

# Napton on the Hill :: Neighbourhood Watch

## Newsletter - Christmas 2014



In this Newsletter you'll find some useful information about preventing crime which we hope will be useful. Also you should receive an Emergency Contact Disc as alternative to your now unused tax disc holder on your vehicle. The Emergency Contact

Disc contains next of kin contact details and medical alert information for the driver. In the event of a medical emergency or road traffic collision that renders the occupants unable to communicate, a first responder will be able to obtain vital information that is not otherwise accessible at the scene. The disc can be cut out and placed into the now otherwise redundant tax disc holder, the information sections fold inwards so it would not be viewed by passers by.

PC Dave Wise, the West Mercia officer behind the idea said; "The information within the disc could be vital to save lives or quickly locate a casualty's next of kin, something that can be time consuming at the scene of a serious incident. If people have concerns about security of information, they can omit certain details. We would advise that if the next of kin address is the same as the driver's address, it may be sensible to leave this portion blank"

**Lock-snapping** - how do burglars gain access to your property? Often the weakest entry points are uPVC and double glazed doors, where burglars use an easy and speedy break-in technique called "lock-snapping". Most of these doors are fitted with locks which can be "lock snapped". The lock is called the "Euro cylinder lock" - it's a replaceable barrel that controls the entire locking mechanism, and is held in place with just one screw. It can be easily "lock snapped" in less than 15 seconds using basic DIY tools. If you are concerned about the security of your door locks, please consult a member of the Master Locksmiths Association.

**"Know fraud, No fraud"** - a new banking fraud campaign lists eight things that banks will *never* request:-

- Ask for your full PIN number or online passwords over the phone or via email
- Send someone to your home to collect cash, bank cards or anything else
- Ask you to email or text personal or banking information
- Send an email with a link to a page which asks you to enter your online banking log-in details
- Ask you to authorise the transfer of funds to a new account or hand over cash
- Call to advise you to buy diamonds, land or other commodities
- Ask you to carry out a test transaction online
- Ask you to install banking services through any mobile apps other than the bank's official apps

*Remembering these points will help you to avoid bank fraud*

**Good Neighbours Stop Rogue Traders!** - there may be as many as 170,000 victims of rogue traders each year. Doorstep

crime is massively underreported and many of the victims are targeted again and again. Doorstep criminals can be extremely persuasive and even threatening, convincing vulnerable people to pay excessive amounts for poor workmanship on jobs that often don't even need doing. These rogue traders offer a range of work, including repairing broken tiles, re-pointing brickwork, cleaning gutters, painting roofs (claiming it insulates them), gardening, tree felling and driveway tarmac resurfacing. They may claim that work needs doing, when it does not, or falsely suggest that they are working for a local council, or have done work on a neighbour's property. Rogue traders rarely give their real names and addresses (often using false or accommodation addresses local to the area) and use mobile numbers that can be difficult to trace. Sometimes they use very professional and glossy looking flyers with web addresses to make them appear legitimate.



What are the signs that an unwanted doorstep caller is visiting your neighbour?

- Traders have been cold calling in the area
- A builder's van is parked nearby, without a company name or contact details
- Building work on your neighbour's property starts unexpectedly
- Poor quality work is visible on the roof, driveway, or property
- Your neighbour appears anxious or distressed
- Your neighbour visits the bank or post office more frequently, particularly if they are accompanied by a trader

If you suspect a crime, call Warwickshire Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06, and report the matter to the Police.

### Rural Crime Coordinator

Stratford District Council has appointed Lucy Lambert as their new Rural Crime Co-ordinator. The purpose of the role is to provide tailored crime prevention advice

to residents across rural parts of Stratford who have suffered from thefts, burglaries and robberies. In addition Lucy will be available to give talks at clubs, attend local events, and arrange property marking days when residents can bring items along for postcode marking. Lucy may be contacted at tel: 01789 260 200, or by email at [lucy.lambert@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.lambert@stratford-dc.gov.uk)



**Current criminal activity** - in recent weeks there has been an increase in fuel thefts from domestic oil tanks, and impersonations of Police Officers for distraction burglaries. In November a stock trailer was stolen from a Napton farm, following other farm break-ins in Priors Marston and Priors



**Wishing all parishioners a very enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year**

*Compiled, produced and published by Napton Neighbourhood Watch*

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Hardwick. Also do not phone premium numbers for alleged parcel deliveries, often left on postcards.



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