

Traders List

Please remember that the Crime Prevention Co-ordinator has the recommended Tradesman List. If you would like to add any recommendations or comment on any of the recommendations, please contact her on 583832.

How safe is your garden?

Think like a burglar for a minute, how would you get into your own house when it is locked? Tools in the garage? There's no alarm in the garage, there is no lock on the shed. The ladder in the garage is now the staircase to your home. The bike is the getaway. Think about how secure your home is by thinking how to get in. Lock your shed, and alarm your garage, postcode your property, and make sure *everything* is securely locked away.

Locking your property

We have lost count of the number of times that we remind people to lock your sheds, garages and houses. Unfortunately, we still find that this is exactly what the householders do not do! Please, **lock it or lose it.**



How can I become a StreetCare champion?

If you want to be a StreetCare champion please contact Colin Hayler, Education Officer. Phone: 01293 438547 Email: colin.hayler@crawlley.gov.uk or you can write to us in Amenity Services at the Town Hall.

Thanks to "Crawley Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership" for printing this newsletter for Crawley Neighbourhood Watch.

Council news – StreetCare Champions

- Litter
- Graffiti
- Recycling
- Fly Posting
- Fly Tipping
- Street Trees
- Grass Cutting
- Street Cleaning
- Shrubs and Hedges
- Abandoned Vehicles
- Anti-Social Behaviour

Do you care about these issues? Live in Crawley and want to help improve your neighbourhood? Then become a StreetCare Champion!

You will be able help your community by reporting environmental problems, suggesting ways to improve your local area, and being a proactive champion for the environment.

What are StreetCare Champions?

StreetCare Champions are volunteers who take pride in their local area and are keen to make their neighbourhood cleaner, greener and safer. They are the 'eyes and ears' of their neighbourhood.

The StreetCare Champions scheme links to the highly successful Let's FACE it! campaign, which has seen dozens of volunteer-led environmental improvement projects undertaken since it was launched in April 2005. FACE stands for 'Focus Action for Crawley's Environment'.

StreetCare Champions will have close links with Crawley Council, reporting 'clean, green and safe' problems for our rapid response teams to deal with. In response, we will make sure that issues are dealt with quickly and efficiently, wherever humanly possible!

In addition, we will be looking at StreetCarers to champion issues such as recycling, encouraging their neighbours to make maximum use of the REDtop bins and neighbourhood recycling sites.

Residents who sign up to be StreetCare Champions will be invited to attend get-togethers every few weeks. Here, StreetCare Champions will be able to find out more about how environmental issues are being dealt with by the Council, as well as discussing how these issues could be dealt with in the future.

**In an Emergency please ring
999**

**Non-emergency number
0845 60 70 999**

**West Sussex Trading Standards
01243 642124**

**Crimestoppers
0800 555111**

**Crime Prevention Co-ordinator
01293 583832**

debbie.flint@sussex.pnn.police.uk



KEEPING WATCH

Crawley
www.crawley.org.uk

John Wright, Chair of the Crawley Neighbourhood Watch

I would like to thank all our NHW members for their diligence and being proactive in helping to reduce crime in our town. A great big thank you to Don Edwardson, Community Safety Officer Crawley Borough Council, for his support and to the Crawley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership for sponsoring this Newsletter.

Our tactics this year will be about **quality and not quantity**. In other words, we need members, Co-ordinators and Area Co-ordinators to give a few hours per year to assist and help bring your neighbourhoods back to YOU. Data protection forms have been sent to those members that receive privileged information from the Police so that this can be passed on to NHW Members. Those that have not returned them by 28th March 2007 will no longer be deemed as a NHW co-ordinator, this could have an effect on your NHW scheme, chase your co-ordinator to ensure they have returned the form! Debbie Flint, Crime Prevention Co-ordinator, has given more information below.

Those of you that attended the AGM, I feel sure that you found this very light-hearted, funny, but very positive and professional. Those that missed out, please come, you really do not know what you are missing, the atmosphere was brilliant, as were the three speakers.

Some of you will know that the local PCSO's have again done brilliant work in the neighbourhoods, well done we need you. Please keep up the excellent work that you do and I look forward to meeting you at our area meetings later in the year.

Thank you **all** once again for your very valid support.

Data Protection Forms

Debbie Flint, Crime Prevention Co-ordinator (NHW)

First of all, thank you to all Co-ordinators and Deputies who returned their Data Protection forms before the January deadline. This exercise will be repeated every three years and is necessary to update the records and ensure I have your correct contact details. Whilst updating the database it became apparent that a number of contact details for Co-ordinators were out of date. May I take this opportunity to ask all Co-ordinators / Deputies to inform me immediately of any changes, particularly telephone numbers and email addresses, to ensure you receive regular NHW Messages and are therefore able to circulate the messages to scheme members.

Quality and Feedback

During the past few months a number of scheme members and Co-ordinators have been providing me with some feedback.

For example,

- "NHW needs some life put back in it"
- "I don't receive any communication / NHW messages via my co-ordinator"
- "I don't know who my area co-ordinator is"

•"I have lived in this street for two years and didn't even know there was a scheme in existence"

Additionally, it would appear that there is a degree of inconsistency in the way some schemes are run. Some are 'active' whilst others have 'little or no activity'. As we know, it has been proved that NHW helps to reduce opportunities and fear of crime BUT only if both scheme members and co-ordinators participate and the scheme remains 'active'.

An 'active' scheme is engaged in all or some of the following activities:-

- looking out for the elderly and vulnerable,
- circulating NHW messages on a regular basis,
- reporting anything suspicious to the police,
- developing your crime prevention knowledge,
- holding occasional scheme meetings,
- security marking your valuable property,
- approaching new residents in an effort to persuade them to join the scheme etc.

As a result of this feedback, I have begun to address some of these issues and will be concentrating on improving the quality of schemes in a number of ways over the next 12-18 months. This will now be

my number one priority together with ensuring the steady growth of new schemes. Improving quality has been discussed at the NHW Committee and I am pleased to say that your committee have agreed to support this initiative. Working together, with the support of the Area Co-ordinators, I very much hope that street co-ordinators/deputies will also recognise the need for increased and better communication. I hope that you will support our plans to allow Crawley NHW to thrive in the future.

Area Meetings

Change can affect people in a number of ways. I know some people may start to feel unsettled & wonder what the changes will bring. But, I anticipate any changes will be a 'fine tuning' of the current system. Some of the issues we will be addressing are:

- The way Co-ordinators count the number of scheme members in their road
- Content of NHW messages
- Lack of circulation of NHW messages to scheme members
- 'E-mail Buddy' System
- Re-introduction of occasional area meetings
- Opportunities for sharing of ideas/suggestions between co-ordinators
- Encourage feedback and improve communication from scheme members, co-ordinators/deputies, via area co-ordinators, to committee level
- Outline the benefits of encouraging co-ordinators to hold occasional meetings for their scheme members (i.e. once or twice a year maximum)
- Develop closer liaison between Police Community Support Officer's (PCSO's) and street co-ordinators
- Encourage increased reporting of suspicious activity to the police
- Seek more deputies to support co-ordinators
- Provide co-ordinators with more support via regular contact from their area co-ordinator
- Circulate more crime prevention advice with the availability of leaflets.

To address some of the above issues I will run a series of meetings throughout the year for all co-ordinators /deputies. I hope your co-ordinator and deputy can attend these informative meetings. The meetings will be an integral part of improving the quality of Crawley NHW and improving communication.

Finally, we are lucky to have a strong active NHW committee. Co-ordinators /deputies play a key part in the success of Crawley NHW. Without you as volunteers, schemes could not be set-up and run. Both Crawley Police and Crawley NHW would like to express a big thank you for the work that you do and hope you will continue with your contribution and will travel with us on our journey towards a thriving 'Neighbourhood Watch Town'.

NHW Logo

All Co-ordinators/deputies AND scheme members are advised that the Neighbourhood Watch logo is now Crown Copyright and trademarked by the Home Office and therefore anyone wishing to reproduce the logo now needs permission to do so.

(for example if you use it on a newsletter etc.)

This has recently been enforced by the Home Office as there have been many examples previously of people unconnected to Neighbourhood Watch using the logo for commercial gain. Action needed to be taken to ensure that the reputation and integrity of the logo, and also the Neighbourhood Watch movement, are protected.

If you as an individual are reproducing the logo you need to obtain a licence. It is not possible to grant a licence to the whole of Crawley Neighbourhood Watch as they would then need to sublicense use of the logos to individuals and this could become difficult to administer and monitor.

A 'click and use' facility has been set-up to enable people to register to use the logo on the internet without having to contact the Home Office direct. This should make it easier and quicker for people to get permission to use the logo. To access this facility enter this link into the address bar:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/logos-branding/?version=2>

There is also a list of frequently asked question available here:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/logos-branding/nw-materials/click-and-use-nw-faqs/>



Please note with immediate effect it is illegal to use the NHW logo if you are not registered

Where have all the dustbins gone?

Written by Mary Grace, Three Bridges

Every week householders put out black sacks to enable refuse collectors to collect the rubbish quickly – good idea but a false economy.

Black sacks on the road attract foxes, rats and birds that pull them apart, discard the litter all over the road and potentially spread disease.

Rather than our Council Tax going towards rubbish collection and other worthwhile services, we will end up paying for rat catchers and more road cleaners if this practice continues. One way to prevent this is the use of bins.

Everyone should be encouraged to get a bin or ask their local Council if they can provide householders with this facility as they do with recycling bins. Plastic bags can still be put inside bins keeping them out of the way of wildlife but by storing rubbish in this way, we will keep our neighbourhood tidy.

If you are at work all day and feel that the bin at the side of the road could mean that your house is empty, please ask a neighbour that is at home to move it for you – **remember being part of NHW is helping each other to keep crime down.**

NHW may save you money!

Written by Trudie Peel, Pound Hill

I was pleasantly surprised when asking for a renewal quotation from my insurance company to find that one of the standard questions asked, along with 'do you have key locks on your windows, at least three point locking on your doors and an alarm' **'do you belong to an active neighbourhood watch scheme'** was there too. Answering 'yes' to all of the questions meant that I received a

discount! If you have not already done so, it could be worth your while to ask your insurance company about discounts for NHW members.

Do remember though that if your scheme lapses, i.e. loses the co-ordinator and/or messages do not get passed on; you have to tell your insurance company as you may not be fully covered.

Remember, there are security products, which can be found on the Crawley NHW website. Just check it out.
www.crawley.org.uk



Community Spirit

Written by Mary Grace, Three Bridges

In our local area, we get together to discuss how to keep the area tidy. Many of us have joined a scheme called 'Face It' run by the Council who provide spades and plants to help people make their neighbourhoods pretty and presentable. This has been a real success and people are spending their own money buying additional flowers and pots to make the area look even better.

In September 2006, residents in Three Bridges decided to have a neighbourhood friendship day where everybody got an opportunity to meet and have a chat. We organised a sponsored run for the teenagers who wanted to raise funds for the RSPCA, a bouncy castle for the younger children and a tombola stall. Residents generously donated all of the prizes, and this in turn enabled benches to be purchased for our park area.

Our NHW Chairman, John, ran a stall during the day where they talked to householders and showed them ways of keeping their property safe.

Before commencing the sponsored run, the local teenagers were given a warm up session led by Jane, an aerobics instructor from Northgate who gave her time free of charge.

It was hilarious watching the kids trying to keep up with her! Another family donated orange juice which the children gratefully drank whilst they were rushing around on the run.

Councillor Burgess was kind enough to join us on the day and took the opportunity of talking to as many people as possible.

All in all, the day went really well and people took the time to get to know each other. At the end of the evening, Keith, a keep fit expert and Patrick, a paramedic, who both live in our street ran a football tournament for the teenagers and the mums and dads if they had the guts to join in! During the evening, we were joined by the local constabulary who also spent some time with the residents talking to them which was appreciated by all.

Our Neighbourhood Watch scheme does not bombard people with papers to fill in. We like to try to sort out problems together. We don't hold our hand out for money; we just hold our hand out with friendship.

Thank you to the children who raised so much money for the RSPCA and members of the public who helped purchase the benches for our park area, also to everyone for putting in so much effort, making the area a great place to live. There are sadly pockets in our community that are not so good, but let's hope the bright side can change the dark side

Councillor Burgess, myself, the local Support Officers and a Church member are also trying to get a youth club up and running.