



Association of Scottish Neighbourhood Watches

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2011 Quarter 4 - Autumn

This newsletter can also be downloaded from our website

Here we SCIO!

Another AGM has come and gone, and this one resulted in a fairly big change for AoSNW. As we told you in the last edition of this newsletter, it was proposed that AoSNW become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). Members present voted unanimously in favour of this change, so it is hoped that all of the paperwork will be finalised by the end of the year, and AoSNW will become Neighbourhood Watch Scotland.

As well as this change, we are going to be looking at our image as a whole over the next couple of months.



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SCIO changes

Goodbye from Angela

Exploitation

Metal theft

Carbon Monoxide dangers

And more...

While the number of Neighbourhood Watches is increasing slightly, we want more people to be aware of the kinds of safety and security messages we can provide. Findings in a recent survey of people who aren't Neighbourhood Watch members showed that the view of Neighbourhood Watch is still very old-fashioned and out of date. We need to find ways to show people that we are a relevant, modern organisation, helping people to make Scotland's communities safer.

Along with the usual business of the AGM, we had speakers from the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency and Glasgow Community & Safety Services. They each gave different perspectives on crime and safety, and how communities could play a part in making Scotland safer. A number of our partner organisations were kind enough to take part in the exhibition space, and attendees found great benefit in talking to the different agencies present.

Sadly, the AGM was also Angela Edgar's last day with AoSNW. You can read about her time with us on page 3 of this newsletter. Some members of our board also said goodbye, Andrew MacDonald and Brian Smith (pictured above) among them.

With big changes ahead, it's never been more exciting to be part of Neighbourhood Watch in Scotland!

The clocks will go back by one hour at 2.00 am on Sunday 30 October. As we move towards winter, remember to make yourself and your family visible on dark nights and mornings. And always make sure that your house looks occupied and is secure.

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland - SCIO

For you as a Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, nothing will change regarding the service that we provide. We will still send out newsletters and alerts and we will still be here to help new and existing watches with any problems they may encounter. The changes will mainly be internal and structural, and these are outlined below:

The Board – The board will be made up of up to 12 people who will be Trustees. These will include Neighbourhood Watch members and people from outside the organisation with particular skills which will be beneficial to the development of Neighbourhood Watch.

Members – Individuals who belong to Neighbourhood Watch groups and are interested in the development of Neighbourhood Watch in Scotland can apply to become a member of the organisation. Members will receive management information throughout the year and will have the right to vote at the AGM. Members will also be eligible to become Trustees of the charity.

Associate Members – All currently registered watches will automatically become Associate Members of Neighbourhood Watch Scotland. Watches will still receive invitations to attend the AGM, but will not automatically be allocated the right to vote.

In order to finalise the change to Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, once agreed by **OSCR**, it is necessary for a Special General Meeting to be held in order to dissolve AoSNW and transfer its assets to Neighbourhood Watch Scotland. We will propose the following resolution.

"Pursuant to the resolution at the AGM held on 9th September 2011 and in accordance with clause 11 of the existing constitution, including the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) having been notified of their intention to do so, the members hereby authorise the Trustees, once it is confirmed that all charitable assets have transferred to the Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation named Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, to dissolve the Association"

If you have any questions or particular objections to the above, please submit them in writing or via e-mail using the contact details on the front page of this newsletter.

Telephone Scam – Cheaper energy bills

One of our coordinators in North Lanarkshire shared this recent experience: *"I received a telephone call from a person telling me that as I was such a good customer of my energy provider, paying bills on time and had an excellent credit rating with them, they would be sending me a device which I had to connect to my power supply.*

The device then allowed me 40% cheaper power. I was suspicious, but carried on listening to what he had to say. He went on to ask me some 'security' questions, eg. name, address, DoB etc. when I gave the answers, he was saying 'that is what we have here'. Although his English was very good, I had trouble making out his accent, as he spoke quite quickly. After asking which bank I dealt with, he said he would put me through to his supervisor, 'just so that she knew he hadn't been trying to sell me something I wasn't sure about'. There were the usual call centre noises in the background whilst I was waiting to speak to the supervisor. When she came on the line, she had a similar accent to the man who'd spoken to me. She said her name was Annie Wilson (I think) then proceeded to ask when was the expiry date on my debit card. I immediately told her I wasn't giving out any bank details to strangers, and she hung up on me. I contacted my energy provider in the morning, who told me that no such device existed, and that the callers were most probably trying to get my bank details. They also said if it happened again, to try and get a company name or telephone number, and my provider would investigate the matter."

**Never give out your bank details or personal details over the telephone to unsolicited callers.
If you are concerned that you have done so, contact your bank as quickly as possible and inform them.**

Many of you will have had some sort of contact with Angela Edgar over the past few years. Angela has decided that it's time to move on, but she wanted to say a few words before she does. Angela will be missed, but we wish her every success in her new job.

An (outgoing) insider's perspective on AoSNW

In March 2009 I had just started working at AoSNW. I remember it well; we were in the hectic throes of organising our first major AGM and Conference at the Westerwood Hotel in Cumbernauld. It therefore seems fitting in some way that we are now in September 2011 preparing for the 2011 AGM in Glasgow after which I will be leaving AoSNW to begin a new job with another charity. Starting and ending in the same vein so to speak.

After 2 and a half years of working at AoSNW I have been asked to reflect on my time spent at Neighbourhood Watch. What strikes me immediately, is just how relevant and important Watches are to local communities. They always have been but more so now with the pressures and issues communities currently face. Having spoken to many Watch co-ordinators during this time, I applaud them for finding the commitment to run their Watches. I've also heard of their perseverance in tackling day to day issues, in keeping the momentum and interest going, in trying to engage others. Phrases all too familiar with you all. Whether it's running a Watch or volunteering in general, too often the easy way out is to do nothing. But I firmly believe that is wrong; we should all play a part in looking beyond our own front door and try to make things better in our street or community.



I can look back and smile at several highlights over the last couple of years. Our National Development Officer, Lisa Toon, shaking her head as I pursued an almost obsessive procuring of promotional items that were either "orange" or in the shape of a "house". Yes, I was surprised myself at the range of items on offer within such a narrow remit! My "borrowing" of several floral displays from a hotel lobby to ensure our crystal awards for our evening ceremony shone graciously on the centre stage table. They were returned to the lobby I hasten to add. And how can I forget abseiling off the Finnieston Crane in Glasgow in support of charity. I've never had a head for heights!

As I move on to my new role, I am proud that I played a part in helping AoSNW move on since 2009. I would also like to thank the Board and of course my boss Lisa, for the opportunities presented to me during this time. I wish AoSNW continued success and growth in the years ahead. I hope Watches not only continue to develop and flourish but also reap the benefits for the hard work put in by their members and volunteers. A positive impact in streets and communities in Scotland.

Goodbye,

Angela

What is silent, invisible and deadly?

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

ROSPA
The Royal Society for the
Prevention of Accidents

At this time of the year, with the clocks soon to fall back and the temperatures dropping outside, many of us are turning on the central heating again. Much focus is also given to digging out the winter clothes or students moving into a flat or house of their own for the first time – but how many of us actually give a thought to when the last time fuel burning appliances, chimneys and flues were serviced and cleaned?

There are approximately 50 accidental deaths per year in the UK from the deadly gas carbon monoxide and such cases are typically caused by faulty or badly-serviced gas and other fossil fuel-burning appliances and systems. Carbon monoxide (usually referred to by its chemical symbol CO) is known as the silent killer because you can't see it, hear it, smell it or taste it. With a potentially cold winter ahead, there could be more deaths resulting from poorly maintained heating systems.



Carbon monoxide can be given off by all fossil fuels. You need to look out for:

- **Boiler pilot light flames burning orange, instead of blue**
- **Sooty stains on or near appliances**
- **Excessive condensation in the room**
- **Coal or wood fires that burn slowly or go out**
- **Families, or pets, suffering prolonged flu-like symptoms.**

A few simple precautions can be taken to reduce your risk from this deadly gas:

- **Have your gas appliances installed and serviced annually by a gas engineer who is registered with the Gas Safe Register**
- **CO is not just a by product of burning gas, but of all fossil fuels. So if you have wood, coal or oil burning appliances, have these regularly serviced by professionals too**
- **Keep rooms well ventilated and have chimneys or flues swept regularly**
- **Fix carbon monoxide detectors in your home; these can be purchased from most DIY-type stores. Ensure that such detectors are maintained and replaced according to packaging instructions**
- **Remember: CO detectors and alarms are a last resort in the prevention of CO poisoning. They are not a substitute for proper maintenance and servicing.**



Advice for preventing CO poisoning applies equally to caravans, boats and holiday homes with fuel-burning appliances, such as heaters or stoves. RoSPA also advises that stoves and disposable barbecues are not used for either cooking or warmth inside small tents. And, if you live in rented property, ask your landlord to show you the Landlord's Gas Safety Record.

For more information on the dangers of carbon monoxide and other home safety concerns please visit www.rosipa.com.

Copper and metal theft – a growing global problem



Over the last few years the global economy has witnessed a massive increase in demand for copper from Asia, where countries such as China and India are investing millions into their infrastructure. Coupled with the drop in supply from traditional copper producing countries in South America due to earthquakes, the value of metals on the world stock markets has rocketed.

Since 2001 the value of copper has increased over 400% to its current level of over £6100 per tonne. This has therefore led to an increase in the number of metal thefts from all sections of domestic and industrial premises across the globe and the UK is no different. Metal theft is often described as a "Victimless Crime", but the thefts have a direct impact on communities and businesses costing the UK economy approximately £770 million per annum (2009/2010). This figure is expected to increase to over £1 Billion in 2010 / 2011.

The rail infrastructure in the UK is not immune from the dramatic increase in the number of copper cable thefts, which cause delays and cancellations to passenger and freight trains. Those who commit "live" copper thefts not only put communities, the travelling public and rail staff at danger they are also risking their own lives trying to steal cables with up to 25000 volts running through them. This type of theft and vandalism costs Network Rail hundreds of thousands of pounds each year in cancellation costs to the train operating companies. The impact this disruption causes to the travelling public cannot be measured, but impacts on companies whose employees are late travelling to work or for interviews and members of the public travelling to long awaited hospital appointments. Ultimately, the UK tax payer is burdened with the costs of metal thefts which is not acceptable.

British Transport Police (BTP) in partnership with Network Rail is working with other police forces throughout the UK to raise awareness of the impact metal thefts have on communities. Metal thefts on the railway occur night and day, in the middle of towns and cities and rural areas, from live railway lines and depots where cable drums are stored along with numerous metal components that have a scrap value. Train crews are encouraged to report suspicious activity along the railway lines wherever they see persons and or vehicles that don't meet the minimum requirements.

With assistance from the Scottish Business Crime Centre, BTP and Network Rail welcomes the opportunity to raise awareness of metal thefts from the railway through the Association of Scottish Neighbourhood Watches. Railway lines run through most communities in Scotland and are regularly maintained by rail staff and contractors. In order to assist members of the Neighbourhood Watch the following describes the minimum standards of dress that ALL persons working on or near the railway line should be wearing –



Minimum PPE Requirements

All Network Rail employees and contractors going onto the railway MUST wear the following items of approved clothing –



- **White or Blue safety hard hat**
- **Full HV clothing (jacket or waistcoat and trousers)**
- **Approved safety footwear**
- **Safety glasses are worn lineside by members of maintenance**
- **In most cases Network Rail and/or sub-contractor company name should appear on rear of jackets or waistcoats.**



The perpetrators of such crimes range from the local opportunist thief, through to well organised crime groups, who will take time to visit sites in advance and be in possession of high visibility clothing, paperwork, railway keys and identification cards etc.

Metal thefts have been recorded at locations throughout Scotland, but the areas with the highest recorded crime include –

Motherwell area including Ravenscraig, Mossend and Wishaw

Uddingston

Portobello

Carstairs

Perth City Centre

Burtonisland

Cardonald / Hillington East / Hillington West

Gartsherrie

Gleneagles Station

Network Rail staff and contractors have been briefed on good house keeping and basic crime reduction methods including simple methods e.g. –

- Always locking railway access gates.
- Ensure vehicles are always secure, particularly when left for long periods at home address. There is evidence from previous incidents that NWR vehicles have been broken into and clothing, keys and documents stolen.
- Reporting any damaged fence and gates to NR Control. Members of the public should use the National Rail Helpline number – 08457 11 41 41.
- Any suspicious person or vehicle should be reported to BTP immediately on freephone 0800 40 50 40. Without putting yourself at risk, make every attempt to note vehicle registration number/colour and type of vehicle/number of persons within clothing. Any distinguishing features of the person or vehicle can make the difference in tracing them.
- Even the smallest piece of information may be relevant that can link in with intelligence from incidents at other locations, so please report all relevant information.

Alternatively information can be passed anonymously to the independent charity



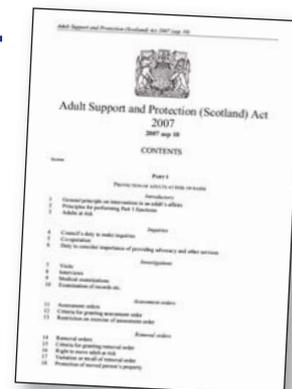
Thanks you for your assistance and support.

Kaye MacGregor from the North Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee writes about some of the ways that communities can help protect adults at risk.

ADULT SUPPORT AND PROTECTION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2007

Following concerns that there were adults in Scotland who, because of illness or disability, were less able to keep themselves safe, the Scottish Government implemented the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act in October 2008.

The legislation places duties and responsibilities on a number of public agencies, which includes Councils, Police and Health Boards.



The duties include:

- Duty to report:** all staff members within the public agencies have a duty to report to the Council their concerns when they know, or suspect, that an adult may be at risk
- Duty to enquire:** Councils have a duty to enquire when they receive any reports that an adult may be at risk – Social Work Services take responsibility for this duty within the Council
- Duty to co-operate:** all public agencies have a duty to co-operate with a council carrying out an adult protection enquiry or investigation

The legislation seeks to set out a legal framework which makes clear the responsibilities of the agencies.

At the same time, the legislation also requires that any adult thought to be at risk receives all necessary support when an enquiry takes place – support could include independent advocacy, or support with communication where necessary.

An adult at risk is defined as:

An adult aged 16 years or over, who is

- unable to safeguard their own well-being, property, rights or other interests, and
- are at risk of harm, and
- are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity

Harm can be...

physical
neglect
financial
sexual
psychological



Harm can happen anywhere...

in a person's own home
in the street
at a social club
in a care home
in hospital



Harm can be inflicted by anyone...

including family members and paid staff. Sometimes a person can be at risk because of their own behaviour.

It is not just staff within public agencies who can make reports to social work services – anyone who is worried about someone...

who they think is being harmed, should tell someone. Remember, the person who is being harmed may not be able to report it themselves.

- **Make sure that the adult is safe.**
- **Tell the adult that you are going to seek help for them.**
- **Reassure them that no one can make them do anything they don't want to. A social worker or police officer will simply want to make sure that they are safe, or support them to be safe.**
- **Contact the local social work office or police**
- **Be sure to seek help for yourself too if you are concerned about your own safety.**

IF IMMEDIATE HELP IS NEEDED, CALL 999

Remember, the person causing the harm could be doing it to others too.

When you report harm...

you will be asked to give details of the concerns you have.

After you have reported harm...

the Council has a duty to investigate. Investigations into alleged incidents of harm will be handled sensitively and the adults' wishes will be fully considered. Where concerns are serious, the council will act immediately to seek to prevent further harm.

Sometimes, people need protection too

Everyone has a right to be safe

Contact details

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