

NUTBOURNE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NUTBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

NEWSLETTER NO 1

From: Andrew Moffat, Local Co-ordinator

Date: July 2008

Dear Resident,

Many of you will appreciate that Nutbourne forms part of a registered Neighbourhood Watch scheme (NHW). We are grateful to Mr Jim Shaw and Mrs Ruth Migdale for their work in establishing the facility in their respective areas.

The area currently registered with the police extends from the bottom of Nutbourne Road (encompassing Nutbourne Common), to Beedings Castle at the top of Nutbourne Lane.

I have agreed to replace Mr Shaw and Mrs Migdale as local co-ordinator of the Nutbourne NHW. It is my aim to produce an occasional newsletter, perhaps every six months or as necessary.

Importantly, residents will be interested to learn that **insurance companies** recognise NHW. Many provide **discounts** to households that form part of an authorised NHW scheme – which you may wish to raise with them, when next your insurance policies fall due.

The purpose of NHW is to improve security, increase vigilance, reduce crime, deter criminals and improve community spirit. To this extent, residents are asked to become alert and keep an eye on untypical activity. For example, opportunist criminals often 'cold call' residences (perhaps offering gardening services) to see if anyone is at home. Suspicious persons loitering, possibly watching a particular house, may be preparing a burglary. White vans are often part of the kit in trade. **Residents may wish to note number plates of suspicious vehicles and details of suspicious characters.**

Residents who have cause to be concerned should contact the police on **0845 6070999**. Our local NHW police community support officer is Neville Warner, to whom low level issues should be reported. Serious issues should be raised with PC Colin Parker. Thus: Neville Warner tel **0845 6070999 ext 19459** email neville.warner@sussex.pnn.police.uk Colin Parker **0845 6070999 ext 12082** colin.parker@sussex.pnn.police.uk Either officer may be on leave, so for serious matters, refer to the switchboard. Emergencies remain on **999**.

Police have recently experienced burglaries in the Pulborough area in daylight hours. Here below is a flavour of local crime in recent months.

- 1 West Chiltington: Two young males, aged 25, proceeded door to door in Castlegate and Monkmead Lane, offering trees and shrubs. Their claims to have been working at a nearby house, with surplus plants, proved to be a lie. They drove a white transit, registration NC04 TBX.
- 2 Pulborough: Devices have been used to remove door-locks from vans, resulting in stolen drills and power tools. A resident of Tudor Close received a visit from a man in his 50s, asking to buy books and luggage. He said he was from Hove, had a charming manner and drove a silver Volvo estate, registration DE51 FJE. The resident believes he conned his parents a few years previously. **Please do not consider buying or selling to anyone knocking on your door and report suspicious persons.** Last November, in daylight hours, a property was burgled in Thakeham Rd after a kitchen door was forced. Laptop computers, electrical equipment and £1500 cash were stolen. In January, doorknockers in Chestnut Walk targeted the elderly to carry out repair work. A resident described them as male travellers driving a blue ford transit, reg NA52 XON. Elderly neighbours should be on their guard as they will almost certainly be **overcharged for poor workmanship**. It is best to obtain recommendations - or contact First Checkpoint on 01903 771023.
- 3 Horsham South District: There have occurred break-ins to vehicles in 'beauty spot' car parks, bogus water board officials, burglaries and rogue tarmac operatives.
- 4 Police have arrested persons for peddling without licences.
- 5 Horsham District: police have urged businesses and householders to beware of criminals delivering parcels. Criminals state they possess a parcel for a neighbouring business/house and request the person to hold the parcel on behalf of the addressee. They state that an amount of money is owed before the parcel can be delivered. The parcel merely contains shredded rubbish.

- 6 Nutbourne: there occurred an attempted case of 'breaking and entering' in Nutbourne Road late last year. More ominously, there was a 'distraction burglary' in April, at a house in Nutbourne Road.
- 7 Police report thefts of vehicle badges in the Pulborough/WC area. There may be a collector at work. If you cannot garage your vehicle then park on your driveway facing inwards or in a well lit part of the street.

All of us should be on our guard and we should look out on behalf of our neighbours. We are the eyes and ears of the police, to whom we should report untoward activity.

In future, NHW will endeavour to provide updates appertaining to criminal activities promptly by email. Those who wish to partake should kindly email addresses to Mr Brian White at brianwhite@onetel.net (please note that crime should not be reported to Brian White but to the persons listed above). Otherwise, an occasional newsletter will be issued.

Enclosed with this letter is a NHW sticker for displaying in a prominent position. Also, 6inx4in plastic placards are available at 50p each. Those wishing a placard should contact Mr White by email, as above, so a bulk order can be generated.

Crime Prevention leaflets on home, car, bike, personal security may also be obtained from Neville Warner, as above. Introductory packs for NHW may also be obtained therefrom.

With this letter I am including comprehensive notes to assist readers to maintain security during the course of the summer.

Andrew Moffat
Local Co-ordinator
Member of Nutbourne Residents' Association

GENERAL SECURITY ADVICE - Don't allow thieves to spoil your Summer

Summer provides burglars with opportunities when windows are left open overnight, or while houses are unoccupied. Remember to close and lock ground floor windows and doors before bed or going out, so as to reduce the temptation for thieves. A burglar may be agile, swift and silent.

Property may be stolen merely by leaning through an open window. Thieves also take advantage of surrounding noise by walking through an unlocked door whilst the occupier is in the garden, mowing the lawn or washing the car.

Remember to lock your side gate to prevent access to the rear of the house. Make sure your fences and hedges are maintained.

If you have elderly and vulnerable neighbours, keep an eye open for strangers who act suspiciously in the vicinity. In Summer, they may have difficulty maintaining their gardens and could fall victim to cold callers touting for work.

There are unscrupulous persons masquerading as genuine tradesmen, who charge extortionate fees for little work and who may use the opportunity to burgle the house. Do not permit strangers into your home unless you are sure they are genuine. Use your door chain before answering the door. Think; are you expecting callers? Request and check identification carefully. Don't just rely on sight of the telephone number on the ID. If uncertain, ask the person to make an appointment, when you know you will have someone else in the house.

Keep a list of telephone numbers of local utility companies, to check if callers are genuine.

If you need help with your garden, use someone you trust. West Sussex Trading Standards offer an Approved Tradesman list where the trader has been subject to stringent checks and is reliable. Their website is www.westsussex.gov.uk/tradingstandards or Tel 01243 642124.

If in doubt, or you think you have had an untoward visit, let the police know immediately so they can investigate, to see if they are genuine. Phone 0854 60 70 999. If you think a crime is in progress, phone 999 immediately.

Garden Sheds and Garages: thieves are interested in garden tools, mowers, chain-saws, bicycles, strimmers, fishing tackle, motorbikes, etc.

Spades, crowbars, hammers, chisels, etc., if left outside, might assist a burglar wishing to gain entry. Keep them locked or chained. Keep ladders secure or chained; they may provide access to upstairs windows. Secure, padlocked side-gates deter easy entry and departure. Use chains to secure items together, if necessary.

Ensure fittings are reinforced on the inside, so they cannot be forced, particularly if the wooden frame is weak. Use smooth headed coach bolts or burr the tops of screws so they cannot be undone. Battery operated shed alarms are readily available and inexpensive in relation to the property at risk.

Covering shed windows with a curtain prevents thieves seeing inside. If the risk is high, consider window grilles.

Check the condition of garden fences. Consider topping close boarded wooden fencing with trellis. Grow spiky or prickly plants, such as climbing roses, into it. Thorny shrubs in vulnerable border areas may act as deterrent

Consider an outside security light, which activates with movement (but don't blind the neighbours with an excessively bright one). Thickly laid gravel paths crunch under foot and act as deterrents.

Property mark expensive items with your post code in invisible ink. Photograph objects to aid identification. Die stamping, etching, ultra violet markers, permanent marker, smart water or micro dots may be appropriate. Mark your garden furniture to identify it. Be aware, garden furniture may be a climbing aid.

Consider securing vulnerable plants in exposed pots if located on the border of your property or close to the road or footpath.

Reminder: Keep an eye open for unusual activity and persons in your road. Report suspicious activity.

Contact Sussex Police on 0845 607099 Ext 30301 for Crime Prevention Advice or '999', in an emergency.

To provide anonymous information about Crime, contact Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.