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# Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter



## Uttoxeter and District Neighbourhood Watch

April 2013

Meetings take place at 7pm at Uttoxeter Fire Station on the second Wednesday of every month or contact Margaret Saunders, Uttoxeter & District Neighbourhood Watch Membership Secretary. [Email: margaret.nwatch@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.nwatch@gmail.com)

### Foreword by the Vice-Chair

Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Watch was initiated in 1988, and soon became a formal organisation with the adoption of our first Constitution on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1989. Therefore, next year will be our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The first Neighbourhood Watch scheme was a Police and Uttoxeter Council, joint experimental initiative intended to cover an area bounded by Bramshall road, Holly Road, and Byrds Lane. This was exceeded at the outset, and rapidly grew to include most of the town and surrounding villages.

From the first meetings being held in local pubs, with attendance of a Police Liaison Officer, the rapid growth and interest saw meetings move to Uttoxeter Police Station, with the full support and usual attendance of the incumbent Police Inspector. The growth of Neighbourhood Watch throughout our area and elsewhere in the borough, resulted in the appointment of a Neighbourhood Watch Manager by East Staffs Council and the Police, to coordinate and liaise with all the areas separate Neighbourhood Watch groups.

At these meeting we were always given a report on Crime Figures for the previous month. Initially we would receive reports of up to 10-15 burglaries and break-ins a month.

We still receive crime figures for Uttoxeter LPU area, but numbers of burglaries, break-ins, and other crimes are much reduced, sometimes down to single figures or none at all.

It would be nice to think that Neighbourhood Watch has caused the improvement alone, but in truth it is due to many factors. Most properties are now furnished with more secure doors and windows (double glazed upvc with multi-point locks) also, policing methods have changed to a more pro-active rather than re-active role e.g. 'Targeting of known Offenders'.

The overall result is that Uttoxeter and its surrounding villages are some of the safest places to live in the UK. However, we still do have the occasional burglary and break-in, and if it happens to you, statistics are meaningless, you are affected 100%, and it is not just the loss or damage that seems to affect victims but the 'invasion of privacy' can be devastating.

Therefore it is just as important as it ever has been; to do all you can to help protect your property, and being part of an active (Police Approved) Neighbourhood Watch scheme is still one of the best steps to take. Many Home insurance providers offer lower premiums for members.

The first basic requirement is that you get to know who your neighbours are, and encourage them to keep 'an eye out' and report anything, or anyone suspicious. This is still important, probably even more so at present, with both partners working, there are likely to be fewer people at home during the day compared to 20 to 50 years ago.

To keep you informed on what the present risks are in your area, and possibly provide information on crimes especially local, you can also volunteer to receive messages from the OWL system via a phone message or email. As a Coordinator (if you instigated your Neighbourhood Watch group) or Member, you are welcome to attend our monthly meetings where you may get to meet our local Police, PCSO's and Dave Jones (Community Engagement Officer - Neighbourhood Watch). Please do come along, regular attendance is not mandatory.

We would also advise that everybody, not just Neighbourhood Watch members, protect their valuables by at least marking them with your post code, use fluorescent (invisible) ink pens and put labels in windows to put the burglar off, or better still, with use SmartWater, which we can supply at a favourable rate.

Over time our 'remit' has expanded and we are now concerned with any matters or problems that can affect our community, we report items such as dangerous speeding traffic, insensitively dangerously parked vehicles, obstructions e.g. hedges, even excessive dog fouling etc.

Finally, once your Neighbourhood Watch scheme is up and running, it is possible to advertise the fact and further deter the burglar by having signs to put up. Neighbourhood Watch signs are available and also signs for advertising that SmartWater is employed, though these may incur a small cost.

If you have any questions, or require any more information please do not be afraid to ask myself or any other member, no matter how trivial it may seem; initial contact details are at the start of this newsletter.

The more active Neighbourhood Watch groups there are, the better chance of a zero, or nearly zero crime rate in 2014; that would certainly be worth celebrating.

Alan Felthouse (Vice-Chair)  
Uttoxeter & District Neighbourhood Watch - 2013

### **Uttoxeter and District Neighbourhood Watch Crime Report March 2013**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Crime</b>
09/03/2013	Bridge Street	Criminal damage to door
16/03/2013	Wood Lane	Criminal damage to boarding
16/03/2013	Harvey Place	Criminal damage to window
16/03/2013	Wales Lane, Barton	Criminal damage to window
17/03/2013	Chamberlain Close	Criminal damage to meter box
19/03/2013	Hamilton Avenue	Criminal damage to property
21/03/2013	Primrose Way	Criminal damage to window
23/03/2013	Bridge Street	Criminal damage to door
25/03/2013	West Hill	Criminal damage to window
25/03/2013	Port Lane, Abbots Bromley	Criminal damage to stables
31/03/2013	Hamilton Avenue	Criminal damage to window
03/03/2013	Harvey Place	Criminal damage to vehicle (interior)
17/03/2013	Dovefields Retail Park	Criminal damage to vehicles
23/03/2013	Auction Place	Criminal damage to vehicle (window smashed)
25/03/2013	Hamilton Avenue	Criminal damage to vehicle (bonnet dented)
29/03/2013	Cheadle Road	Criminal damage to vehicle (wing-mirror)
04/03/2013	Efflinch Lane, Barton	Theft from motor vehicle (number plates)
25/03/2013	Dovefields	Theft from motor vehicle (number plates)
29/03/2013	Branston Road, Tatenhill	Theft from motor vehicle (tools)
04/03/2013	Greenview, Field	Theft of motor vehicle
07/03/2013	Bagot Street, Abbots Bromley	Theft of motor vehicle
01/03/2013	Bridge Street	Burglary dwelling
02/03/2013	Ashbrook Lane, Abbots Bromley	Burglary dwelling
18/03/2013	Barton Turns, Barton	Burglary dwelling
13/03/2013	Moisty Lane, Marchington	Stables burglary
16/03/2013	Prestwood	Outbuilding burglary
22/03/2013	Mill Lane, Barton	Shed burglary
31/03/2013	Ashacres Industrial Park, Draycott in the Clay	Business premises burglary

## Police Report

Wildlife and rural crime is something that Staffordshire Police feels very strongly about. The force currently has specialised Wildlife Crime Officers across the county, dedicated to tackling all aspects of rural, wildlife and equestrian crimes. Wildlife and rural crime can include poaching of deer and fish, hare-coursing, badger baiting, poisoning birds of prey and stealing their eggs, burglaries at isolated and rural properties, and thefts of horses, livestock, equestrian and farm equipment. There are several 'Watch' schemes in operation throughout the county, all of which help the police to tackle crime, including; Neighbourhood Watch, Horse Watch, Rural Watch and Canal Watch, to name a few. Members give their telephone numbers and email addresses to receive Online Watch Link (OWL) messages letting them know what crime is occurring in or near their area. Messages can be received by telephone, text, e-mail or fax and means members are forewarned about what crimes are occurring locally.

### **Further useful contact information**

Mrs Angela Waller,  
Wildlife Crime Coordinator  
01785 235070

Mr Paul Betteley,  
Wildlife Crime Advisor  
01785 238874

*Contact us on Facebook and Twitter*

[www.facebook.com/StaffordshireCountrysideWatch](http://www.facebook.com/StaffordshireCountrysideWatch)

[www.facebook.com/StaffordshireCanalWatch](http://www.facebook.com/StaffordshireCanalWatch)

[www.facebook.com/staffordshirehorsewatch](http://www.facebook.com/staffordshirehorsewatch)

[www.twitter.com/StaffsWild](http://www.twitter.com/StaffsWild)

[www.twitter.com/CanalWatch](http://www.twitter.com/CanalWatch)

**Your Local Uttoxeter Wildlife Crime Officer is:** PCSO 16930 Lucy Hadfield, Uttoxeter Police Station

### Contact Details for Staffordshire Police.

In an emergency, where life is in danger or a crime is in progress, telephone **999**.

For non-emergency calls and general enquiries telephone **101**. (15p each call from a mobile or landline.)

When calling from outside the police force area telephone **0300 123 4455** for non-emergency calls and general enquiries.

To contact Staffordshire Police from abroad, telephone **(+44)1785 236211**.

Call Crime stoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**.

**Email** using the form available from the following web address: [http://www.staffordshire.police.uk/contact\\_us/](http://www.staffordshire.police.uk/contact_us/)

East Staffordshire Police is on Twitter: @EStaffsPolice



[www.owl.co.uk](http://www.owl.co.uk)

### Council Services

**Library:** open Monday-Thursday: 9.00am - 5.00pm, Friday: 9.00am - 7.00pm, Saturday: 9.00am - 4.00pm and Sunday: Closed

**Markets:** weekly on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at Uttoxeter Market Place. A 'Craft and Food' market weekly on Wednesday and a 'Farmers' Market and Craft stalls' every second Saturday of the month in Uttoxeter Town Hall.

**Buses:** Great News! If you are aged between 11-19years and have a 'Your Staffordshire Card', you can travel by bus on any single journey which starts or ends in Staffordshire County Council's area for just £1 per journey. Visit the library for more information or [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/community/DiscountCard/YourStaffordshirecard.aspx](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/community/DiscountCard/YourStaffordshirecard.aspx)

### Residents who leave their homes vulnerable to opportunist burglars risk invalidating their home contents insurance.

The warning from the Association of British Insurers (ABI) comes as latest figures showed an increase in the number of properties broken into during a rise in temperature, as a result of windows and doors being left open.

The ABI said, "There is a chance people could risk invalidating insurance if they're found to have been negligent when it comes to home security." A spokesman for the ABI, said: "Insurance policies, terms and conditions vary, but there is a danger that if you don't take reasonable steps to protect your property against opportunist burglars you could jeopardise your cover."

## **CAUTION BOGUS CALLERS**

Bogus Callers tend to target the elderly or vulnerable members of our society because they are more likely to have cash and valuables in the house or may be just frail. Never assume it won't happen to you. Bogus Callers are confident people and use a variety of stories to gain access into your home so they can steal property or trick you, out of your money.

They may claim to be workers from:

The Council, a gas, water or electrical company; a charity worker, even a police officer; gardeners, plumbers, roofers, tree fellers, The door-to-door sales person of which there are many types where:

- |                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a) You're made to feel grateful | d) You'll lose face               |
| b) You've got lots in common    | e) Just as happy as everyone else |
| c) There is a sense of urgency  | f) Endorsed by an expert          |

They often work in pairs or more and can include men, women and children.

Be watchful of tradesmen calling uninvited trying to get you to pay for unnecessary work or being pushy, wanting you to buy something you don't want or need. They can even do this over the telephone. So don't keep large amounts of cash in the house and never feel embarrassed about refusing to let someone you don't know in, or accepting offers of work. Genuine callers will always be happy to make an appointment and come back, invited.

1. Tell your phone company you want to be ex-directory
2. Register at the telephone and mail preference service to stop unsolicited calls and junk mail.
3. Ask your phone provider to block calls without ID.
4. Never give any details to someone you don't know or deal with on a regular basis
5. When you answer your phone just say "Hello" don't say or confirm who you are or answer by saying your telephone number.
6. Never be afraid to put the phone down on anybody.

An incident: a lady was approached by a man offering to cut trees down. That one man quickly became three men and the lady felt threatened after they came into her property looking around and offering to do her patio for £2000 wanting £1000 up front.

If you do find yourself confronted by an unwanted caller at the door, contact the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

## **Lost or stolen mobile phone**

- Mobile phones now do so much more than simply make calls that many of us would be completely lost without them.
- Unfortunately thousands of phones do go missing each year and many of these will have been stolen.
- If your phone does go missing you could be left with a much bigger headache than simply having to replace your handset.
- Thieves can quickly run up huge bills and you could be liable for these charges.
- Although mobile phone operators do look out for fraudulent activity they may not necessarily spot unusual usage on individuals' accounts and they are not obliged to notify consumers of any unusual activity on an account.
- You should always report a missing phone immediately.



## **Protecting your phone**

There are a number of steps you can take to keep your mobile safe. When you first get a new handset you should immediately:

- Make use of your phone's security lock (PIN) code. This locks the handset after a few minutes of inactivity. The user manual supplied with your phone will explain how you can use the PIN code.
- Mark the inside of your phone with your postcode and door number. This will help police identify your handset if it is lost or stolen.
- Make a record of your phone's IMEI number, as well as the make and model number. The IMEI is a unique 15-digit serial number which you will need to get the phone blocked. You can get your IMEI number by keying \*#06# into your handset or by looking behind your phone battery.

- Register your phone with Immobilise, which is a database containing the details of millions of mobile phones and other property.

When you're not using your phone make sure you keep it out of sight in your pocket or handbag and don't attract attention to your phone when you are carrying or using it in the street. Be aware of pickpockets in crowds and don't make it easy for them to steal your handset. Also, don't leave your phone in an unattended car. If you have to leave it in a car, make sure you lock it out of sight.

### **What if your phone is stolen?**

Contact your provider as soon as possible. It can then bar your SIM to stop calls being made on your account. Your provider can also stop anyone else from using your phone by blocking its IMEI.

- You may be liable for all charges run up on your phone before you have reported it lost or stolen. This is usually set out in the terms and conditions of your contract. Therefore, you should contact your provider as soon as possible.
- Report a lost or stolen phone to the police immediately.
- Remember, if you have mobile phone insurance, you may be obliged to let them know within a certain time frame.

### **To report your phone lost or stolen:**

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Call 333 free from a Three phone or 0843 373 3333 from any other phone

If your phone has been lost or stolen while travelling abroad, call +44 7782 333 333

#### **Orange**

If you're a pay monthly customer, call 07973 100 150.

If you're a pay as you go customer, call 07973 100 450.

#### **O2**

Call 0844 8090 2020 (contract) or 08448090222 (PAYG)

#### **T-Mobile**

Call 0845 412 5000 or +44 79539 66150 if calling from abroad

#### **Vodafone**

Pay monthly and business customers

Call Vodafone on 191 from another Vodafone mobile phone or 08700 700191 from a landline or +44 7836 191 191 if you are abroad.

Pay as you go customers

Call 191 from another Vodafone mobile phone or 08700 776655 from a landline or +44 7836 191 919 if you are abroad.

#### **Tesco Mobile**

Call 0845 301 4455

#### **Virgin Mobile**

Call 0845 6000 789

## Highways

Problems with pot holes, other road maintenance issues, and street lighting can be reported directly to the County Council's Highways Team.

Telephone number: 0300 111 8000 or Email: [highways@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:highways@staffordshire.gov.uk)

There is an online reporting form at <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/staffshighways/contact/contact.aspx>

NB. You should receive a reference number for your report from Highways which will allow you to check on progress with any of the issues that you report.

## What's on?

### Uttoxeter Railway Station Litter Pick

Fancy volunteering? Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 09:30h Uttoxeter Railway Station a 'litter pick', ask for Janet.

### Uttoxeter Half Marathon

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 10:30h start from Uttoxeter Race Course.

### Uttoxeter and District Neighbourhood Watch Meeting

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 19:00h in Uttoxeter Fire Station.

### DEAFVibe – Staffordshire Deaf Day Event

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 10:00-16:00h in Stoke City Football Club, Britannia Stadium. For information, advice and support.

Tel: 07923 489800 or email: [deafday@deafvibe.co.uk](mailto:deafday@deafvibe.co.uk) See [www.deafvibe.co.uk](http://www.deafvibe.co.uk) or [www.facebook.com/DEAFvibe](http://www.facebook.com/DEAFvibe)

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This Newsletter is supported by Staffordshire Police Telephone 101 or 0300 123 4455.