

# LOOK OUT

Helping to protect over 18,000 households

July 2010

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## From the Chairman, Keith Roberts

### Crime Reduction in Harrogate & District

In spite of the recession there has been a continuing reduction in crime in H&D. Reported crime decreased by 10% for the year to date, which compares very favourably with other districts in North Yorkshire and elsewhere. As previously reported, a national survey showed that NHW schemes were found to be effective in reducing crime in 79% of cases when compared with similar areas without schemes. Furthermore, NHW schemes are generally highly valued by the public, who appreciate them not just for their impact on crime but also for the re-assurance they provide encouraging greater community spirit. Besides the dramatic increase in H&D NHW schemes in recent years, the introduction of PCSOs, the formation of SNTs and SNGs have all contributed to this reduction. However we mustn't become complacent and we need to continue with our efforts in crime reduction but also to use our skills and networking to assist the police in improving detection rates. Because this is considered to be a wealthy area with major road access, there is growing cross-border crime, so if the police and associated bodies can demonstrate to criminals that it is not worthwhile visiting H&D we can make further reductions. News of arrests and prosecutions spreads rapidly and leads criminals to seek alternative locations.

### How can we help?

There are two key activities where NHW can help in improving detection rates:

1. Speedy reporting of suspicious incidents. There is a reluctance to report incidents because people think that they are 'bothering the police'. The police are very happy to receive such information - it may be the piece in the jigsaw they require. Sometimes the reluctance is because of fear of reprisals. Please remember that the police will always use discretion in these matters and will accept anonymous messages, or visit informants in unmarked cars and

plain clothes. You can also ask H&D NHW committee to pass on messages to the police, or you can phone Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

2. The police frequently recover stolen goods but cannot reunite them with their rightful owners because they are not coded. In this case your possessions are returned to the thief - even if the thief has been convicted of handling stolen goods. Please ensure that personal possessions are 'coded for keeps', using SmartWater for all items, or register those with serial numbers on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com). Ask for details from your local police, or NHW on [info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk](mailto:info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk).

### Development of Neighbourhood Watch

The development of Neighbourhood Watch in Harrogate & District continues to flourish with many new schemes set up in recent months and others in the process of formation. Some of these schemes are as a direct result of burglaries, car theft, or other criminal activities, and it is a great pity that some residents have had to suffer the consequences of not being more pro-active in the set up of a NHW scheme beforehand. A NHW scheme is a proven deterrent but it would be naïve to say that burglaries could be totally avoided. We try to publicise and promote NHW through the local press but there is a reluctance of the Ackrill Group to publish our articles unless they are crime specific. May we suggest therefore, that with 900 Co-ordinators already covering over 18,000 households, we could all further the development of NHW? Initially each Co-ordinator could, through contact with friends, relatives, business colleagues or discussion with adjacent watch areas, explore the setting up of at least one new scheme each. The police rely on NHW to be their eyes and ears on the ground and informing them of suspicious incidents as well as communicating within the neighbourhoods on incident awareness. 75% of people not in a NHW scheme have said that they would join a scheme if there was one available to them – so here is an opportunity not to be missed.



**HARROGATE & DISTRICT  
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION**

Registered charity number 1076228

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## TO PREVENT CRIME IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

### Doorstep Crime and Bogus Callers

Following the article in April's edition of LookOut, we report that Harrogate and Knaresborough are still 'hot spots' and forming 'No Cold Calling Zones' is still to be encouraged. If you need more information please contact your SNT, NYCC Trading Standards or NHW. We also have one of our Co-ordinators who gives advice to Trading Standards and the police regarding the 'right price for the job'. So if you have any doubts about whether or not you are being 'ripped off' by doorstep callers, we can put you in touch with this expert on drives and building works.

### Diary Dates

In Aug/Sep we shall be holding another Members Support Meeting. Our AGM has just been booked at Ashville College for the 19<sup>th</sup> Oct at 7 pm. Please keep an eye on "Diary Dates" on [www.nwatchharrogate.org.uk](http://www.nwatchharrogate.org.uk) for the latest information. We will also announce these events on Ringmaster nearer the time.

### News from Tina Oates

New NHW schemes are abounding at present, with those of us who attend set-up meetings averaging almost one a week. These have included 3 in Harlow Moor Drive area, Harlow Crescent, Bilton Grove Avenue, 2 in Starbeck, Wetherby Road, Masham Road and Masham Close, Westminster Drive, Farfield Avenue. With Manor Court and Frogmire Close, and more in the pipeline we are very busy! The result is that our committee has created a new post of Membership Secretary, which I have offered to cover for the time being. I do not intend to be an Agony Aunt, but enquiries regarding teething problems with new schemes, existing schemes, refreshers needed etc. could come to me by email at: [info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk](mailto:info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk) plus of course your usual snippets of news and activities.

This year we attended the Oatlands Gala, in company with NYP and were pleased to see the many visitors who struggled up the grassy bank to visit us - often with small children eager to see inside the Mobile Police Office! Next year we hope to attend again, perhaps this time taking a stall in the midst of the other activities.

For those of you interested in statistics, there were 5097 schemes registered across North Yorkshire at the end of May this year, which represents a growth of 17.5% in the last 6 months! In Harrogate & District

**NB** For information on becoming a member of Neighbourhood Watch:  
Email us at [info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk](mailto:info@nwatchharrogate.org.uk) or phone 0845 60 60 247 and ask to speak to a police officer from your local Safer Neighbourhood Team.

alone we now have about 900 schemes and we look forward to celebrating our 1000<sup>th</sup> scheme in the not too distant future. Besides NHW, our district also has an additional 300 schemes in other types of watches, such as Farm Watch, Golf Watch, Badger Watch, Shop Watch etc. making a total of over 1200 schemes being vigilant for our safety in this county.

The latest figures from National Neighbourhood Watch show that at the end of May this year there were 7.9 million households registered in England and Wales, so you will not be surprised to learn that the Neighbourhood Watch movement as a whole is now recognised as the largest voluntary organisation in the entire UK! At last it is accepted as an integral part of improving safety within our community and recognised at government level for the role it plays.

In a recent speech by Rt. Hon. Nick Herbert, Minister of State for Policing & Criminal Justice, he said - *"We want to build on Neighbourhood Watch and community crime fighters, linking these schemes together, making them more accessible and attractive to a wider group of people, and encouraging members to get their neighbourhoods involved"*

We in Harrogate & District - and indeed in North Yorkshire - are doing just that!

We hope to hold the next Members Support Meeting in Aug/Sep at a new venue, probably Green Hammerton, with date, time, and place to be confirmed in due course. The last meeting saw some lively discussions and exchanges of ideas and information so please watch out for this next one.

### From the Treasurer, Katy Piazza

This quarter we were very pleased to receive donations from Lands Lane NHW, Timble Suburbs NHW, Daleside Close NHW, Fulwith Mill Lane NHW, Hamilton Ave. NHW, Queen Ethelburgas Residents Assoc., Spa Mews Residents Assoc., Evelyn McGillivray, Mr & Mrs Silverman, and Mr & Mrs Pratt. We are funded solely by contributions from members and while we try to keep our running costs to a minimum, our expenses include, producing and distributing Look Out, starting new schemes and hiring rooms for Member's Support Meetings and AGMs. If your scheme has not donated recently, please do so now and send to Katy Piazza, 8 Woods Court, Harrogate, HG2 9QP. (Cheques payable please to Harrogate & District Neighbourhood Watch Association)