, if you have an email address but still receive it by post please consider opting for email. Email is a much more efficient and cheaper method of distribution. If you are a Co-ordinator and do not have email perhaps you have a member who could receive Look Out and Ringmaster messages for you?

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

The Harrogate District Safer Community Partnership has recently produced a leaflet which reflects the various issues of ASB, ranging from crime and serious nui-

TO PREVENT CRIME IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

sance, to less severe but frequent and annoying behaviour. The wide range of issues are listed and categorised into the best way of reporting them to North Yorkshire Police, Harrogate Borough Council or North Yorkshire County Council. Contact details are given. The leaflet entitled '**Anti-social Behaviour See it – Report it.**' is available on our website under Security Advice. We live in a tolerant society but NHW members are encouraged to report ASB incidents to the appropriate authority before they become more serious.

NHW Members' Support Meeting (MSM)

We are about to arrange our next MSM now that the weather is improving. We would like to hear from you as to any specific locations and subjects for future meetings. For example your committee recently had an excellent presentation by the police on the detection of drugs and other substances and we discussed how NHW could possibly help in combatting this scourge on society.

Our Website:

www.nwatchharrogate.org.uk

You may have noticed that we continually update our website and recently have included a 'SEARCH BOX' on the homepage to make it easier to find what you are looking for. Please refer regularly to the section 'DIARY DATES' for the latest information on meetings and other activities relating to NHW and should you wish other events to be included do let us know.

Investment Fraud

Our North Yorkshire Police colleagues in Harrogate Intelligence Unit have drawn to our attention a leaflet '**Investment fraud: helping you to protect yourself**', issued

by the City of London Police on behalf of the British Banking Association. This leaflet can be found on our website under Security Advice. This type of fraud is particularly harmful, with the most vulnerable members of society being targeted by organised gangs using high pressure cold calling techniques. Victims are having their life savings taken, destroying both their retirement and their health. The document covers 'How to recognise an investment fraud', 'How to protect yourself', gives 'Examples of investment fraud' and above all **ADVISES YOU TO HANG UP IF YOU ARE COLD CALLED AND ASKED TO INVEST IN SOMETHING WITH THE PROMISE OF PROFIT.** Do as we have previously recommended; report any of these calls to www.actionfraud.police.uk or 'phone 0300 123 2040. Under no circumstances divulge your bank details; this also applies to the 'chuggers' on the streets or cold calling to solicit charity donations. The document is worth reading in full as a means of increasing the awareness of this growing tactic. Please inform other members without causing alarm.

H&D NHW Committee Secretary

Since the last AGM, when our secretary relinquished his role for one in politics, we have repeatedly advertised for a secretary. Our small committee has its hands full already without needing to fill this role as well. Can I say again that it is not an arduous task? Six meetings per year with contributors giving you email copies of their reports and really only action points and summary of external presenters' material are required. Have a look at our website under Meeting Minutes to get an idea of what is involved or give me a call on 01423 562743. Producing the minutes should take less than an hour and then

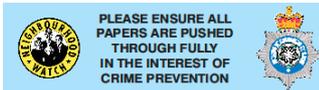
TO PREVENT CRIME IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

be uploaded to our website (with training if necessary). We'll reimburse any personal expenditure. Out of over 1300 NHW co-ordinators there must be one person, or even two on a part-time basis, willing to give it a try.

News from Tina Oates

New Letter Box Sticker

With spring now making its rather late appearance we start to think about longer days out in the warmer weather and summer holidays approaching. These are times when we need to pay extra heed to our security measures. Some thoughtless people who could threaten your security are often the door-to-door leaflet posters who cannot be bothered to push their junk mail or free publications etc. through your letter box properly, thus informing all and sundry that you are possibly out and the house may be empty. I have recently made enquiries and discovered that the old letter box security stickers have been revived and updated.



These self-adhesive stickers will shortly be available from police stations and Neighbourhood Watch. They will be in sheets of 10 so it would be advisable for co-ordinators to acquire them for distribution to scheme members. We will advise co-ordinators by Ringmaster when sufficient supplies are in place.

Public Liability Insurance (PLI)

I am pleased to be able to tell you that PLI which covers all NHW schemes nationally, has been renewed up to the end of March 2014 through Towergate Insurance. Any NHW member or co-ordinator carrying out NHW business is fully covered for personal liability. Activities such as the erection and

maintenance of street signs, fund raising street parties, stands at other people's events, Speed Watch etc. are all covered and there is no age restriction! The full summary of the policy is available to view on the NHW national website www.ourwatch.org.uk

SmartWater



SmartWater sales have continued to increase over the last three months with yet another bulk order having to be placed with the company to replenish stocks. For those who are still not familiar with the efficacy of the product there is much more information on our website. It is a major deterrent as burglars are aware that they cannot remove traces of the liquid either from themselves or the goods which have been marked with it. Currently H&D NHWA has an agreement with SmartWater whereby we can sell it to our NHW members for much less than from SmartWater direct who charge £5 per month for as long as you are registered with them. Only to NHW members can we retail it for £22, registered for an indefinite period: each phial of liquid will mark 50-80 items and there is no annual renewal charge. This price is available solely through H&D NHWA for NHW members only, with order forms being available on our website. If you do not have access to a computer your scheme co-ordinator will be able to print out an order form for you or even place an order on your behalf.

Larger schemes – or even whole villages – where the majority of members have invested in SmartWater to protect their possessions may like to know that large metal SmartWater street signs can be purchased to warn potential burglars that the majority of the area is protected. The cost is £35 per sign, plus VAT and a

TO PREVENT CRIME IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

delivery charge. Alternatively H&D NHW supply plastic gatepost signs at £1 each.

Drugs Awareness

A recent H&D NHWA committee meeting included a visit by officers from the NYP drugs section. We were shown examples of the most widely used drugs currently found in our area, how they are used and the various side effects, problems and dangers associated with each. All the information on drugs currently available, plus their effects and dangers, can be found on www.talktofrank.com

Attendance at Events

I have to end on a sad note: reluctantly your committee has decided that this summer we cannot continue to have a NHW representation at the various local galas and shows to which we have contributed in years past. Only one kind member volunteered to assist us with these events and it is just not sufficient when we have several hours – sometimes whole days - to cover, plus setting up and clearing away. So for this summer NHW will not have a visible presence at public events. We shall however continue to support North Yorkshire Police and Harrogate Safer Communities Partnership as usual at their community safety events and exhibitions.

Rural Watch Report from PCSO Alastair Graham- Merrett

Over the winter period there was a drop in lamping/poaching which was down to the bad weather.

Catalytic convertors and diesel thefts are still occurring occasionally but not as prolifically as they were before Christmas.

We are setting up a crime prevention campaign starting on the 16th April for two weeks visiting various rural locations where there will be a police presence dur-

ing the day and evening. We will confirm the locations by Ringmaster shortly.

Following on from the burglaries in Marton cum Grafton, any sightings of door to door salesmen would be appreciated. This also applies to any persons visiting farms and small holdings etc.

I am happy for anyone to contact me about any issues in the rural areas by phoning 101 or by email:

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

From the Treasurer, Katy Piazza

This quarter I was very pleased to receive donations from Kingsway Drive and Hamilton Avenue NHW schemes and personal donations from Mrs Douglas and Mr & Mrs Wall. We also received our first cheque from easyfundraising for £15.02. This is a simple way for anyone to help us raise funds. Hundreds of popular online retailers will donate up to 5% of your spend to us if you first register on the website: easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hdnwa For more information please visit our website nwatchharrogate.org.uk and click on Donations and Funding, or just visit the easyfundraising website. Please continue to support the work we all do 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 using the form from our website.

Be smart - get SmartWater to protect your valuables! Order it direct from Harrogate & District Neighbourhood Watch for a one-off special price of £22. Full details available from our website or from your co-ordinator.