



## A Christmas message from the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner

With Christmas just around the corner, our thoughts turn to celebrating the season of goodwill with family, friends and colleagues.



However it is an unfortunate fact that for some, Christmas provides a number of opportunities for criminals to benefit from the good will of others. Darker nights, expensive Christmas presents and spending the holiday period away from home can all be attractive prospects to criminals.

Whilst it is important to be vigilant, it is worth remembering that Warwickshire remains one of the safest counties in the country, with rates of crime falling consistently year upon year. Indeed, North Warwickshire is the borough with the lowest number of crimes in the county.

This is testament to the hard work of our police force, and dedicated volunteer groups such as the Nuneaton and Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch Association, who play a valuable central role in helping to bring the community together to help make neighbourhoods safer, healthier and pleasant places in which to live. We also have six dedicated Community Safety Ambassadors in the Nuneaton and Bedworth area that act as a local liaison point on behalf of my office.

I am grateful for the hard work and dedication demonstrated by these groups all year round, and thoroughly commend their work.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy Christmas, and best wishes for the festive season.

**Ron Ball**  
Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner

### Community Safety Ambassador

In the Autumn edition of Crime Busters details of the Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner's Community Safety Ambassadors serving the Nuneaton & Bedworth area were published. With one omission.

Many apologies for this oversight to **Saeed Sheikh** who has specific responsibility for covering the Abbey & Wembrook locality.

Additionally Saeed acts as a contact point for receiving reports of incidents of hate crime of any nature.

Saeed may be contacted via email at [ssheikh@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ssheikh@hotmail.co.uk)

### 2014 Neighbourhood Watch Awards

Thanks from the members they serve is often the only recognition that our volunteer coordinators receive for the part they play in helping reduce crime and fear of crime in our communities.

On page 4 of this newsletter you will find details of how you might nominate a recipient who you believe worthy of receiving a similar award for their contribution to Neighbourhood Watch within 2014.

## Road users urged to take care as winter weather worsens



The Safer Roads Partnership in Warwickshire & West Mercia and Road Safety Warwickshire are reminding all road users to take extra care on the roads as the weather becomes more wintry.

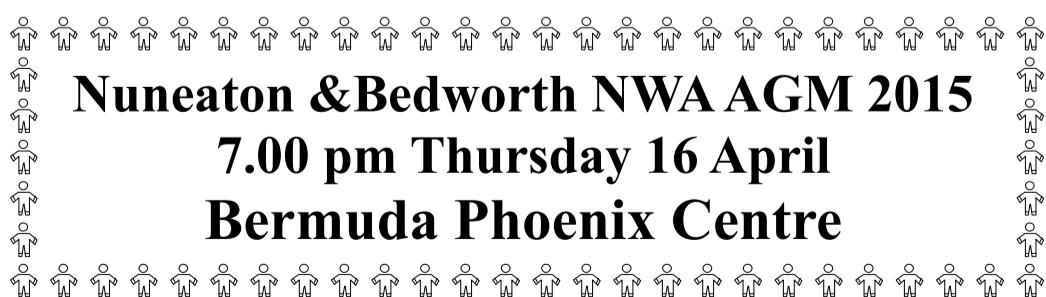
As nights get darker it is increasingly difficult for motorists to see other road users. Pedestrians are being encouraged to think about their presence on the roads and wear high visibility clothing and reflective material and to always use pedestrian crossings where possible. Cyclists should also think about their clothing and ensure their bike is in good working condition and carries front and rear lights.

Motorists are being urged to look carefully for other road users with the nights drawing in and to ensure that their vehicle is in a roadworthy condition and basic checks are undertaken to prepare their vehicle for the winter months. Among other things, motorists should check their brakes, tyres, oil, water and antifreeze and check lights are operating and are in good working order. As the weather turns colder ensure your screen wash is topped up and wipers are in good working order. Road salt and spray can obscure a windscreen in seconds.

Anna Higgins, Communications Manager for the Safer Roads Partnership in Warwickshire and West Mercia said; "Nationally road casualty rates increase with the arrival of darker nights and worsening weather conditions. These conditions affect all road users but especially children, the elderly, cyclists and motorcycles. As the nights draw in it is important that all road users re-assess their journeys and account for the darker evenings. We are advising all motorists to check their vehicles and for pedestrians and cyclists to ensure they are visible to other road users."

Motorists are also being reminded to take particular care on rural roads this time of year and take extra caution where there is mud on the roads.

Chris Fossey from Road Safety Warwickshire added; "We appreciate that during this time of year farmers have to increasingly use the region's roads to transport their crops. During this time, we're advising all motorists to take extra care on rural roads and be aware of potential mud on the roads. Excess mud is a danger to cars, motorbikes and cyclists and can change the way a vehicle handles and can cause skidding, especially in wet conditions. If you see a 'mud on the road' sign please take this seriously, drive with caution and treat this the same way that you would with icy or slippery roads."

  
**Nuneaton & Bedworth NWA AGM 2015**  
**7.00 pm Thursday 16 April**  
**Bermuda Phoenix Centre**

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**Police & Crime Commissioner**





## Editorial

### European Union

“Europeanisation” and the associated increase in international mobility have played into the hands of organised crime gangs which never have respected any national borders. Criminal methods are transferred quickly from one country to another.

This has had an inevitable impact on the feeling of security across Europe leading to more European citizens forming Neighbourhood Watch organisations with the objective of reducing property crime.

On 23 and 24 October 2014, 40 delegates, representing 25 crime prevention organisations from 19 European countries, assembled to discuss national neighbourhood watch activities, approaches to crime prevention and a way forward for the establishment of a European Neighbourhood Watch Association (EUNWA).

The EUNWA is the start of forging a formal link between members to knock down the barriers that borders can create in allowing criminals to move quite freely in real time but at the same time causing information and knowledge gathering about them take considerably longer.

### Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Could I make a suggestion for regular inclusion on your newsletter. I am a police officer with West Midlands Police and am working on a team liaising with 2nd hand shops to recover lost and stolen items. Serial Nos and IMEI Nos are checked against a national database, if they fall into these categories, in order to trace owners. Unfortunately, our task is made harder as the vast majority of items are not registered anywhere.

With Christmas coming, could I ask that you mention the following two sites where items can be registered. If items are being stored before being given, they can still be registered and then ownership transferred once Santa has done his work. That means that if they are stolen in burglaries, we stand a better chance of returning goods.

- [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) where anything and everything (phones, computers, cameras, bikes, etc.) can be registered and photos uploaded. If photos of jewellery are being taken then we advise including a coin or ruler to give an idea of size.
- [www.bikeregister.com](http://www.bikeregister.com) This site is specifically for bikes. The frame number of bikes is underneath on the frame and where the pedals connect.

Our team has been successful in reuniting a good many items having found owners through these sites. Many thanks,  
Yours etc.

### Christmas Cheer

A woman dropped the purse from her handbag while Christmas shopping in a very busy store. It was found and returned by an innocent looking young lad. The woman looked in the purse and remarked “*That’s strange. When I lost my purse there was a £20 note in it and now there are four fivers.*” “*That’s right*”, quirked the young lad. “*The last time I found a lady’s purse she didn’t have enough change to reward me*”.

### ...& Finally

May I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2015.

**Brian Lowe**

**Editor**

## Message from Local Policing Chiefs

Superintendent Martin Samuel & Chief Insp Mike Slemensek



At the time of writing this article we are making our policing preparations for the forthcoming festive season including Operation Christmas Presence and the December Drink Drive



campaign. By this time last year we had just launched the alliance with West Mercia. Now we are already one year on! The alliance has bedded in successfully and at the end of April 2014 – even having implemented major changes – the results were paying off. As a Force we had recorded a 4% reduction in overall crime.

Our performance in North Warwickshire continues to improve. As of 2 November 2014 we have achieved a 6% reduction in overall crime compared to the same period last year – this includes a 36% reduction in house burglary (down by 248 offences) and a 10% reduction in criminal damage and arson. My priority is to continue to target the offenders and crime trends that are causing most harm – by focusing daily on emerging threat risk and harm. Our success is through catching criminals and working together in partnership to reduce crime.

The alliance moves from strength to strength and several months ago Warwickshire and West Mercia Police implemented a forward looking project entitled STRADA - Strengthening and Deepening the Alliance – which includes key work to assess the demand upon our policing teams and then to design the best and most up to date policing structures and processes to tackle crime and ASB. This important work keeps us moving forward in terms of consolidating and strengthening the successes we have achieved so far by working jointly with West Mercia.

We are pleased to say that in Warwickshire Police we are continuing with our police officer recruitment campaign and we continue to attract increasing numbers of Special Constables to our ranks. Our Police Volunteers are also doing a great job of supporting front line policing. Many of our officers have been successful in recent promotion processes to sergeant and inspector ranks – these are positive and healthy signs and it is important that we are able to bring in new people with a diversity of experience skills and ideas and that we are developing our workforce to the fullest potential.

This year we have been developing our local plans in support of the Business Crime Strategy and Rural Crime Strategy. A strategy is also being formulated to tackle the growing problem of cyber crime. There have been some notable developments already in support of this work and the new Rural Crime website is a great example of this. With partner agencies we are looking carefully at the new powers that came available from 20 October 2014 to deal with anti-social behaviour. We are currently training our officers on the implications and opportunities and I am sure the revised powers will enable us to problem solve local Anti Social Behaviour issues with increasing effectiveness.

We hope you have found this update interesting. We are grateful for the ongoing contributions of our wider police family in working together to make our communities safer.

### A Story for Christmas

Once upon a time there was a king in Lapland called Rudolph. He had bright ginger hair so his people called him Rudolph the Red. Now Rudolph the Red was bad-tempered and argued a lot. He gave his poor wife, Gertrude the Green, a terrible time. No matter what she said he had to argue. One winter's day Gertrude the Green looked out of the palace window and said, 'Oh dear, it's snowing again. You'll have to clear the footpath before mother comes to tea.' 'Humph!' Rudolph the Red grunted. He didn't fancy shifting snow and he didn't want Gertrude the Green's mother coming to tea.

'That's not snow. It's rain!' he argued. 'But it's white and fluffy and drifting,' Gertrude the Green tried to tell him. Rudolph the Red hid behind his newspaper and snapped, 'It's rain!' Gertrude the Green became quite angry. 'Gertrude the Green knows snow, darling!' 'Yes,' retorted her husband. 'And Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear!' 'What a great title for a song!' Gertrude the Green exclaimed.



# Christmas crime prevention advice

Christmas is a busy time of year for everyone, including the criminal. We know, however, that a high percentage of crime is opportunistic, and can be prevented by taking some simple precautions. Don't let the criminal enjoy Christmas at your expense. Here are some top tips for a crime free Christmas



## Protecting your car

- Don't leave presents in full view on the back seat when out shopping. These can be tempting to thieves. Lock them away out of sight in the boot.
- Always lock your car and make sure windows are closed, even if you're away from your vehicle for just a few minutes. Use a steering lock if possible.
- Never leave your keys in the ignition whilst your vehicle is unattended, even for a few minutes. Opportunistic thieves will often steal cars that have been left with the engine running to defrost the windows.
- Don't leave any valuables in the glove compartment. Take bank cards, mobile phones and satellite navigation systems with you. These items are on a car thieves' shopping list.
- Make sure you park in a well lit area or in an attended car park. Look out for the Park Mark award logo for safer parking.

## Protecting your home

- Keep doors and windows locked at all times, even when you are in the house.
- Keep presents out of sight. Large piles of gift wrapped goodies under the tree that are visible through a door or window are tempting to thieves.
- Don't leave empty boxes on display outside. Discarded packaging advertises all the new goods you have indoors.

- Don't leave car keys and handbags lying around on display.
- Make it look like someone is at home when you're going out for the evening. Leave lights on and close the curtains. If you have a burglar alarm, set it.
- If you're going on holiday over the festive period, ask a friend, relative or neighbour to keep an eye on your house.

## Protecting your property

- Make sure all valuable property is marked. You can either postcode mark your property with an ultra violet pen, or use a forensic marking solution such as Smartwater.
- Register bike frame numbers, mobile phone IMEI numbers and other identifying details on Immobilise, the free, national property registration scheme.
- The police recover hundreds of stolen items every year, and it's much easier to prove that an item is stolen and return it to the rightful owner if it's been registered with Immobilise or security marked.
- Don't carry large amounts of cash on you when you go out. Be alert, and make sure your purse or wallet is secure and hidden from view.
- Don't keep your chequebook and card together. Keep your PIN confidential and don't write it down. Check that your home insurance adequately covers you for the value of goods in your home.

## Passing stolen goods

You can make it difficult for criminals to operate by not purchasing stolen property. If you are offered a quality product at a bargain price ensure that the source is genuine.

Editor: Brian Lowe T:02476 350131 E: ewolb@btinternet.com N&BNWA Secretary: Heather Lowe T: 02476 350131 E: heatherivyloze@btinternet.com

When purchasing products from us PLEASE let us know that you are doing so in response to this advert in *CRIME BUSTERS*.

## MAKE YOUR PROPERTY MORE SECURE

Item	Price	Item	Price	Item	Price
Personal Attack Alarm	£3.00 each	Window Alarm	£3.50 each	Entry Chime Alarm	£4.00 each
Shed Alarm (Shock)	£10.00 each	Decoy CCTV Camera	£12.50 each	Timer Plug	£2.50 each
SmartWater Household Kit	£17.50	Vehicle Security Etch Pack & Registration Fee	£15.00	Padlock Alarm	£10.00 each
Prikka-Strip	£1.25 Per 0.5m strip	CREMARK Overt Property Marking Kit	£15.00	Safe Can	£3.00 each

To purchase any of the above items contact Brian or Heather Lowe on 02476 350 131

**Warwickshire Police**  
**County Neighbourhood Watch Awards for 2014**

Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch Association is actively engaged in raising the profile of the Neighbourhood Watch movement throughout Warwickshire.

Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch Association is a mature, self-governing, democratic voluntary organisation that aims to support and assist individual Neighbourhood Watch Schemes through their respective district and area associations and represent them at County and Regional level.

The Executive Committee, supported by the Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner and Warwickshire Police, are pleased to have this opportunity to identify and reward the hard work and dedication exhibited by so many members of Schemes and our partners throughout the County. The awards will recognise those volunteers who contribute towards making Warwickshire a safer place in which to live and work.

**HOW TO ENTER**

Categories are open to individuals or Schemes as indicated under **AWARD CATEGORIES**. You may nominate a person or NW Scheme or enter yourself.

Complete sections **A, B, and C** on this Entry Form.

Give details of the nominee's activities and achievements using not more than 500 words.

These should be typed. The judges will consider only such pages.

Nominees are assumed to have given consent to their entry being used in publicity or printed literature as an example of good practice.

The judges' decisions are final

**A. ENTRY CATEGORY – Decide which category** best suits your entry. A separate form is required for each category you enter. If you wish to enter more than one category, you may photocopy this entry form.

**TICK ONE CATEGORY ONLY:-**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chief Constable's Street or Area Award    | <input type="checkbox"/> Chief Constable's Partnership Award      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chief Constable's Individual Award        | <input type="checkbox"/> Chief Constable's Award for Young People |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chief Constable's Lifetime Achiever Award |   |

**B. NOMINATION:** Please complete, *in black ink*, either Section B1 below, if your nominee is a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme or organisation, or Section B2, if your nominee is an individual.

**B1.**

Name of NW Scheme or organisation nominated:

Name of contact: Title/Mr/Mrs/Ms/other

Address:

Post Code: .....

Telephone: .....

E-mail: .....

**B2.**

Surname of Nominee: Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/other

First Name: .....

Address: .....

Post Code: .....

Telephone: .....

E-mail: .....

**C.**

**NOMINATED BY**

Surname ..... First Name.....

Address..... Telephone .....

..... E-mail.....

Post Code..... Signature.....

<u>AWARD CATEGORIES</u>
<p><b>1. Chief Constable's Street or Area Scheme Award</b> For a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme that has significantly made their area a safer place in which to live</p>
<p><b>2. Chief Constable's Individual Award</b> To identify and reward an individual member who has demonstrated thought, initiative and dedication towards solving local problems of crime or anti-social behaviour</p>
<p><b>3. Chief Constable's Partnership Award</b> Open to any person or organisation that has demonstrated outstanding efforts to establish and / or maintain co-operation and understanding between Neighbourhood Watch and other organisations or agencies to the benefit of the local or county-wide community.</p>
<p><b>4. Chief Constable's Award for Young People</b> To reward a young person or group of young people who have made a significant contribution to reducing crime or the fear of crime in their area. (Open to schools, youth groups or individuals under 18 years old)</p>
<p><b>5. Chief Constable's Lifetime Achiever's Award</b> For the individual who has dedicated many years of his or her life to voluntary work to reduce crime and the fear of crime in the community</p>
<p><b>6. Chief Constables Watch Premier Award</b> This award will be presented to the overall winner from the above category winners</p>

<u>THE AWARDS</u>
<p><b>Chief Constable's Premier Award</b> The overall winner will receive a certificate and an additional award of £100 to be used for promoting public safety and/or crime prevention activities by their nominated Neighbourhood Watch.</p>
<p><b>Award Category Winners</b> Each Award Category Winner will receive a certificate, presented at a Chief Constable's Award ceremony, and be presented with a cheque of £100 to be used for promoting public safety and/or crime reduction activities by their nominated Neighbourhood Watch.</p>
<p>Runners up will receive a certificate of commendation to be presented at an appropriate Area Commanders Award Ceremony.</p>
<p>All Award Winners will be notified in writing and invited to an appropriate Award Ceremony.</p>
<p><b>Entries</b> <i>All entries submitted must comply with the following format:-</i> No more than 500 words One additional document, e.g. A photograph or poster, may accompany each entry. Each entry must be accompanied by the entry form.</p>
<p><b>Judging</b> <i>The judging panel will include a representative of the Office of Warwickshire Police &amp; Crime Commissioner and a senior officer of Warwickshire Police.</i></p>
<p><i>The judges' decisions will be final</i></p>

**Send your entry to: Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch Awards,  
 35 Ferndale Close, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV11 6AQ  
 To arrive not later than 31<sup>ST</sup> January, 2015**

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