



Association of Scottish Neighbourhood Watches

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NEWSLETTER ISSUE 7

2011 Quarter 3 - Summer

This newsletter can also be downloaded from our website

Moving Forward

We hope you're enjoying the Scottish summer. Here at AoSNW, the committee is still hard at work looking at our business plan and action plan, making strategic decisions on how to take the organisation forward.

It's nearly time for another AGM, though it hardly seems like a year since the last one! You can find details about how to register for a place at the end of this newsletter or on our website.



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It should be an interesting event, with a number of our partner agencies attending. Colleagues from the Police, Fire & Rescue, the Scottish Business Crime Centre, Crimestoppers and others will be exhibiting and will be on hand to give information and advice to attendees. As well as this, we have speakers from the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency and from Glasgow Community & Safety Services to provide inputs to the meeting.

For the past two years, we have held an awards ceremony to coincide with our AGM. After reviewing feedback from last year, we have decided to investigate other ways to recognise the achievements of our coordinators and, as such, we will not be hosting an awards ceremony this year.

We still have a number of challenges on the horizon. We're currently taking a look at our image, especially how we're perceived by people who aren't members of Neighbourhood Watch. Some of the preliminary findings from a survey we carried out are over the page. We have a fair bit of work to do to promote Neighbourhood Watch to a wider audience. While the number of Neighbourhood Watches is growing steadily, we would like to see it grow faster, particularly in areas where we don't have a large presence at the moment.

We'll be investigating different ways to make this happen in the near future.

As always, we are more than happy to hear from you on any topic related to Neighbourhood Watch or community safety.

“O wad some Power the giftie gie us, To see oursels as ithers see us!”

(Robert Burns, To a louse)

Over the past two years, we've conducted research with members of Neighbourhood Watches to find out what you need from us and how you think we're doing. However, we have recently asked people who aren't members of Neighbourhood Watches to tell us how they view our organisation and Neighbourhood Watch in general. The purpose behind this is to help in the promotion of Neighbourhood Watch and to understand the perceptions of Neighbourhood Watch in Scotland. At the time of writing, we've had just over 500 responses from a wide range of people.

It's good to know that 99% of people had heard of Neighbourhood Watch.

Only 8.5% of respondees identified themselves as members of a Neighbourhood Watch.

It was very encouraging to note that, of those people who were not members, 77% said that they would consider joining a Neighbourhood Watch.

When asked what came to mind when they heard the words 'Neighbourhood Watch', the responses were wide and varied. There are a lot of people who think of safety, security, community spirit and people looking out for each other. However, there were a number of mentions of 'curtain twitchers', 'busy bodies' and 'nosey neighbours'.

When asked about our current logo, people were less enthusiastic, with the majority of respondents saying something negative about it. Some common responses were that it was old-fashioned and dated.

It's now up to us to take what we've learned and use it to help us improve our image and encourage more people to start and join Neighbourhood Watches. We will keep you informed about how we're going about this. And, as always, we would welcome your thoughts on this.

Joining the AoSNW Committee

Are you interested in getting more involved in the direction of Neighbourhood Watch nationally?

We're looking for new people to help us to take forward the aims of our organisation. We have a strong business plan and a clear vision and we would like to invite people to join our board to help deliver these for the people of Scotland. We are still a young, developing charity and we have great potential to expand and improve.

Our committee is at the heart of the actions we take as an organisation. You would be playing a part in taking Neighbourhood Watch forward in Scotland.

If you'd like to be a part of this, please get in touch. Role profiles for committee members and trustees are available on request.

Our current board members would be happy to discuss the role with you in more detail.

Please contact us on info@aosnw.co.uk or **01786 450145** to request a form.

All applications to join the board should be received by us by 26th August.

We always talk about the importance of communication. At AoSNW, we are keen to take advantage of all forms of communication available to us, including social media. We're not the only organisation using social media to spread safety messages.

Social media and safety

According to Wikipedia, social media are “media for social interaction, using highly accessible and scalable communication techniques. The term refers to the use of web-based and mobile technologies to turn communication into interactive dialogue”.



We use Facebook and twitter to share information and to let people know what we're doing, but we also use it to find out what's going on elsewhere in the world of community safety. A number of police forces, fire services, local authorities, charities and other organisations share information and raise awareness of safety issues via twitter and Facebook.

Social media allows everyone to join in with the conversation, and to share information quickly and easily. Tayside Police, in particular, are very progressive in their use of social media and Deputy Chief Constable Gordon Scobbie is a frequent tweeter! He is also the national lead for Social Media within UK Policing.

Much was made of the soundbite “tweeting not twitching” at a recent launch event in England. But it's not about moving away completely from what's gone before. Rather it is about enhancing the way we communicate with each other and with partners.

Use some of the links below to see what people are talking about. And if you decide you like what you see, stop by and say hello and tell us what your Neighbourhood Watch is doing.

Follow us: <http://twitter.com/nwatchscotland>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Association-of-Scottish-Neighbourhood-Watches/177660203680>

Police twitter accounts

Central - <http://twitter.com/CSPComms>
Fife - <http://twitter.com/FifePolice>
Grampian - <http://twitter.com/GrampianPolice>
Northern - <http://twitter.com/northernPolice>
Tayside - <http://twitter.com/TaysidePolice>

DCC Tayside - <http://twitter.com/DCCTayside>

Other useful twitters for Neighbourhood Watches

Get safe online - <http://twitter.com/getsafeonline>
Suzy Lamplugh Trust - http://twitter.com/live_life_safe
Crimestoppers - <http://twitter.com/crimestoppersuk>
Funding Scotland - <http://twitter.com/fundingscotland>
Met Office Scotland - <http://twitter.com/metofficescot>

**You'll also find local newspapers and a variety of other organisations.
You might be surprised to see who's tweeting!**

Find your local authority on our list: <http://twitter.com/nwatchscotland/scottish-local-authorities>

Summertime Safety Advice

By Jennifer Henderson, home safety officer at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents in Scotland



Summer is a fantastic time for families to get out and about to enjoy the world.

For children, experiencing the great outdoors is not only a lot of fun but also helps them develop important skills for life. There might be a few bruises and grazes along the way, but don't worry - these are a normal part of growing up.



Very young children need constant supervision, but as they grow older they will be able to head out to play with their friends. We encourage parents and carers to talk to children about choosing safe places to play, and which areas to avoid and why; don't just set down a long list of "dos and don'ts"!

Water can be particularly attractive on a hot day, but inland waters, like rivers, lochs, ponds and reservoirs, sadly claim young lives each year. Remind children they should only swim under the supervision of adults who understand the hazards and know what to do if things start to go awry.

Closer to home, remember that constant supervision of young children in paddling pools is crucial, and, after use, tip out the water and leave the pool upside down to stop rainwater collecting.

Barbecues are another popular feature of summer...when the weather is good! However, rarely does a year go by without reports of serious injuries sustained when something has gone wrong. Last time accident figures were collected across the UK, around 1,800 people visited A&E in the UK having had an accident involving a barbecue. Of those, around 800 had suffered a barbecue-related burn or scald, and 200 had suffered a cut. The vast majority of barbecue accidents (1,400) happened at home, and 300 occurred in a public place.

Follow these safety tips for a fun and safe barbecue.

- **Choose a barbecue that is strong and sturdy and check it is in a good condition before use - look for loose or damaged parts requiring adjustment or repair**
- **Consider the location - level ground, away from fences, sheds and overhanging trees**
- **Never light a barbecue in an enclosed space**
- **Prepare the barbecue early so it is at the right temperature when you want to start cooking**
- **Particular care should be taken in hot, dry weather to reduce the risk of starting a grass fire**
- **Never pour petrol, meths or other accelerants on to a barbecue. Some of the most serious barbecue-related accidents happen when people do this**
- **Use long-handled tools and be careful of steam when opening foil parcels - it can cause a nasty scald**
- **Don't try to move a barbecue until it has cooled down**
- **Don't leave children unsupervised near a barbecue**
- **Make sure the barbecue is fully extinguished before you leave it**
- **Take care when getting rid of a disposable barbecue, or barbecue coals - ensure they have cooled down before placing them in a bin.**



www.rosपा.com

A quick reminder from AoSNW – Keep security in mind when you're out and about

Summer is a traditional time for being away from home, either on holiday or on day trips. Just remember to take some simple steps to make sure your home and possessions are safe and secure when you are not there.

- **Lock the door - Obvious isn't it? But some people don't do it. Lock the door even if you're only out for a short time. If you have window locks, lock those too. Why not keep the door locked when you are at home? This stops people coming in if you are in another part of the house or garden.**
- **Keep your keys out of sight - Don't leave a spare key under a plant-pot or in an easy to spot place at home. Make it as hard as possible to break into your home or to steal your car.**
- **Show people that your property is secure - Visible security alarms and carefully directed security lighting puts off thieves. Just make sure they don't disturb your neighbours by going off unnecessarily.**
- **Lights and Noise - Invest in timer switches and fit these to your lights and, if possible, a radio. Make sure the lights come on in the living areas of your home, and not in the hallway, for example. Tuning your radio to a station which is mostly talking is better than a music stations.**
- **Cancel Deliveries - Cancel milk and newspapers if you go away for any length of time. Getting a friend or family member to come over a couple of times a week to move the post is also a good idea if you have a glass door.**
- **Ask a neighbour - One you trust to keep an eye on your property. Tell them when you are going and when you will be back so that they can look out for anything unusual while you're away. You can do the same for them in return.**



What's Neighbourhood Watch all about?

One of the questions we get asked often is 'What do Neighbourhood Watches do?' There is no single answer to this question, as each watch is individual to its area and to the community it serves. In our survey, the most common activity carried out by watches was disseminating information on crime prevention and safety issues.

AoSNW are not prescriptive about what Neighbourhood Watches should or must do. Each group decides for itself how best to keep their community safe. Here are some suggestions of things that Neighbourhood Watches might do.

- | | |
|---|--|
| - Care about and have pride in their neighbourhood | - Help to raise awareness of safety issues and alerts locally |
| - Are aware of how to stay safe in a variety of situations | - Report information to relevant agencies (e.g. police, local authority etc.) |
| - Know who to contact for assistance or advice on safety issues | - Are welcoming and inclusive of all members of the neighbourhood |
| - Where possible, assist people who are less able to look after themselves | |

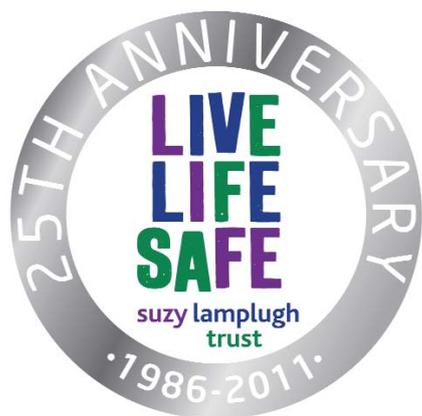
We'd love to hear from you with your thoughts on what Neighbourhood Watch means to you, or what your Neighbourhood Watch does for your community.

National Personal Safety Day 2011

**ON THE
HOMEFRONT**

Neighbourhood Watches may wish to join in with National Personal Safety Day 2011 (10th October) and the **ON THE HOMEFRONT** campaign, hosted by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust.

The aim of the annual National Personal Safety Day is to get as many people as possible throughout the UK thinking about their personal safety and giving them simple advice on how they can reduce the risks of becoming a victim of violence and aggression.



In this year's ON THE HOMEFRONT campaign the aim is to give people some useful tips on how to improve their personal safety in and around the home.

Support of National Personal Safety Day is extremely flexible. The organisers supply the tools and support, but leave the organisation of individual events and distribution to the local experts.

Organisations and individuals wishing to support the **ON THE HOMEFRONT** campaign can use the campaign resources to support their own local events; organised by themselves to suit themselves and their own community or organisation.

If you are interested in finding out more, or if you would like any of the promotional materials, please visit:
<http://www.suzylamplugh.org/personal-safety/national-personal-safety-day-2011/>



AoSNW AGM 2011



This year's AGM will take place on Friday 9th September at the Thistle Hotel in Glasgow. As well as updating members on the work that has taken place over the past year and presenting our accounts, we have invited two speakers to come along to provide inputs from other agencies.

Douglas McClounie from the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency will present on their work tackling serious and organised crime, and how the public can contribute. And Eleanor Lee from Glasgow Community & Safety Services will provide a local input, sharing the initiatives that Glasgow has put in place to make the city safe for residents and visitors.

As well as this, we have invited some of our partners to exhibit during the breaks, giving attendees the opportunity to speak to a range of safety organisations. A full agenda and list of exhibitors is available on our website.

Decision required

Last year, the members present voted to accept, in principle, a revised constitution based on the proposed constitution for a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Association (SCIO)*. The legislation governing SCIOs came into force in April 2011. The board have investigated the new type of organisation and at this year's AGM they will put forward a proposal to change the legal status of AoSNW from an Unincorporated Association to a SCIO.

A SCIO offers more protection to both the organisation as a whole, and the members of the board. A SCIO can enter into contracts and own buildings and land whereas an unincorporated association cannot. The liability of charity Trustees is limited (in most cases). As AoSNW is a developing organisation, the board are of the opinion that becoming a SCIO will be of benefit.

The main change members would need to be aware of are that members have additional duties under a SCIO. Members of a SCIO must:

- **Act in the interests of the SCIO**
- **Seek, in good faith, to ensure the SCIO acts in a manner which is consistent with its charitable purposes.**

We will be asking members present at the AGM to vote to pass a resolution which will allow AoSNW to take the necessary steps to become a SCIO, including the adoption of a new constitution.

If the decision is taken to change the status of AoSNW to that of a SCIO, we will inform all members of the change and when it will take effect. The proposed constitution will be available for viewing on our website from 1st August.

***More information on SCIOs can be found here:**

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/about-scottish-charities/scio/>

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/information/organisational-structures/scottish-charitable-incorporated-organisation-scio/>

AGM Details

Thistle Hotel
Cambridge Street
Glasgow, G2 3HN
Phone: 0871 376 9043
<http://www.thistle.com>

Friday 9th September
2011

Registration from 9am
Meeting starts at 10am
Lunch at 1pm

Registering for the AGM

To register for a place at the AGM, you can fill in and return the form below, or you can register online at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AoSNNW2011AGM>

We would ask that only one person per Neighbourhood Watch scheme attend to allow as wide a representation of members as possible. If you would like to register the interest of another member of your Neighbourhood Watch scheme, they will be added to a waiting list and we will allocate places on a 'first come, first served' basis after the closing date of 8th August.

Confirmation of places at the AGM will be sent out by 12th August.

AoSNNW AGM 2011 Registration Form

Please tick one:

I am the watch coordinator

I am attending on behalf of the watch coordinator

Full Name			
Watch Name			
Address			
Town/City		Postcode	
E-mail		Phone	

If you would like another member of your watch to be added to the waiting list, please provide their details below. We will only contact them if they are allocated a place.

Full Name			
Address			
Town/City		Postcode	
E-mail		Phone	

Please return to Freepost RSAA-YAAY-EGTA, AoSNW, Unit 10 Alpha Centre, Stirling University Innovation Park, Stirling, FK9 4NF by 8th August 2011.

Contact details

Freepost: RSAA-YAAY-EGTA
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