



Neighbourhood Watch Office
Thames Valley Police
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UPDATE FOR HORSPATH NHW AGM FRIDAY 15th MAY 2009

The Neighbourhood Watch Office is now fully staffed again. There are three members of staff in our team, working part time, (each 22hrs a week) Carol Rudd, Clare Stroud & Kathryn Gubbins. Carol is your main contact for the Horspath area.

Being fully staffed has given us more time to improve on communications. We are now sending out more Ringmaster messages. We work closely with your Neighbourhood Policing Teams so we can send you more messages local to your neighbourhood, including Neighbourhood Action Group Updates, Police Surgeries, Crime Reduction Events, etc. Using the Ringmaster/Community Messaging System, our aim is to improve communications with communities, listen to what you want and try our best to deliver. **(The NAG Updates are only sent out on Ringmaster to email recipients, as they are too long for telephone broadcasts)**

The Thame Neighbourhood Policing Teams have put a lot of work into reviving Country Watch Schemes in the Thame Police Sector. There are over 200 individual Country Watch Members living in rural areas, who we communicate with on a regular basis using the Ringmaster/Community Messaging System. Country Watch Members communicate with the police and report incidents such as suspicious people/vehicles in the area, Illegal Hare Coursing, Raves, etc. The benefits to NHW schemes is knowing that there are people looking out and reporting suspicious activity in and around our Towns/Villages, which can help detect potential offenders and help deter crime.

The Neighbourhood Watch Office is in the process of producing a Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter, which should be finished by the end of this month. A Ringmaster message will be sent out to all Co-ordinators when it is available.

The Home Office is offering a FREE ADVICE PACK for anyone who is concerned about becoming a victim of burglary. The pack includes leaflets on burglary, a UV marker pen, and discount vouchers for home security products from DIY stores, including B&Q & Focus.

TELEPHONE FREE ON 0800 456 1213 for a free pack

There is also a new online questionnaire which the Home Office produced to help people identify areas where they can make improvements to their home security. The questionnaire takes approx: 3 minutes to complete.

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/secureyourhome

Some NHW Schemes have already completed the questionnaire and we have received very good feedback. It is a way NHW schemes can be more proactive and help reduce the risk of being burgled.

Trading Standards - Can now provide you with details of reliable local tradesmen and women to carry out work around your home and garden. The new "BUY WITH CONFIDENCE SCHEME" brings together a list of gardeners, plumbers, builders and other types of business from all over Oxfordshire that have been individually checked for trustworthiness and compliance with consumer protection laws. Trading Standards visit and vet each applicant and if they pass stringent checks, they can become a member of the scheme and display the "BUY WITH CONFIDENCE" LOGO. This new scheme is welcomed and it is hoped that when publicised and used more, it will help to reduce the number of people being victim to Rogue Traders.

For more information on this scheme, please visit:

www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk or [Telephone 0845 051 0845](tel:08450510845)

A new Crime Reduction Advisor covering the Thame Police Area has been appointed, his name is Malcolm Wills and he can be contacted via the police non-emergency telephone number on 08458 505 505.

Malcolm has replaced Lesley Nesbitt.

The year end Crime Figures have just been finalised, please contact either your NHW Area Co-ordinator or the Watch Office on 01235 556957 for a copy.