

CHASE POLICING DIVISION NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



E-mail edition

August - September 2009

STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Please come and join us on Saturday 3rd October 2009 at Staffordshire University, Beaconside, Stafford, between 10am and 4pm. This year's conference theme is:

'Communities Taking control'

The conference is FREE other than your personal transport costs and there is a FREE buffet lunch. Why not take this opportunity to meet with your Neighbourhood Watch Managers and other like minded members of Neighbourhood Watch, not just from your local area, but from across Staffordshire. All members of Neighbourhood Watch are invited to attend, so please pass this invitation on to the members of your Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Numbers are limited: To enrol as a delegate or to obtain further information, please contact the Neighbourhood Watch Team by the latest Friday 11th September on:

01543-464218 (Vicki)

01785-234129 (Ash)

01785-234427 (Ray)

Inside Justice Week

The fifth Inside Justice Week will run from 17 - 24th October 2009. The annual campaign aims to give members of the public an 'inside view'.

The Criminal Justice System belongs to the communities it serves and Inside Justice Week gives everyone a chance to find out more about it. There are also lots of ways that communities can get involved in the Criminal Justice System and Inside Justice Week is about highlighting those opportunities.

There will be lots of publicity closer to the date. Please look out for events in your local area and discover more about the Criminal Justice System.

Protect Your Purse!

When you are out shopping, please safeguard your purses, wallets and other valuables. During the past few weeks there have been a number of reported thefts across the area particularly in busy shops and supermarkets. Sensible precautions can help to make sure that your property remains safe and secure:

Be aware of who is around you when you're shopping, particularly in busy shops when you may be distracted by looking at the goods you are going to buy. Keep a close watch on your bags, purses, wallets and other valuables

When using a cash machine, always cover the keypad when entering your PIN so that no-one can see your numbers. Don't be distracted by anyone talking to you or suggesting that you've dropped something while using the machine

Consider changing your PIN to a number you can easily remember rather than writing it down

Where possible, keep bank cards and cash in separate wallets and purses

PRIZE QUIZ

THIS MONTH ONCE AGAIN TWO WINNING ENTRIES WILL RECEIVE A DOOR MINDER ALARM

The alarm hangs on the inside of the door handle. If an intruder touches the external door handle the alarm will emit a loud siren. As soon as the door handle is released the siren will stop and the alarm will re-arm itself and activate if the door handle is touched again.

This month's question is:

What is the date of this year's Annual Neighbourhood Watch Conference?

(The answer is in the newsletter)

**Telephone 01543-464218 or 01785-234129 with your answer, or post it to:
Neighbourhood Watch, Police Station, Wolverhampton Road, Cannock, Staffs, WS11 1AU**

Entries must be received by Friday 18th September 2009

Results and correct answer will be published in the October-November newsletter

JUNE-JULY PRIZE WINNER

PC Victoria Ison, Neighbourhood Beat Officer for North Stafford drew the two winning entries out of a hat. Mr Steven Furness, Bradley and Mr Alan Molloy, Hazel Slade, both correctly stated that you should keep the car in the garage.

A Message From Fire & Rescue: Free Home Fire Risk checks

Ring 0800-0241-999 for a FREE Home Fire Risk Check

(minicom 0800-0241-998, Text 07528-983101)

Garden Security

If someone can get into your garden easily without attracting attention, it gives thieves an easy opportunity to steal from you:

Are your fences and gates in good repair?

Do you have security lighting? (Low energy dusk-till-dawn lighting is environmentally friendly and cheap to run)

Do you leave things outside (ornaments, garden furniture, tools)? They can be easily removed or used to break into your house. Where possible secure them or fill them with heavy gravel to prevent easy carrying

Are there overgrown areas where someone could hide? Cut back shrubs and undergrowth so that you and your neighbours can see what's going on. Prickly plants and trellis provide an extra protection from potential intruders.

Pick Up the Phone and Help Solve Problems

Any community can become a target for the opportunist criminal and in Neighbourhood Watch we encourage members to make it harder for criminals to operate by protecting their property and making it more difficult for thieves to steal. Simple measures to reduce the opportunities for crime include:

Keep your front and back doors locked and windows secure so that no-one can sneak into the house

Always close car windows and lock your vehicle, even if you are only going to be away for a few seconds

Never leave any property unattended in your car

Some criminal activity is harder to deter on your own, for example fly-tipping, drug dealing, graffiti, nuisance and criminal damage. It's easy to assume that nothing can be done about such problems, in fact a great deal can be done, but the police can't do it alone. Everyone has a vital role to play by letting the police know of anything they see or hear that is suspicious, or any information about crime or criminals. Please don't leave it to someone else.

If you have information about criminal activity or if you see anything suspicious at any time of day or night, please contact

Staffordshire Police non-emergency telephone number: **0300-123-44-55**

IN AN EMERGENCY TELEPHONE '999'

Does Anyone Want to Contribute?

Would you or any member of your Neighbourhood Watch scheme like to contribute to future newsletters?

Would you like to submit ideas for topics to include in future editions of the newsletter?

Would you like to write an article and send it in for inclusion?

Perhaps you would like to write a letter and future editions could include a letters page.

Any ideas for changes or improvements, and any articles or letters will be very welcome. Post them to Vicki Singleton, Neighbourhood Watch, Cannock Police Station, Wolverhampton Road, Cannock, Staffs, WS11 1AH or e-mail them to: victoria.singleton@staffordshire.pnn.police .uk

A FREE Community Crime Fighters Course

Community Crime Fighters training began in December 2008 and to date around 1,500 people have attended courses. The training is aimed at local community activists, including Neighbourhood Watch coordinators, and it provides an opportunity to learn:

- * What the Policing Pledge means locally
- * The tools and powers local authorities could and should be using to tackle anti-social behaviour and crime
- * The help provided to victims and witnesses of crime and anti-social behaviour
- * Ways to get the best out of local crime fighting agencies

The events are **FREE** to attend, lunch and refreshments will be provided and help is available with travel costs if required. To book a place, delegates need to call the Community Crime Fighters registration desk on 0800-197-2965 or you can book electronically at www.communitycrimefighters.org.uk You will need to quote booking reference CCF 02

Following attendance at a one-day event you will be offered the opportunity to attend a free two day training event at Trafford Hall to learn more and to plan to take your crime-fighting initiatives forward.

Dates and Locations

South West Plymouth	Tuesday 15 th September
South East Brighton	Tuesday 13 th October
Midlands Birmingham	Thursday 15th October
North East Newcastle	Tuesday 3 rd November
Wales Cardiff	Thursday 5 th November
East Cambridge	Wednesday 11 th November
North West Liverpool	Tuesday 17 th November

LOCAL NEWS

CANNOCK & RUGELEY NPUs

Volunteers needed for Age Concern Befriending Service

Can you make a difference to someone's life? A volunteer Befriender will visit an older person who may have limited mobility, be frail or isolated, to have a chat or share interests.

Would you like to give an hour a week to become a volunteer visitor? Age Concern have older clients waiting for visitors in all areas. All expenses are paid, full training and support provided.

A volunteer needs two references and a CRB check. There is training induction and follow on training as appropriate, social events and full supervision and support for volunteers.

For more information, please contact Jenny Woodman or Kristian Palmer on 01785-788492 or 01785-788489

A Message from Cannock Chase Council Housing Services Estate Management

“Anti-Social Behaviour – don’t live with it – report it”

Cannock Chase Council Housing Services have set up a dedicated 24 hour Anti-Social Behaviour reporting line on 01543-464657. All calls are recorded by an operator and passed to the appropriate agency such as the police, Environmental Health department or Housing Services Estate Management Team, who will deal with the situation accordingly. Calls will be treated in the strictest confidence.

STREET WARDENS

Cannock & Rugeley Street Wardens offer support to residents, they work with young people in and outside school and work with other agencies to help resolve local problems such as nuisance and anti-social behaviour.

Contact them on 01543-437430

STAFFORD & STONE NPUs

Stone Boxing Club Trip

Members of the Right Stuff Boxing Club, based in Stone and spearheaded by PC Andy Whitehall, recently spent a week in Tenerife for some serious training, learning boxing skills and techniques in the gym.

During the trip the team completed an ascent of 3,718 metre high Mount Teide. Now the £1,000 sponsorship money has been donated to the Christina Trust fund, set up at Granvilles Wine Bar in Stone. The fund was set up in memory of Sean Day who died in a road collision and left behind his partner Claire and daughter Christina.

PC Andy Whitehall said “As with our regular training sessions, the trip helped to support members and encouraged them to focus on self respect which ultimately raised their self esteem.”

Stafford Speeders Targeted

Officers from Stafford Neighbourhood Policing Unit are cracking down on speeding motorists in and around Stafford town.

In an ongoing campaign, one day in July saw a number of motorists stopped by police and given advice. 3 drivers received fixed penalty notices for driving while using a mobile phone, 2 for driving at excessive speed and 2 were summoned to court.

Inspector Bob Pilling said “We will be continuing this targeted operation over the coming months and offending drivers can be assured that they will be targeted and, where appropriate, prosecuted. If vehicles are driven in an anti-social manner, drivers could lose their vehicles too.”

Keeping Bikes Safe

Officers from Stone Neighbourhood Policing Unit have been out security marking pedal cycles at local schools to help to keep them safe for local youngsters this summer.

PC Danny Lyon and PCSO Scott Biddulph have visited St Lawrence Primary School in Gnosall, Woodseaves Primary School and Cooper Perry in Seighford.

WOMBOURNE & WATLING NPUs

Watling Street Neighbourhood Management Area update Neighbourhood Beat Officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)

Neighbourhood Policing Unit (NPU) Commander:
Inspector 5136 Mark Jones, telephone 01785-218840

Sergeant 4921 Paul Cooke, Sergeant 4519 Heap

Great Wyrley
PC 4280 Sean Hinsley
PC 5343 Percival
PCSO 8854 Lloyd

Brewood, Stretton, Four Ashes, Slade Heath, Cross Green, Coven, Coven Heath, Giffards Cross, Wheaton Aston, Lapley & Stretton, Bishops Wood, Blymhill & Great Chatwell, Weston Park,
PC 4830 Smith
PCSO 6497 Mcaree
PCSO 8853 Price

Cheslyn Hay North, Glenthorne, Landywood Green, Cheslyn Hay South, Upper Landywood & Caddick Farm areas
PC 4891 Peter Clarke
PCSO 8852 Karen Terry

Shareshill, Essington, Westcroft, Sneyd, Newtown, Springhill, Hilton Services
PC 4864 Rushton
PCSO 16303 Willis

Featherstone, Brinsford Prison, Shareshill, Saredon & Wedges Mill area
TBA

Penkridge & District (Mitton & Levedale, Dunston & Coppenhall, Penkridge, Acton Trussell, Teddesley park area)
PC 827 Hardt
PCSO 8851 Del Slater

Huntington, Calf Heath & Hatherton, Gailey & Rodbaston areas
TBA
PCSO 16636 Allen

Drug Awareness Events

With the support of local Head Teachers in a partnership drive to ensure our schools are safe from drug activity, officers from Watling Street Neighbourhood Policing Unit have visited Wolgarston High school in Penkridge and Great Wyrley High School with the division's drugs dog. The officers gave an input to students and staff about the dangers of drugs. There were no drugs found during the events.

Tips from Coordinators

Geoff, Hednesford

Beware: There is an e-mail going round that looks convincingly like one from HM Revenue and Customs and states that the recipient is due a rebate. The e-mail then goes on to ask for personal information.

Dusty, Shropshire border

A number of people across the border in Shropshire have been conned out of money by telephone callers purporting to be from BT and stating that the resident owes money on their BT account. The callers are persuasive and persistent and only ask for small amounts of money, but once they have the credit card details, they can and will take far more from the account.

It is advisable to NEVER give personal details, bank or card details to anyone unless you are certain that they are genuine.

Dusty

Residents in Staffordshire have received personally addressed letters some purporting to come from Bank or Legal representatives in China and some from the Spanish Sweepstake Lottery International advising them that they are entitled to either large sums of investment money or Euro winnings. Advice is not to reply or provide any personal information.

Further advice on scams and other consumer information can be obtained from Consumer Direct by telephoning 08454-040506 or visit their web site at: www.consumerdirect.gov.uk

IN BRIEF

Drug Arrests

Following three warrants in the Stafford area a woman has been arrested for possession with intent to supply cannabis, and cash was seized from a property where a man has been arrested for possession with intent to supply cannabis

Town Centre Confiscation

During a patrol in Stafford town Centre with the division's drugs dog, the dog indicated that eleven individuals had come into contact with drugs. One man was found in possession of a small amount of vegetation and he received a warning from officers and another man was found in possession of a grinder, which was confiscated.

Crime Drops by 6% in Staffordshire

Over 1,300 fewer crimes were recorded in Staffordshire in April-May 2009 compared with the same period in 2008. A drop of 6%. Serious acquisitive crimes committed in April-May-June fell from 3,443 in 2008 to 3,080 this year. Business related crime dropped by nearly 7%. Offences such as shoplifting and commercial robbery and burglary fell from 2,759 to 2,575.

TRADING STANDARDS WARNINGS

Alarms Warning

There have been recent reports of a company cold calling elderly residents to sell alarm packages at significantly higher cost than the local authority schemes. There are lots of companies selling personal alarm packages and it is advisable not to buy or sell at the door or over the phone.

Always shop around to get the best value and ask family friends or neighbours if they can recommend companies.

Identity Theft?

A recent incident in Staffordshire at first sight thought to be an unsolicited goods scam appears to be a possible case of identity fraud.

A lady took delivery of a parcel on behalf of her husband but on his return home he told her that he was not expecting a parcel. The husband contacted the company and was told that an account had been set up in his name and that the company would expect payment. After further contact the company agreed to take back the goods and arranged to collect them.

That evening around 8pm two men in a white van visited the house. One of the men came to the door and said that he had come to collect some goods on behalf of the sender, and produced an

illegible scrap of paper. Fortunately, the lady asked for identification, which the man could not produce, therefore she asked more questions. The man took back his scrap of paper and left rather quickly.

It is likely that the men trying to collect the parcel were fraudsters who had opened an account in the husband's name and ordered the goods that they were now trying to retrieve.

Anyone experiencing this type of incident should contact the sender of the goods and ask them to provide a reference number or password for their collection agent to quote to you. If you suspect that you may be the victim of identity fraud, inform the police and also contact the Credit Reference Agency and ask to see copies of your files.

Don't Open the Door to Strangers!

As the summer draws on and the economic climate remains poor there have been increased reports of Bogus Callers across the county. The reports include both lone and teams of bogus callers who attempt to gain access to homes in order to carry out distraction burglaries. The callers have told householders a variety of stories to gain access such as needing to turn off the water supply, checking the electricity and calling to repair a wheelchair.

Never open the door to a stranger. Any caller should have a pre-arranged appointment and then only be allowed in once identity has been thoroughly checked to confirm the caller is genuine.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

URGENT/EMERGENCY

When a crime is occurring or about to occur, and for all highly suspicious incidents e.g. youths checking car doors.

RING '999'

NON-URGENT

Ring 0300-123-44-55

For **all** non-emergency calls. The call handler will transfer you to the person best able to help you.

STAFFORDSHIRE TRADING STANDARDS

Ring: 01785-277888

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We provide members with support, guidance and advice.

All information received is treated with complete confidentiality.

Vicki Singleton: Ring: 01543-464218 e-mail: victoria.singleton@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

Ash Connor: Ring: 01785-23412 e-mail patrick.connor@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

Ray Jones Ring 01785-23442 e-mail raymond.jones@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

STAFFORDSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

For information and advice

Cannock & Rugeley 01785-898065
Stafford & Stone 01785-898105
South Staffs 01785-898517

LOCAL COUNCILS

Cannock Chase District Council Ring 01543-462621 Web address: www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk

Stafford Borough Council Ring 01785-619000 Web address: www.staffordbc.gov.uk

South Staffordshire District Council Ring 01902-696000 Web address: www.sstaffs.gov.uk

THE TRADER REGISTER

The register has been produced by Trading Standards and partners for anyone who wants to find a trader in their area to do work on their home or garden. Traders are not approved by Trading Standards, but if there is a problem, members have pledged to work with Trading Standards to find a solution.

Telephone **01785-330888** Web address: www.traderregister.org.uk

GOT A PROBLEM? CALL BOING

Boing UK Ltd works in partnership with Staffordshire Police in providing a free telephone service to the public, 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. If you have a personal emergency, and need non-police help, Boing have a data base of local traders and services such as plumbers, glaziers and tree surgeons, and they can provide information about local services such as late night chemists and 24 hour petrol stations.

Telephone free on **0800-587-0548** Web address: www.boinguk.com

STAFFORDSHIRE CRIMESTOPPERS TELEPHONE 0800-555-111

The CRIMESTOPPERS telephone number can be used to pass specific information about crime or criminals without fear of reprisals or direct contact with the police. The service is anonymous and rewards of up to £1,000 are available for information which leads to an arrest and charge.

PREFERENCING SERVICES

To cut down on telephone cold calling ring **0845-070-0707** the call must be made from the telephone number receiving the unwanted calls. Use the same number to cut down on unwanted text messages to your mobile phone

To reduce cold-calling FAX messages ring **0845-070-0702**

To cut down on personally addressed junk mail telephone **0207-291-3310**