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Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter



Uttoxeter and District

Issue 1 – April 2012

Welcome to the Uttoxeter & District Neighbourhood Watch newsletter issued on a quarterly basis (April, July, October and January) to promote neighbourhood watch schemes in Uttoxeter and surrounding areas, keep members and their areas updated and advise potential new scheme members how to get involved.

Do you know someone who would be interested in receiving their own copy of this Newsletter? If so, why not send this newsletter on to them and suggest they come along to the next Neighbourhood Watch meeting or contact Margaret Saunders, Uttoxeter & District Neighbourhood Watch Membership Secretary. [email: margaret.nwatch@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.nwatch@gmail.com)

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm at Uttoxeter Fire Station.

Uttoxeter & District Neighbourhood Watch Committee Members

Alan Felthouse (Chair), Janet Dean (Vice Chair), Rupert Hill (Treasurer), Delia Hill (Secretary), Margaret Saunders (Membership Secretary), Julie Parsonage (Media Co-ordinator)

Foreword by the Chairman

A Brief History

Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Watch has been in existence since 1988/89 when it was a relatively new idea (from the United States); originally launched jointly by our local Council and the Police; (our policing was then part of the Cheadle and Leek area).

Our initial format was one 'area coordinator' for Uttoxeter and 'local coordinator' for each group of houses forming a neighbourhood watch scheme. All area coordinators met regularly and also local meetings with coordinators were held. This soon evolved to the format we have now which is monthly meetings of coordinators with a small committee and a 'volunteer' police liaison officer. With our policing becoming part of East Staffs and recruiting of a Neighbourhood Watch Manager our meetings were then attended by our local Inspector and were held at the Police Station.

However, time has passed and we now meet once a month at Uttoxeter Fire Station – second Wednesday of every month – 7:00pm. Attendance at meetings by coordinators has never been mandatory, but any coordinator is welcome to attend whenever they can or if they have a particular issue to raise.

The first area covered was meant to be within the triangle formed by Holly Road, Bramshall Road, and Byrds Lane, however interest was greater than anticipated and our area soon expanded to cover groups of 'Neighbourhood Watch' over all of Uttoxeter, then the local villages. Now, any neighbourhood watch coordinator from within our Local Policing Area is welcome to attend.

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Our inclusion of 'Crime Prevention' stems from the original Crime Prevention Panel for Uttoxeter, which was initiated to work with and assist our local Crime Prevention Officers and always included one or more Neighbourhood Watch coordinators who wanted a more 'active' involvement. With changes to the Police structure which meant the disappearance of local Crime Prevention Officers, there was not the support required to continue the Crime Prevention Panel as a separate entity and it was decided to merge with the existing Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Statistics and Risks

When Neighbourhood Watch started we were given figures of local crimes for every month for just Uttoxeter, it was normal to be regularly informed of 12 to 15 burglaries or break-ins every month, and very rarely of less than 5, however this was still relatively low meaning that Uttoxeter was one of the 'safest' places to live. However the reports we now get for each month are much reduced, (1, 2, or 3 at most) and this now covers a larger area, also we now have a large number of new properties. It would be nice to think that this was entirely due to the presence of our Neighbourhood Watch groups and awareness initiatives, but I suspect it has as much to do with the fact that nearly all houses have now been fitted with much more secure windows and doors with the fitting of double glazing. Therefore Uttoxeter and our surrounding villages are still among the 'safest places' to live when compared with many other areas. On a statistical basis anyone living within this area has a very low risk of becoming the victim of crime, whether it is burglary, doorstep conmen, or theft of unguarded items. However there is still a risk, and no matter how small, if it happens to you then statistics and risks will mean nothing; - because you will have suffered 100%. Therefore I would like to think that we, 'Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Prevention Panel' try very hard not to become complacent.

Neighbourhood Watch Activities

We have always tried to ensure that any information that could help in identifying possible risks is passed on to as many people as possible, quickly and efficiently, this now includes the OWL scheme, managed by our Neighbourhood Watch Manager David Jones, which sends e-mail warnings/advice or recorded telephone messages to persons who have 'signed up' to the OWL scheme.

We have always promoted the 'post coding' of valuables (or photographing) together with advertising the fact to deter possible burglars.

We have also ensured that all areas covered by our Neighbourhood Watch Scheme have highly visible signs, not just adjacent to groups but also on main entrance roads.

However the single most important, and enduring part of 'Neighbourhood Watch' is 'as it says on the tin' – 'Neighbourhood Watch', which means all of us should try and get to know our immediate neighbours, and keep an eye on each other's property (especially when they are away) or take note of anything unusual (an unmarked/unknown van in the drive when they are out for instance?).

Future Initiatives

As stated above we have always encouraged and assisted in the post code marking of valuables to make them less attractive to potential thieves. However there is now a much better way of marking property – with Smart Water – which is unique to the individual property. This not only identifies the property to exactly where it came from, but also, by transfer of the tiniest part to the burglar, - it can identify the culprit.

This has been taken up by 'industry' and large organisations, and is proving to be a very effective means of identification of the culprit/s as well as deterrent (some buildings have been fitted with sprays which mark intruders on entrance, and cannot be washed of or removed).

The success of Smart Water means it is now becoming 'affordable' to the individual, through groups and organisations therefore Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Prevention Panel have recently started to launch a 'Smart Water for Uttoxeter and Districts' initiative.

Alan Felthouse
Chair
Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Prevention Panel

*** News Flash *** You are cordially invited to a SMARTWATER meeting on Wednesday 13th June 2012 at Uttoxeter Town Hall at 7 – 9pm. A representative from SMARTWATER will be giving a presentation and answering any questions you may have. The cost of a SMARTWATER home coding pack to Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Watch Members will be a one-off payment of £20. Please visit the SMARTWATER website for more details:

<http://www.smartwater.com/Personal/Products/Forensic-Property-Coding.aspx>

Police Report

Uttoxeter is part of the East Staffordshire Policing Unit and has six Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). PCSOs have a dedicated area to patrol.

The six areas covered are:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------|
| 1. Town Centre | PCSO 16930 | Lucy Hadfield |
| 2. Town Heath East | PCSO 8994 | Amanda Hales |
| 3. Town Heath West | PCSO 8880 | Sean Elliott |
| 4. Abbots Bromley | PCSO 8884 | Sarah Hunt |
| 5. Barton and Needwood | PCSO 6441 | Steve Smith |
| 6. Rocester and Churnet | PCSO 16631 | David Higgs |

PCSOs work a rota of early and late shifts interspersed with four days off. Early shifts start at 8am and finish at 5pm. Late shifts are from 1200 noon until 10pm. Occasionally work hours are altered at short notice due to incident demands.

The duties of a PCSO cover a broad spectrum of work which can be both challenging and interesting. Their role is generally to engage with their community providing high visibility patrols and support the Police Officers as and when needed. The daily work of a PCSO is far from routine; however there are structures in place that have to be adhered to daily. Typically on arrival at work a PCSO carries out a self-briefing which involves researching any incidents that have occurred on their area since the last tour of duty. With this information the PCSO can work out a patrol plan for the day. This may include a high visibility patrol either on foot or cycle, visiting victims such as those of anti-social behaviour to offer reassurance and to establish if any further action needs to be taken. Sometimes there is work to do in supporting Police Officers such as house to house enquiries that may need completing in relation to a crime or viewing CCTV footage and reporting back. Another responsibility is to organise and attend

community meetings e.g. PACT (Partnerships and Communities Together), Uttoxeter & District Neighbourhood Watch and police surgeries. These are well advertised in local newspapers, community notice boards, and flyers, hopefully they bring PCSOs and Police Officers, and the community together to resolve community issues.

Obviously at any time a PCSO can be called upon to deal with an incident that has just come to light. Such as a burglary where they may be needed to support the Police Constable's investigation or at the scene of a road traffic collision to assist with traffic duties. Whilst on patrol members of the public often approach PCSOs to report incidents, or of a more minor nature to request directions or people report more serious crime. e.g. theft from motor vehicles, prowlers or a suspicious person or activity.

PCSOs represent a good link between the Police and the public. To reinforce this we have a personal radio that is on the same radio wave as the Police, giving us instant access to them should we need their assistance. High visibility patrolling is of paramount importance, both to the PCSO and the public they serve. Communities are reassured when they see a uniformed presence on the streets and when a PCSO becomes a familiar sight on the area he polices, the public feel they can comfortably talk to their PCSO regarding issues that may affect the neighbourhood. In turn, the PCSOs work heavily with a range of agencies, East Staffs District Council, Social Services, Environmental Health, Schools, Charities and local community groups, of which, all shape and influence the neighbourhoods in which we all live.

Throughout 2012, the policing powers that PCSOs have are being enhanced and increased, due to the nature of the work we do, it has been decided to increase the powers so we can deal with incidents more effectively.

Anyone can contact Staffordshire police by ringing the new non-emergency number 101, and of course, in any emergency, you must ring 999.

Finally, being a PCSO is a fantastic career, primarily helping regular police officers with crime and community issues, anti-social behaviour, and also providing reassurance to the communities, and the public which we serve.

Kind Regards,

PCSO 8880 Sean Elliott
Uttoxeter Police.

Numbers to remember

Staffordshire police non-emergency -101 (15p each call) or 0300 123 4455

Lost or stolen Mobile phone? To block all networks 08701 123 123

Call Crime stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111

Remember - When a crime is in progress always ring 999

Communication is key to Uttoxeter & District Neighbourhood Watch; do you have an email address you'd like to send us? [email: margaret.nwatch@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.nwatch@gmail.com)

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Uttoxeter and District Neighbourhood Watch Crime Report March 2012

Date	Area	Reported Crime
04/03/2012	Churchill Close	Criminal damage to flower structure
05/03/2012	Tobys Hill, Draycott-in-the-Clay	Criminal damage to electric cabling
14/03/2012	Carter Street	Criminal damage to bar window
20/03/2012	Wales Lane, Barton-under-Needwood	Criminal damage to bench
24/03/2012	Morrilow Heath, Leigh	Criminal damage to rockery
30/03/2012	Arden Road, Barton-under-Needwood	Criminal damage to living room window
21/03/2012	Westlands Road	Criminal damage to vehicle - scratch damage
24/03/2012	Town Meadows Way	Criminal damage to vehicle - window smashed
24/03/2012	Town Meadows Way	Criminal damage to vehicle - bonnet dents
30/03/2012	Hamilton Avenue	Criminal damage to vehicle - window smashed
31/03/2012	Main Road, Denstone	Criminal damage to vehicle - paint stripper poured on vehicle and tyres slashed
03/03/2012	Derby Road	Theft from vehicle - plastic liner stolen
17/03/2012	The Green, Barton-under-Needwood	Theft from vehicle - exhaust stolen
19/03/2012	Holland Park, Barton-under-Needwood	Theft from vehicle - catalytic converter stolen
19/03/2012	Meadow Rise, Barton-under-Needwood	Theft from vehicle - catalytic converter stolen
20/03/2012	Marl Pit Lane, Denstone	Theft from vehicle - sat nav stolen
22/03/2012	Town Meadows Way	Theft from vehicle - catalytic converter stolen
25/03/2012	Main Street, Tatenhill	Theft from vehicle - catalytic converter stolen
27/03/2012	The Green, Barton-under-Needwood	Theft from vehicle - catalytic converter stolen
31/03/2012	Woodhouses, Yoxall	Theft from vehicle - sat nav stolen
03/03/2012	Station Road, Barton-under-Needwood	Theft of vehicle
18/03/2012	Didcot Drive, Marchington	Theft of vehicle
20/03/2012	Toothill Road	Theft of vehicle - motorbike stolen
08/03/2012	Springfield Road	Burglary dwelling
31/03/2012	Heatley Lane, Abbots Bromley	Burglary dwelling
07/03/2012	Blithfield Reservoir	Burglary other (outbuildings)
10/03/2012	Stubwood Lane, Denstone	Burglary other (outbuildings)
14/03/2012	Dogshead Lane, Barton-under-Needwood	Burglary other (smallholding)
18/03/2012	Woodhouses, Yoxall	Burglary other (gardening nursery)
19/03/2012	Barton Gate, Barton-under-Needwood	Burglary other (shed)

[Always Remember to Close it, Lock it & Check it](#)

[Credit Crunch linked to rise in Burglaries](#)

The current economic downturn is driving up crime rates across the UK. This is the view of local Police and Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators in areas where burglaries and robberies have increased dramatically over the past 6 – 9 months. We urge people to take heed of the ‘Close it, Lock it, Check it’ campaign as the majority of these incidents are ‘walk ins’, where windows or doors have been left open. Taking simple precautions such as close it, lock it and check it, can dramatically reduce the incidence of this crime as the majority of them are opportunistic. Being part of a Neighbourhood Watch Area can

also deter these opportunistic burglars and robbers and looking out for our neighbours by reporting anything suspicious can help the police to catch these criminals.

With the authorities having fewer resources at their disposal, it is vital we look after ourselves and our community to the best of our abilities, whilst also giving our full support to the Police.

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is one of the biggest and most successful crime prevention initiatives ever and is grounded in a partnership between the community, the police and other statutory agencies. Neighbourhood Watch is not solely about reducing burglary or break-ins it is about fostering and growing communities who care.

Website Information:

The national website for Neighbourhood Watch is the following address: <http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/>
The Neighbourhood Watch messaging service used by Staffordshire Police is: <http://www.owl.co.uk>

If you're interested in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in your area please contact: Margaret Saunders, Membership Secretary. [email: margaret.nwatch@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.nwatch@gmail.com)

Keep these things in mind:

1. Review your level of awareness in all aspects of personal security
2. Guard against criminal acts to your home and belongings
3. Report any suspicious activities to the Police
4. Look out for your neighbours, especially those less able to do it themselves

Date for your diary: next Uttoxeter & district neighbourhood watch meeting is on
Wednesday 9th May 2012 at 7pm at Uttoxeter Fire Station

Uttoxeter & District Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter is compiled from several sources such as police information, books and leaflets produced by community services, co-ordinators and websites. Whilst every endeavour is made to check these details, we cannot be held responsible and print them in good faith. The Media Co-ordinator reserves the right to select the material for inclusion from items submitted for publication.

Notes:-

Date:

Time:

Location:

Description:-

Male/Female

Age (approx.)

Hair (colour, length etc)

Clothing

Other distinguishing features

Vehicle:-

Make and Model

Colour

Type (saloon, estate etc)

Registration Number

Other Details

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