

## Napton on the Hill :: Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter - Summer 2015

Welcome to the NHW Summer Newsletter, packed with useful and interesting information.

**New Napton Parish Council website** - Napton NHW has a separate section in the new village website - <http://www.naptonparishcouncil.org.uk/neighbourhood-watch/> Most of the earlier newsletters are available to download, as well as other information from the Police and Trading Standards. Check regularly for updates and news. If you have any relevant news or information to share, please contact your street coordinator.



*The Neighbourhood Watch display at the Parish Annual Meeting*

**Burglaries from outbuildings** - The Police have reported an increase in burglaries from outbuildings, sheds, barns and commercial properties, often during daytime. As always please contact 101 if you see anything suspicious.

**Property marking** - The policy has been enhanced for larger items, such as bicycles and lawnmowers. Instead of covert marking using SmartWater and UV pens, the Police will be promoting overt permanent marking which is very visible and designed to make thieves think twice before stealing an item. If you see a notice about a local Property Marking event, it could be worthwhile going along with such items. For smaller items, please use your UV pen - just write your postcode and house number/name.

**Beware of bogus traders** - Often these traders introduce themselves by trying to point out problems 'that don't actually exist.' They can be extremely persuasive and usually target elderly and vulnerable residents. Low prices are quoted, but as the work starts the price tends to increase. Please make elderly relatives and neighbours aware of bogus traders, ask them to turn the callers away empty handed, and then to contact the Police on 101. Please warn them not to hand over any cash to strangers at the door, and if possible, not to answer the door to anyone they do not know or are not expecting.

### **How to protect yourself from bogus traders -**

- don't be forced into making a quick decision on the doorstep
- obtain at least three quotes from local companies who have reputations to maintain, and if possible seek recommendations from friends
- only deal with firms with genuine verifiable telephone numbers and addresses - beware of companies that only use mobile phone numbers and accommodation addresses
- anyone who signs a contract on the door step following a visit that was not arranged (unsolicited), does have 7

days in which to cancel it by law

- all cancellation rights must be provided in writing to the customer at the time the contract is agreed, usually on the doorstep - it is an offence not to do so
- if you don't want to speak to the trader, don't open your door to them
- do not allow uninvited callers into your home
- refuse to be taken to the bank to withdraw money
- if you ever feel intimidated by bogus traders, close the door and call the police on 101

**Be Cyber Smart** - Here are some top tips on phishing, malware, passwords, antivirus and the importance of shredding documents:-

- Shred documents containing personal/financial details before throwing them away
- Make sure passwords are nonsensical - use a mix of letters, numbers and symbols
- Always use legitimate and up-to-date antivirus software
- Remain vigilant - think before you input or email your personal/financial details
- Think phishing - an email might be from a rogue wanting your personal details?

**Where do you hide your house key?** - Thousands of homes are burgled each year by thieves who find poorly hidden house keys. Police figures show that more than 6,000 burglaries last year involved intruders using keys to gain access, as opposed to breaking and entering. Despite the security risks, many people leave a spare key hidden on their property - and thieves know this. According to a survey, the most common hiding places are - under a plant; under a bin; under a rock or stone; under a doormat; or under a gnome or garden ornament. Many people leave keys near the front door, where they are vulnerable from thieves who can use a pole to hook them through the letter box slot. Burglars will search for hidden keys before attempting a break-in - it makes their task so much easier.



*A familiar sight in Napton, taken on Dog Lane*

**Copycat website warning** - Websites that masquerade as official application websites for documents such as passports and EHIC cards, are still catching consumers out, despite being relegated on Internet search engines. One consumer recently paid £49 for an EHIC, despite it being available free of charge on the NHS website. Whatever document you want, always begin your search by visiting the UK Government's website.

**Wishing all parishioners an enjoyable summer**

**Don't forget to call the Police on 101 if you witness any suspicious activity**

*Compiled, produced and published by Napton Neighbourhood Watch*