



WATCHWORD



(The Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter for Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood)

ISSUE No 20

NEWSLETTER NOTES

Hello to everyone. Sorry for missing the Christmas issue but we're back in circulation again with more information and advice for members.

We're still looking for new members for the Management Team. Particularly someone with a little accounting experience to fulfil the role of Treasurer, but also anyone who could help produce the Newsletter. These are not time consuming jobs, only 2 or 3 hours per month in each case. So if you can help us and would like to volunteer, please let us know.

NEW MEMBERS

The Association would like to welcome the following Neighbourhood Watch groups, which have joined us since our last issue:-

Bircotes
Milne Road.

Carlton in Lindrick
Arundel Drive, Carisbrook Road, Church Lane, Craigston Road, Pembroke Drive, Richmond Road, Strathmor Drive & Stirling Drive.

Retford
Littleborough Village.

Worksop
Chatsworth Road, Larwood Avenue, Prospect Drive & Rayton Spur.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Make a note in your diary that this years Annual General Meeting of the Bassetlaw Neighbourhood Watch Association will be held at:-

WORKSOP TOWN HALL

on

Wednesday 26th May 2010

commencing at

7.30 pm

All Association members are invited to attend, and light refreshments will be provided both before and after the meeting.

If any member has a specific point to raise at the meeting would they please advise the Neighbourhood Watch office at Worksop Police Station, in writing, by 1st May 2010. This will give us sufficient time to include it in the printed agenda.

Please come along and give your support.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

National:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Crime-stoppers | 0800 555111 |
| Victim Support | 01909 500455 |
| Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme | 0800 3583601 |
| National Drugs Help-line | 0800 776600 |
| Drugs Help-line (for families & friends of users) | 0808 800200 |

Local:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------|--|
| <u>Crime Reduction Managers:-</u> | | | |
| Bassetlaw | 01909 500999 | Ext 3283 | |
| Newark & Sherwood | 01636 605999 | Ext.3284 | |
| <u>Citizens Advice Bureau:-</u> | | | |
| Worksop | 01909 476049 | | |
| Newark | 01636 704391 | | |
| Ollerton | 01623 861808 | | |
| Neighbourhood Watch Office | 01909 473875 | | |

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Antisocial behaviour has been highlighted recently with the death of David Askew in Greater Manchester, after suffering years of harassment from local jobs, and we hope that the following will be of some use to you.

There are lots of different types of antisocial behaviour including vandalism, abuse and noisy neighbours. Many of the problems are criminal offences and can be dealt with by the police, however Local Councils also have powers to deal with some of the problems and nuisance behaviour.

In 1997 laws were introduced to assist those who are victims of stalking or harassment. This includes problems with abusive neighbours or the intimidation of individuals. Examples are verbal abuse; physical abuse or intimidation. These include such things as loitering outside your house, following you, nuisance phone calls text messages or emails.

Any such behaviour is a criminal offence and you are advised to:-

- Report to the police IMMEDIATELY after an incident occurs and make sure you get issued with a crime or incident number.
- Keep a diary of the incidents and keep it in a safe place.
- Discreetly make family and friends aware of your situation but do NOT get a friend to "warn off" the perpetrator as this may count against you when you get to court. It is not unknown for such people to claim that you have been stalking or harassing them, not the other way round.

Under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 harassment is defined as causing alarm or distress. Criminal harassment carries a maximum sentence of six months imprisonment and/or £1000 fine.

If you want to know more about antisocial behaviour there is a large amount of detail on our website at www.bnwa.org.uk. Alternatively contact 01623 842217 and the details can be sent to you by post.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SIGNS

We are hoping to distribute the new Neighbourhood Watch scheme signs in the near future. There is however a problem with fastenings, as many lamp posts have different diameters. As a result we need to discover the size required before we can issue the signs. If, therefore, you are a Head Co-ordinator waiting for signs please get in touch and we will contact you in order to sort out the appropriate fixings.

We are aware that some schemes have been issued signs and that they have not been put up. Perhaps there is a problem. If so please let us know.

0300 300 99 99



Notts Police launched their new (non-emergency) single contact number on 27 November 2009. It is **0300 300 99 99**. This should now be used for all enquiries to Notts Police except for emergencies.

In the past having multiple contact numbers has led to some confusion as to which number to use to contact the Police, resulting in some misuse of the 999 emergency service. It is hoped that having one memorable contact number will help to see a reduction in this. Although the number has changed, the call handling service remains exactly the same. The same Police staff will answer your calls, and your call will be directed to the right person, department or Police Station, as it is now. Notts Police are urging everyone across the county to put the new number into their mobile phones and address books.

The 03 number ranges are not for profit and part of the cost is absorbed by the Police Force.

CRIME - REDUCE THE OPPORTUNITY & MAKE THE TARGET HARDER!

For any crime to happen the same three basic elements must all be present. There must be a perpetrator, a target and an opportunity. If any of these elements are missing then a crime cannot take place.

Whatever the numbers of police we have, they cannot be everywhere at all times; so what can we as members of the general public do. We cannot do anything about the first element, the perpetrator. That is beyond our control. However we can make the target less vulnerable and we can reduce the opportunity.

Be alert and aware at all times.

Use all the security available to you to make the target a harder one.

Try to reduce the opportunity for the criminal. Opportunity to the perpetrator could be an open window, an unlocked gate or a handbag left on the back seat of a car.

If we give them the opportunity then they'll take it! Let's not make it easier for them!

NOTTS POLICE WEBSITE

Did you know that Nottinghamshire Police has its own internet web site ? Did you know that by logging on to the website you can find out who your local police or Community Support Officer is ? Did you know that you can contact them directly through the web site ?

Log on to the website and navigate through “your local police” (top left corner) click on Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood and then the district and beat area where you live.

This will show you your local Neighbourhood Policing Team, where and when you can meet your local Police even what your community priorities are. These are set by the local community and could be anti-social behaviour or bicycle theft for example, and what is being done to tackle it.. So please take a look.

The police web site can be accessed via our own bnwa.org.uk web site by clicking “links” then Nottinghamshire Police. Why not stay on our site a while and look at the changes we have made.

BAG SNATCHERS & PICKPOCKETS

Bag snatchers and pickpockets are always on the lookout for easy targets. Don't make it easy for them, make it difficult by heeding the following advice:-

- Cash is always a favourite target for thieves so try to keep the amount of cash you carry to a minimum.
- Wallets carried in back pockets are almost an open invitation to pickpockets. Keep your wallet where you can see it - in a front trousers pocket or an inside jacket pocket, preferably one which fastens.
- Keep your purse out of site at all times. It is an easy target for casual thieves, if visible to them.
- In public places, keep your handbag close to you where you can see it. Keep it tightly shut too.
- Never carry the personal identification number (PIN) with your credit cards or cash dispensing cards. Memorise your number, and never disclose it, not even to bank staff or close friends
- If you do lose your cards or are unfortunate enough to have them stolen then contact your bank or credit card company immediately.

KEEP IT CLOSE AND KEEP IT CLOSED!

Scoop the Poop !

Since 1st September 2002 all public land (i.e. pavements, grass verges, parks and open spaces) is covered by the Dogs (Fouling of land) Act 1966. An offence is committed under the Act if a person in charge of a dog fails to clean up after the animal has fouled in public open land, including the public highway.



The offence carries a maximum fine of £1,000. Fixed penalty notices carry an on the spot fine of £50, which the offender can pay within 14 days or have the case heard at the Magistrates Courts. For some reason an increasing number of people think that this does not apply to them, so for those who still do not clean up after their dogs, here is some info about what can happen to us, especially young children, when you don't “Scoop the Poop”.

Humans can get a worm infection from dog faeces, it's a round worm called Toxocara. Human infection of this disease is a direct consequence of soil or sand contamination with faeces carrying eggs of the parasite. As the parasite can last up to two years, contaminated soil and sand is often the carrier as the faeces degrade. Once the parasite is swallowed by someone, the infection can last between 6 and 24 months. Frequently the infection is transmitted through hands, but also with the dogs themselves, or through inanimate objects, such as wheels of toys, soles of shoes etc. Toxocariasis is dominant in children between the ages of 18months and 5 years and can cause blindness. Not a very nice thought. So please— Scoop The Poop !

Little tip:- if it's the odour that stops you picking it up... close one side of your nostril with your finger! You can't smell anything through only one nostril ! So go on try it – and scoop up that poop!

In a recent survey conducted by the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Dog Fouling was the number one concern in most areas, ahead of Speeding Vehicles and Anti-Social Behaviour.

Property Marking Kit

We now have a new supply of SelectaDNA, the property marking kit, so if anyone is still waiting for theirs or if you would now like a kit please contact the Secretary direct either :-
via the web page at www.bnwa.org.uk then click “links”;
or by Email judith.reynolds1@talktalkbusiness.net ,
or by telephone 01623 842217.

We also have an extra supply of stickers, if anyone ran short whilst marking their property – the same contact options apply.

MESSAGE FROM GLENN HARPER

Chief Inspector Neighbourhood Policing
Newark and Sherwood District

Your local Police continue to appreciate the value of Neighbourhood Watch as a key partner against crime, and if you are reading this, then that includes you.

I am not a politician or someone that massages statistics. The good news is that crime is continuing to fall across Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood, and this has to be good news locally. House burglary for example has seen a significant 25% reduction over the last year compared to the previous year. Our intelligence systems are good as are our forensic support services and our proactive patrol work. All these combine to identify "hotspot" areas for targeted burglary reduction/prevention work and positive identification and arrest of burglars themselves.

I appeal to everyone to do your bit to help reduce the chances of you becoming a victim of burglary. Simple measures are most effective, such as leaving lights on whilst out in the evening or overnight, not leaving windows open, locking doors behind you whilst at home, having a good working burglar alarm and good outside security lighting. Use Smartwater or SelectDNA to mark your vulnerable property.

Distraction burglary is a particularly repulsive crime often committed against the vulnerable or elderly. Typically such crimes involve offenders pretending to be from the Water Board; the Council or even the Police. Sadly often such crime does happen where you live. You can help by watching out for any elderly or vulnerable neighbours. They tend to be very trusting of others and offenders exploit this. You can help by spreading the message by reminding the elderly and vulnerable not to answer the door to strangers; not to let strangers inside without first checking their official identification. If they are genuine they will expect you to check their identification. Please help to stamp out this type of crime.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank you all as members of Neighbourhood Watch for the valuable role that you do. Policing is not just done by the Police the public play a massive role. I need you to remain vigilant and take note of the things that don't look right in your community, for example the strange car parked in your road or the stranger knocking at your door. I need you to report anything suspicious on **0300 300 9999** the new single number for Nottinghamshire police. Your information will be treated seriously and you might just prevent a crime or lead us to an arrest.

Thank you for reading this and doing what you do to support Neighbourhood Watch.

GARDEN SHED SECURITY

It's that time of the year again when offenders start targeting our garden sheds and garages, in the hope of obtaining such items as lawnmowers, power tools, fishing tackle, cycles etc. Often they will use garden tools out of the shed to gain entry into your home.



Most crime is opportunist; remove the opportunity and it will reduce the chances of you becoming a victim of this sort of crime. Thieves know that sheds are usually easy targets as the physical security of the building is often minimal. However, we can quite easily improve this by taking a few simple measures.

Nearly all door hinges are exposed; by replacing the screws with smooth headed bolts, complete with a locking nut and large washer, it will hopefully prevent thieves from pulling the hinge off and opening the door from the hinge side. Bolts should also be used to fix the hasp and staple to the door to reduce the chances of it being forced off. Always use a good quality padlock with a close shackle; this makes them less vulnerable to a cutting or sawing attack.

If the shed is fitted with opening window units, remember to fix suitable key operated locks to the window and think about installing a net curtain, or blind, to prevent thieves from looking in.

Good lighting can often deter offenders, so consider fitting a security light that covers the area of garden where the shed is situated

There are a number of alarms on the market, which are suitable for this type of building and have often proved very effective in deterring thieves. However, it is not recommended to have any type of shed alarm wired into your house alarm system.

It is important to ensure that all items of value within the shed are clearly security marked with your postcode and house number. Thieves do not want to spend time refurbishing equipment and by clearly marking the items it will lower the payoff value and hopefully deter any possible offender.

Items of value should be fixed to the fabric of the building, but if it is not possible then consider feeding a length of chain through the items and then padlocking them all together.

By taking these simple precautions it will hopefully reduce your chances of becoming the next victim.

Shed alarms can be purchased from our association at a cost of only £8 each. Contact the office on 01909 473875 if you would like to buy one.

This newsletter was produced by
Bassetlaw Neighbourhood Watch Association
Management Team