

LOOK OUT



Helping to protect over 18,000 households

April 2015

From Your Chairman, Catherine Park Peyton

Dear Neighbourhood Watch Colleagues

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Chairman of the Harrogate & District Neighbourhood Watch Association. As you may be aware, I took over the reins from Keith Roberts at the end of last year. The Association now also has a Deputy Chairman, Katy Piazza, whom I will be working alongside. Some of you may already know Katy as she was previously the Treasurer for the Association. At this juncture, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Keith for his commitment and hard work that he has given to the Association over the last few years. He will be a hard act to follow!

At present the committee is embarking on a period of change for the Association, which includes revamped information leaflets, posters, newsletters, updating the website and looking at ways of improving communications.

I recently sent out an email to all Co-ordinators asking for feedback with regard to how you see the Association and how we can make things better for you! The committee has listened to your comments and has recently agreed an action plan for the forthcoming months based upon the feedback we have received. I look forward to meeting all who responded in due course and thank you for all your constructive comments.

We are also devising a marketing plan in order to expand by attracting new members. Katy and I have met with the Police Sergeants in the District to put forward our proposed plan. This is an accepted method of practice confirmed by the County Commander Supt Mike Walker. I am happy to report

that this has been warmly received and as a result we will shortly be meeting with all PCSOs in the District.

The purpose of our PCSO visits is to outline the aims of the new NHW and Rural Watch and how together we may work to integrate more effectively in their communities and ultimately build better relationships with you, our members.

It has been a very busy time for us all and the hard work will pay dividends I am sure. If I may reiterate my sentiments in the email I sent out earlier this year - Rome was not built in a day!

We would welcome continued feedback from you about Neighbourhood Watch and Rural Watch in your areas so that we can build a strong effective Association that communicates well and benefits our beautiful and diverse area.

Please remember, we still live in one of the safest parts of the country and together we can ensure this situation remains.



A Message from the NY Police County Commander, Mike Walker

I'm sure everyone will feel as I do that North Yorkshire Police and Neighbourhood Watch must work together to combat crime and anti-social behaviour in Harrogate District and across North Yorkshire. For a number of years we have worked with and relied upon NHW schemes to be the eyes and ears within communities. I believe that more than ever we need the public to communicate with their

TO PREVENT CRIME IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

local police teams so we can deal with the issues that affect the quality of life of individuals and communities. May we remind Watch members how important it is for them as individuals to phone in on 101 anything that appears suspicious? Members should let their Co-ordinators know that they have made a report, to keep them in the picture, BUT never assume that they or another member has done it. Reports by 101 are always logged which guarantees action will be taken. A number of reports about the same problem will be welcomed by the police.

In our District we face crime reduction challenges within both urban and rural locations, including the prevalence of cross border criminality. It's essential that NHW schemes help us to protect our communities and our borders thus reducing the risk of crime and helping to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour.

I personally feel very positive about the new drive and ambition of the Harrogate & District NHW Association and I encourage anyone who feels that they can commit to supporting their local scheme to get in touch with your chairman, Catherine.

The Ringmaster Database

One very important thing we are undertaking is a review of the Ringmaster Database. The Committee, with the help of PCSOs and Co-ordinators, is taking on the massive task of ensuring that the police database reflects an up to date and accurate record of all Co-ordinators and other Ringmaster recipients. If we don't have this then we cannot be sure that Ringmasters are reaching all registered recipients. Apart from crime alerts, the newsletter Look Out, and other important messages go out by this system.

Your records are only guaranteed to be correct at the time your Scheme was set up. After that we rely on Co-ordinators and members to inform us of important changes like new email addresses, new telephone numbers, Co-ordinators moving home, resigning or sadly dying. With thousands of members the Association cannot possibly keep track of these changes without your help and the help of PCSOs.

So, please help us by emailing us at: info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk when any relevant changes occur. This is vital to the efficiency of your Neighbourhood or Rural Watch.

One last thing – There is still a number of Co-ordinators who receive a printed copy of Look Out by post. In the interests of improving efficiency and also of reducing our costs we would like to ask those Co-ordinators if you can find one of your members who has email and who would be prepared to receive Ringmaster messages on your behalf. These messages contain crime information, Look Out newsletter and other messages. Email certainly beats receiving Ringmaster by phone, I'm sure you will agree!! You would then be able to produce printed copies of messages and Look Out that you can circulate round your members. When you find someone please ask this member to email us on:

info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk we will then help him/her to register for Ringmaster. This will make your role of Co-ordinator so much easier.

How to contact us!



Coming Soon!

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www.nwatchharrogate.org.uk

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