



Association of Scottish Neighbourhood Watches

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NEWSLETTER ISSUE 1

2010 Quarter 1 - January

This newsletter can also be downloaded from our website

Welcome!

Firstly a huge THANK YOU for registering your Watch with the Association of Scottish Neighbourhood Watches!

We look forward to supporting your Neighbourhood Watch to help make Scotland safer.

What's been happening?

At the start of 2009, our first job was to find out just how many Watches there were out there. We carried out mailings the length and breadth of the country and we were very encouraged by the level of returns. We now have a single database of all registered watches in Scotland.

In April we held our first Conference at the Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld. We got great feedback from those who attended. It was also an opportunity to honour our Award Winners at a special dinner held in the evening. With so much good work taking place in Watches all over Scotland, we were pleased to mark the occasion.

We've also produced a booklet on Community Safety. We've included it with this newsletter, along with a voucher from B&Q for security items.

Talk to us.

Communication is very important to us. This newsletter will be a quarterly event, but there are plenty of ways to keep in touch with us in between. We're working to build a new website and communications system that will help us to keep in touch with all of our Watches via phone, e-mail, text or letter.

We are also on Facebook and Twitter. So you can choose your favourite way to keep up-to-date.

We also try to get out and about to support watches and communities. Our National Development Officer, Lisa Toon has attended numerous meetings and events from Inverness to Stranraer. (And has even ventured south of the border to visit successful watches in England and Wales).

But what do all our Watches and Partners think? We are here for you and we want to listen to what you have to say. We have included an official survey form with this newsletter so that we can gather your opinions and ideas and use these to make sure we are providing the best possible service to you (see page 2 for more info).

We are always keen to hear from local watches, so please get in touch and let us know what you are doing.

Membership Survey – We want to hear your views

We have appointed ODS Consulting to undertake some research. The research will:

- Help us understand your needs better (so that we can develop the way we support local Watches);
- Find out what is happening locally (so we can identify what is working well and what isn't); and
- Explain to other people the impact Neighbourhood Watch has on local communities.

Tara McGregor is leading the research. Tara has been working for ODS for two years. During this time she has worked on a wide range of research projects in community safety, housing and community development. She often works with community based groups and voluntary organisations to help them with research or to improve how they operate. Tara recently worked with the AoSNW Trustees to help develop our Business Plan for the Scottish Government.



If you want to speak with Tara about the research you can contact her at ODS Consulting on 0141 424 3765 or freephone on 0808 129 2080. Or you can email tara.mcgregor@odsconsulting.co.uk. You can find out more about ODS Consulting from their website (www.odsconsulting.co.uk).

We have included a questionnaire with this newsletter. Please fill it in and return it in the Freepost address envelope. We would like to get as many honest views as possible, so we would really appreciate you taking the time to take part in the research.

ODS will also be in touch with some members by telephone to explore your experience in more depth – If you do NOT want to take part in a telephone interview, please let us know.

We have set up a data-sharing agreement with ODS to cover the duration of this project. If you would like to see the agreement, please contact us.

AoSNW AGM & Award Ceremony - Friday 10th September 2010

We'll be asking for nominations for the next AoSNW Awards soon.

Last year's categories included Best Neighbourhood Watch, Best Neighbourhood Watch Association, Most Supportive Police Officer and Best Partner in Community Safety, along with awards for innovation, communication and community spirit.



2009 Award Winners

Who will YOU nominate?

At AoSNW, we try to work with other people to help make Scotland safer. We'd like to give you some information on one of our partner agencies:

Partnership Focus: Living Streets Scotland

Creating safe, attractive and enjoyable streets...

Living Streets is the national charity that stands up for pedestrians. With our supporters we work to create safe, attractive and enjoyable streets, where people want to walk. We work with professionals and politicians to make sure every community can enjoy vibrant streets and public spaces.



As Engaging Communities Officer for Living Streets Scotland, Kirstie Henderson's role is to enable local residents to influence improvements and get changes made so their streets and public spaces can be made better for walking in. A community empowerment toolkit 'Reclaim Your Streets' has been written for local people and community groups so they can promote walking, assess their local environments and take action. Split up into these three sections there are a number of activities, ideas and templates to help people in their attempts to create safe, attractive and enjoyable streets.

The tools have already been piloted in 3 areas across Scotland with walking groups, community forums, and school children taking part in South Lanarkshire, Fife and Dundee. 'Reclaim Your Streets' has now been launched and is being rolled out amongst 12 community groups. Those living in areas of deprivation are being targeted, where levels of physical activity tend to be lower and people find it difficult to access local environments which make walking safe, easy and accessible.

Training and taster sessions are being delivered to those who are part of this programme of activity, with support and resources being provided to help them in their efforts to make a difference in their neighbourhoods.

Through this programme of activity it is hoped the project can expand its reach to more communities and help them achieve change in their own streets and neighbourhoods. Neighbourhood Watch Associations have a key role to play so we would encourage all those who are a part of them to check out the toolkit online to help them campaign in their neighbourhoods.

The project is initially funded until March 2011 and the initial results are showing that the community engagement is making small but significant changes on the ground, from improving access to open spaces to instituting park and walk schemes to help improve the school run. To get the free toolkit or for more information on how to improve your streets and put people first, go to www.livingstreets.org.uk/scotland

If you are interested in Living Streets delivering a training session for your watch or community group, contact **Kirstie Henderson on 0131 243 2647 or kirstie.henderson@livingstreets.org.uk**

SmartWater Strategy in Dumfries & Galloway

On the 2nd December AoSNW committee member Brian Smith MBE attended the launch in Dumfries of the Dumfries & Galloway SmartWater strategy. This is the first phase of its introduction as an additional tool in fighting crime and the fear of crime. The force is the first in Scotland to take up the SmartWater system region-wide to snare thieves.

To tackle recent rural thefts, police have teamed up with local Farm Watch schemes and obtained the SmartWater property coding systems, which will be offered to Farm Watch members. Property marked by this new system will be uniquely marked and easier to trace.

SmartWater is a protective marking system and a crime prevention and detection tool. It is a liquid based solution that effectively links the criminal to the crime scene. Each location or piece of equipment covered by SmartWater has a forensically unique liquid, like a fingerprint. UV lighting is placed in police custody areas and property stores, if the criminal or stolen equipment is nearby, the liquid will be clearly visible. Offenders do not necessarily need to be located that same day, as the solution remains on skin until exfoliation occurs and is virtually impossible to remove from clothing or shoes.



The applied solution is clear and invisible to the naked eye, it can not be scraped or burnt off, and less than a pin head is required for identification purposes. It can remain on property for many years.

After marking equipment in homes or workplaces, the property owners then register with the SmartWater database for identification purposes. Should property ever be stolen and recovered, the marking will assist the police to identify owners.

Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary see the introduction of this product to the region as another important tool in the aim of reducing crime and reducing the fear of crime. Constable Alistair Mitchell, Crime Reduction Officer, Annandale and Eskdale area said: "In recent months there have been a number of thefts from rural farms and in particular quad bikes. The introduction of Farm Watch and the SmartWater marking kits illustrates how by working together with the community we will target and pursue these offenders."

Superintendent Mike Leslie, Community Safety said: "Criminals are notoriously lazy individuals who focus on easy targets. We would encourage the public to ensure their property is secure at all times and suitably marked making it difficult for criminals. "The introduction of these systems will be an additional tool in preventing crime and warning the criminal that they will be pursued and caught."

SmartWater is available commercially but by working with businesses, the public and the numerous crime prevention schemes operating in the region; the Dumfries & Galloway Constabulary, through the Community Safety Partnership, are able to assist in offering access to marking kits at a reduced rate.

Please get in touch to let us know what you're doing in your area and we'll share it with other watches:



Good Practice Spotlight: Grampian NWA

By David Mackay, Chair, Grampian Neighbourhood Watch Association

Grampian Neighbourhood Watch Association's second main partner in Aberdeen is the Aberdeen Safer Community Trust (ABsafe). They are independently funded by the City and others, and have a positive brief towards NW. So much so in fact that not only have they funded some of GNWA's projects in the past, we have two volunteers working in their office two days a week purely on NW matters.

They approached us with the idea of presenting some form of NW 'show' at lunchtime to invited guests who are not involved in NW. These guests would be from the senior citizen community, and the form of presentation should be helpful, informative and if possible, entertaining. The theme would be 'Older and Wiser' although other ideas were bandied about such as 'You are not Alone with NW' and 'NW is Magic'.

We gave them a twenty minute sketch entitled 'Twitching Curtains' about a normal, dysfunctional family living in a fourteen storey flat block. It is light-hearted, funny and could be anywhere, with a strong NW awareness message throughout. The show was put on over three lunchtimes to several hundred people (overall) and was well received. Some new Watches came on as a direct result. To close the show we had short presentations from Grampian Police Community unit, ABSAFE and ourselves. (One of our team did magic tricks!).

The venue was The Lemon Tree, a community project theatre in Aberdeen, and the actors were all professionals, and therefore the cost factor was high, but we had funds which were ring-fenced to be spent in the City only, and so were able to contribute to the overall charge.

However, it could just as easily have been done in a community hall, with an amateur dramatic cast. Twitching Curtains will, next year, be taking to the road round Grampian, hopefully with the same or greater success. GNWA would like to offer the format to any other association as an innovative way of introducing the public to NW.

Presentation to William M Campbell



William (Bill) M Campbell was elected Chairman of the Association of Scottish Neighbourhood Watches (AoSNW) in 2004 and served in that capacity until he resigned from that post on Wednesday 2nd September, 2009. During his time as Chairman, Bill committed an extraordinary amount of his personal time in developing AoSNW to be the professionally organised charity that it is today.

He enjoyed many achievements but probably his main achievement was securing a three year funding package from the Scottish Government which allowed the appointment of the Development Officer – Lisa Toon, the Administrative Assistant – Angela Edgar, and the provision of office premises within the Scottish Business Crime Centre at Stirling University Innovation Park.

Bill has used his knowledge and experience of NW issues to great effect in chairing both the Trustee and Committee meetings and the chairing of Annual General Meetings. The staging of a full day conference at the Westerwood Hotel in Cumbernauld on Thursday 16th April, 2009 followed by an awards ceremony at night and the AGM on the following (Friday) morning was a highlight of his time as Chairman. Bill continues to support the development of NW in the Fife Constabulary area where he is the Chairman of the Fife Association of Neighbourhood Watches.

Bill enjoyed a pleasant surprise at the start of the AGM of the Fife Association of Neighbourhood Watches at Fife Constabulary HQ in Glenrothes on Wednesday 24th November, 2009, when Ian Fowler arrived and presented Bill with an engraved decanter and bottle of malt whisky in recognition of his efforts over the past five years.

The Trustees and Committee members of the AoSNW wish Bill every success in the future with his efforts in expanding the NW philosophy across the Fife Constabulary area.

Getting involved in AoSNW

The Association of Scottish Neighbourhood Watches is a registered charity. We are governed by a board of trustees which is made up of volunteers from around the country. We also have a wider committee, to help us understand the needs of watches all over Scotland.

We are always on the lookout for people to get involved in AoSNW. In the coming year, we plan to develop the skills and knowledge base on our board. We will be looking for people with experience in finance, legal matters, fundraising, marketing and human resources.

If you have some spare time and would like to contribute to the development of a relatively new and growing organisation, please get in touch. Or if you know of anyone who is keen to get involved, please pass on our details and have them contact us. We would love to welcome new members with a fresh viewpoint on how to take AoSNW and Neighbourhood Watch forward.



Region	Trustees	Committee Members
Central	Anne Marie Thompson	
Dumfries & Galloway		Brian Smith
Fife	James Watson (Treasurer) Lindsay Jones	
Grampian	David Mackay	David Macfarlane
Lothian & Borders	Ian Fowler (Chair) Andrew Tait	
Northern	Victoria Paterson (Vice Chair)	
Strathclyde	Andrew McDonald	Mark Biggins Stanley McLeod
Tayside	Bert Ironside Gordon Young Ewen (Secretary)	

Here is a table of current AoSNW representatives for your region.

As you can see, we have some vacant posts, so please do get in touch if you want to become involved in the development of Neighbourhood Watch at a national level.

STOP PRESS – Doorstoppers in Angus

Doorstoppers is an award-winning initiative in the Angus region to help combat doorstep crime and bogus callers. It involves a huge amount of partnership working between Neighbourhood Watch, Police and Trading Standards among others.

We recently worked with Trading Standards to evaluate the project, and the initial results look very positive indeed. It appears that the Doorstoppers project has contributed to a significant reduction in the fear of doorstep crime in the region.

We look forward to bringing you a fuller report when the full results are published.

Keeping your info up-to-date and accurate

We hold your details according to the Data Protection Act (1998). We are registered with the Information Commissioner's Office.

We understand that things change from time to time, for example, the coordinator of your watch may change, or you may get more members. Our new, improved website and communication system will allow you to keep us updated with changes to your watch more easily. We will supply more details on this over the coming weeks, but if something changes in the meantime, you can download a 'Change of Details' form from our website, or phone us to request one.

If you have supplied us with your e-mail address, please add info@aosnw.co.uk, lisa.toon@aosnw.co.uk and angela.edgar@aosnw.co.uk to your address book or 'safe list' to make sure that e-mails that we send to you are not blocked by your spam filters.

Contributions to future newsletters

This is your newsletter and we want to make sure it contains the kind of thing that you want. So if you have ideas for future editions, please let us know.

We're keen to share good news stories from around the country. So if your watch has been involved in a successful initiative or partnership venture, or if you've got a great communication system going, let us know. You can send us in pictures or articles to newsletter@aosnw.co.uk

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