

Rushcliffe Neighbourhood Watch Association

RUNWAY



www.runwayonline.co.uk

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Newsletter

MAY 2006



Chairman's report

Hello, my name is Angelo Squitieri and I'm very pleased to say that RUNWAY is still very much alive. I have lived in West Bridgford for many years and I felt duty bound to step forward and save this organisation from folding after just a few years of operation.

I would also like to welcome the following newly elected officers to the committee :-

Chris Robertson as new Vice Chair
John Lennon as new Treasurer
Jenny De Villiars as new Secretary

The following borough reps were also elected :-

Maria Wake for Bingham
Christine Jeffreys for Cotgrave
Bill Donaldson for Keyworth
Jean Greenwood for Ruddington
Alf Peters for Radcliffe on Trent
Chris Roberston, Don Read and John Lennard for West Bridgford.

We have already held our first meeting in March and have committed to improving things still further within Rushcliffe after all the hard work that was put in by Paul Roebuck and the rest of his outgoing team.

The website runwayonline.co.uk has been brought up to date and has already received over 2316 hits this year. Last year it received over 5,110 hits which was an average of 425 hits per month.

We are constantly trying to add our site as a link from others and to direct people to other local NH websites within Rushcliffe (e.g new link to East Leaks site) so if you know of any we are missing then please get in touch.

The Departure of Carolann Henderson our NH Watch Support Worker and Nigel Turner our Crime Reduction Manager has left us a little short on support recently but I'm now very happy to welcome Wendy Morris as our new NHW Support Worker who is due to start on Monday 22nd May and Bob Vaughan-Newton who replaces Nigel and is due to start soon.

Angelo Squitieri – RUNWAY Chairman

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News from our Partners

The Community Safety Team here at Rushcliffe Borough Council is working hard as part of the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) to keep Rushcliffe a safe place to live and work. We are continually seeking to raise awareness amongst communities of how you can help reduce the chances of becoming a victim of crime and as Insp. Harper says it really is a matter of common sense. The Rushcliffe CDRP is supporting a number of projects this year, which includes the shed burglary project mentioned later in this edition. The Community Safety Team is seeking to work more closely with Neighbourhood Watch over the coming year and beyond and provide a stronger link between residents and service providers. We would encourage people to join their local Neighbourhood Watch scheme and register with Rushcliffe Community Watch in order to beat crime in our community.

The Community Safety Team
Rushcliffe Borough Council
0115 914 8270

Police Report

I need you to reduce your chance of becoming a victim of car crime or burglary. The Police continue to do what they can to prevent and detect crime, whilst also dealing with everything else like missing persons, car crashes and so on. There has never been a time where ***I need the public of Rushcliffe to do their bit too.*** And it's really simple, just use COMMON SENSE.

Question: 'Whilst at home, watching telly, mowing the lawn, enjoying the BBQ, do you lock your doors and windows?? If you answered, 'Yes', then well done, you've reduced the chance of becoming victim to a walk in burglar. If you answered, 'No', then you need to change your routine immediately. With the onset of summer, my staff will undoubtedly deal with some burglaries that were wholly preventable. Fact: 33% of all house burglaries are through unlocked doors or windows. **'Lock up AT ALL TIMES to lock burglars out'**

Question: 'When you leave your car, what do you leave on display?? A SatNav, a mobile phone, a wallet, handbag, credit card, expensive sunglasses, CD's, cash.... the list is endless???' I despair at the things stolen from parked cars. Frustratingly, such crimes are preventable with use of common sense. FACT: SatNavs are the most sought after item of the car thief, easy to steal and easy to dispose of. The SatNav holder on the dashboard will indicate the possibility of a hidden SatNav in the vehicle... always remove the holder along with the SatNav.

And finally... your biggest enemy is **COMPLACENCY**. Rushcliffe enjoys comparatively low crime levels, resulting in complacency. Be alert to crime wherever you are. Burglars will travel far and wide to commit burglaries. Similarly, car thieves do travel from car park to car park, or street to street, looking for their opportunity, whether a quiet country pub, dog walker's car park or town centre. Use common sense, your biggest weapon against crime.

If you know who's committing crime, using drugs or involved in anti social behaviour in your community then **phone CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800555111**. Its anonymous and its free. Go on... make a difference.... help us lock up criminals!!!!!!

Inspector Glenn Harper
Local Area Commander
Rushcliffe South LAC

0115 9670999 Ext 6261

glenn.harper@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

News from 'your' schemes

Lady Bay Crime Event

Our NH Watch stand, in collaboration with the police (and sponsored by the Rushcliffe Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership) held a shed burglary awareness event at the Lady Bay pub on Trent Boulevard on Sat 6th May. The stall was manned by Don Read and John Lennard who managed to take £51 through the sale of shed alarms and torches. Picture shows Don's wife, John and beat officer PC Adrian Bradshaw.



Bingham Launches New Website

Bingham Neighbourhood Watch now has a new 12-page website at www.bingham-watch.com. Inspector Glenn Harper, Local Area Commander Rushcliffe South, launched the new site at Bingham



Library on 2 May 2006, in the presence of key partners, scheme officers and co-ordinators. The site will help to

promote, expand and co-ordinate the Neighbourhood Watch movement across Bingham.

The new site replaces the former version; it carries more information, is better organised and has improved site navigation. It has been designed to help existing members to keep track of latest news and developments, and be of particular value in showing new and prospective members the benefits of joining Neighbourhood Watch.

The site includes: latest news; streets in membership; benefits of membership; crime

data; links to RUNWAY, Nottinghamshire Police and many other sites; projects undertaken; tips for crime prevention; key partners; contact details; and a range of other information. Chairman Maria Wake commented: "The website is a major advancement on our previous site and we are indebted to Bob Garland who has designed and built the site. We're also very grateful to local Estate Agency, Hammond Harwood, whose donations have funded our website hosting."

The photo shows Inspector Glenn Harper at the computer, with Chairman Maria Wake standing behind him, together with representatives of partners and management team.

Neighbourhood Watch –Marketing

Farmer's marketing that is. The West Bridgford Neighbourhood Watch has a gazebo and thus an instant stall which has been present at sixteen Farmers' markets on Central Avenue over the past few months. On sale are shed alarms, dusk/dawn light fittings, timers, personal alarms and the latest "must have" item, wind up torches. These are ideal for keeping in the car for emergencies. Over £2400 of goods have so far been sold. The stall affords an ideal opportunity to engage with the public, offer advice on how to start a NW scheme and deal with security problems.

IF anyone out there wants advice on obtaining these products contact Don Read on 0115 9820 996 or E mail don-read@tiscali.co.uk

WEBWATCH Report

With all but two areas of West Bridgford now represented at its meetings, the group is now pressing ahead with a review of its membership. As in other areas of the county, records have slipped and many people registered as members have, in fact, either died or have moved away. In one road, Davies Road, it is estimated that up to 20% of houses have changed ownership in the last ten years.

Gamston and Compton Acres remain a problem. The lack of a central community point makes it difficult to identify either the need or the desire to organise Neighbourhood Watch. In the case of Gamston it has been felt they might merge with Edwalton, which is now very well organised and highly successful. Compton Acres remains without any voice on the Group and this may deprive them of the future benefits of membership, including lower house insurance premiums (see NottsWatch report).

The final plea is for someone willing to Chair the occasional meetings, currently being held at the Conservative Club in Rectory Road. It is the least onerous of any of the jobs, as most of the admin now goes through the secretary, treasurer and vice-chairman. So, if you can spare two hours to keep

Chris Robertson – WB Vice Chairman

NOTTSWATCH Report

Short for Nottinghamshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

The County committee held its first meeting in early May, following its first ever annual meeting and its official inauguration.

Its main aims are to establish a standard agreement of best working practise with the police; to secure direct funding from the County and City councils; to update current membership lists and to take the appropriate

action in affected areas; to work with the County Council and the police to establish a full-time Neighbourhood Watch office, probably based at County Hall; to broaden the scope of NW to encompass a broader range of neighbourhood care, for example health and safety in the home, special care for the elderly and how to bring more youth into NW. There will also be moves to help organise NW work within the City of Nottingham where the need is greatest and organisation non-existent.

The practical benefits of all this will take some time to filter down but for too long Neighbourhood Watch has lived a hand to mouth existence. In some areas there is now a charge to be a member. This did result in an initial drop-off but only in the short term. It was felt that if people who paid up a pound or two a year then valued their membership and played a more active part in what went on.

The main need, as seen by the NottsWatch committee, is to end the current system of cash being handed out by the County to the various Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), then wait for this to be doled out to NW, but for the cash to come directly to the County and for the County to deal with the areas' needs.

A reminder, please – this has not yet been agreed, so NottsWatch does not yet have any money to hand out. We hope this will happen very soon. Watch this space.

Perhaps the greatest value for money could be in an official arrangement with the leading insurance companies whereby NottsWatch, through the area groups, will have an agreement to authenticate all registered members who apply for insurance discounts. Anyone making false applications would not only fail to get a discount but might even find themselves in trouble for making a false declaration to obtain insurance. At the most basic level, it would mean that in areas where NW make a small charge for membership, it will be a small percentage of the amount recovered on household insurance.

We will be looking at training volunteers to give practical presentations on anti-crime

methods and, if wanted, on wider aspects of community safety.

Finally, identity cards should be available soon. The printing and processing equipment is on order. What is currently holding things up is the need to find the best police telephone number to print on the reverse side of the card. This has to be a 24/7 number where the identity of the cardholder can be verified.

Plenty happening – plenty of work being done to make membership of Neighbourhood Watch in Nottinghamshire really worthwhile.

Chris Robertson – Nottswatch Chairman

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