



**West Gloucestershire  
Neighbourhood  
Watch Association  
*Newsletter*  
Spring/Summer 2017**



**FIELD OFFICER'S AGM REPORT  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

It has been another busy year again with a lot going on. We have had new schemes in Clifford's Mesne, Hewelsfield, Coleford, Aylburton, Tutshill, Newnham, Taynton Edge End, Strawberry Hill in Newent, and Mile End.

I attended an event in Lydney Town Hall in December last year where young people performed a play about bogus callers to a target audience of elderly residents, highlighting the dangers of doorstep selling. I had a stall there and the event was well attended and a success.

Volunteers have been running stalls at the farmers' markets in Rudford, Highleadon and Huntley selling crime prevention products and promoting Neighbourhood Watch. I supply them with the leaflets and products. These stalls have proved popular and I am hoping they will continue.

I gave a talk to the Rudford and Highleadon Parish council in July and attended a Neighbourhood Watch meeting in Sedbury in September discussing crime trends. Yorkley has had two community days in May and October which I attended with the mobile police van. Both events were successful and interest was expressed over Neighbourhood Watch as there are no schemes there at present.

The first Regional meeting of Neighbourhood Watch was held in Bridgewater in February which I attended with my colleague from Gloucester. This was a productive meeting, and has met since to draw up plans for the future. My two counterparts from across county and myself were asked to create the aims and objectives document for the website this year which is now complete and can be seen on the

Gloucestershire Police web site under Neighbourhood Watch.

At present we use the Voice Mail Relay system otherwise known as Watch Word. Another system is being looked at, called Alert. It is used by other forces and may have benefits for us. No decision has been made so watch this space. Lastly, I would like to thank all of you who tirelessly work helping keep your communities safe through Neighbourhood Watch and thank you for all your efforts.

**Chrissie Parkes**

**A RECENT POLICING SUCCESS** Following a spate of burglaries in Coleford, a man responsible for at least nine burglaries has been arrested and charged. The police now hold a large quantity of seized jewellery. Members of the public from this area are urged to come forward to identify stolen property, especially jewellery.

**DO YOU USE SOCIAL MEDIA?** *If you are aware of a community website, Facebook page, Streetlife page etc. local to you that has recent information or pictures posted on them that may be of interest to the police, could you please pass the information to Bob Lloyd, by email if possible, and he will pass it on. This would include criminal activity, anti-social behaviour or suspicious vehicles and persons. The more information we can feed back to the police the better chance they have of preventing or detecting crime.*

[Bob.Lloyd@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Bob.Lloyd@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk)

*We hope you find this newsletter useful. If you have any comments or suggestions for future editions, please email [vljames@onetel.com](mailto:vljames@onetel.com)*

## The Midcounties Co-operative Community Fund



In February three committee members attended a cheque presentation at the Coleford Co-op: front row, left to right, Jill Croxall, Ginny James and Syd Wheeler.

**AS THE POLICE NO LONGER HAVE FUNDS** to help with newsletter printing costs, the committee have begun to seeking funding support to cover these costs. A successful bid to The Midlands Co-operative Community Fund yielded a generous grant towards those costs. Equally welcome are donations received from individual Neighbourhood Watch members. We also look forward to grants promised from various parish councils.

**PLEASE NOTE that we seek additional committee members. Someone with fundraising interest or experience would be particularly welcome.**

**THE DISTRICT COUNCIL IS WARNING** residents to be wary of cold callers from any company offering to investigate their council tax banding for a fee, with a view to getting it reduced. These callers are not working on behalf of the council and residents are advised not to provide any personal information or bank details. Several residents have contacted the council after being targeted by the cold calls. Cllr Richard Boyles, Cabinet Member for Finance, Asset Management & Performance, said: "The council will never use a third party to contact a taxpayer in this way and we urge anybody receiving a call relating to reducing their council tax banding to end the call immediately. If you have any doubt about a phone call relating to council tax or property bandings, call the council on 01594 810000 and ask to speak to a member of the council tax team."

**SECURITY ITEMS** available from Chrissie Parkes (01452 753784) or via your co-ordinator:  
*Personal Alarms £3.50    Shed Alarms £8.00*  
*Padlock Alarms £12.50    Smart Water £12.00*  
*Counterfeit Money Detector Pens £1.00*  
*Bike Locks (Master lock bike system) £19.00*  
*Shock & motion sensing padlock alarm £12.50*  
**FREE** Mobile phone marking kits and a variety of NHW stickers

**GOOD-BYE to Vanessa Pegler**, Local Policing Support Officer in the Forest for over 25 years, who provided us with note-taking help. Many will have met her at an AGM over the years. Vanessa has moved to Gloucester HQ. We look forward to meeting her successor.

**A MOUNTED SECTION** of Gloucestershire Police began in March 2016, a two-year trial. Other areas have found mounted police a useful tactic at reducing crime. Our 10 mounted constables, who have the same powers as their colleagues, certainly are more visible and seem to invite the public to engage with officers. A friend in Newent emailed this note last autumn: "*I was watching my neighbourhood from a bedroom*



*window and saw the night patrol go by - two mounted police on white horses, each horse with a red flashing tail-light and a blue flashing light on their necks at the*

*front. They acted as instant traffic calming, mounted being more effective than sleeping [policemen], apparently."*

**Ginny James**

### **WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE NHW COMMITTEE \***

**Chairman:** Bruce Percival (Newent)  
**Treasurer:** Syd Wheeler (St Briavels)  
**Newsletter:** Ginny James (Newent)  
**Committee:** David Adams (Lydney), Jill Croxall (Huntley), Fred Miles (Cinderford), Marian Voyce (Cinderford)  
**Supported by:** Chrissie Parkes, Field Officer and a Local Policing Support Officer

**\* New committee members from other West Gloucestershire Association areas would be welcome.**