

# Napton on the Hill :: Neighbourhood Watch

## Newsletter - Summer 2012

**Fed up with abandoned cars** - a partnership initiative between Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service, Warwickshire Police, Warwickshire County Council and Stratford District Council aims to reduce the number of deliberate vehicle fires by getting rid of abandoned vehicles in Warwickshire. If you identify an abandoned vehicle, just call the "Cruncher" on 0800 16 999 00. How do you spot an abandoned car?

- \* Does it look vandalised and/or fire damaged? Does it look unused and in poor condition?
- \* Does it have a valid tax disc? Does it look like it's been in a road traffic accident?
- \* Has it been parked/abandoned in an isolated or unusual location?
- \* Have any parts been removed or damaged? (e.g. windows, wheels, flat tyres)
- \* Have you seen anybody use it or act suspiciously around it?
- \* Has it been there for over a week?

**Trade secrets of a serial criminal** - a burglar who was recently jailed for five years, has provided the Police with a "checklist" of things which stopped him raiding homes. He had burgled over 70 properties in 5 years, mostly in south London. Prior to sentencing, he handed a letter to the Police explaining the features of a property which would stop him targeting it for burglary. He avoided homes that had any of the following :-

- \* A dog or a sign warning of a dog: burglars will not risk entry if there is a hint of a dog
- \* Pebble drives or shingled patios: these surfaces make it difficult to approach a house quietly
- \* Alarms (even if they are fake): our burglar never raided a house with an alarm box
- \* CCTV cameras: most burglars avoid homes with CCTV, even if they are fake
- \* Wire on gates and anti-climb paint: these measures make it difficult and messy for a burglar to gain access to a home
- \* Well lit: burglars will tend to avoid homes where lights are on
- \* Motion sensor lighting: lights installed outside homes that go on as soon as anyone walks close by are also a major deterrent

During his 70-plus offences over five years of crime, our burglar never forced entry - in all cases he entered through open windows and doors, and avoided the "deterrents" listed above. How secure is your home? Start by considering this useful list of deterrents.



The Napton Jubilee beacon being lit

**Keeping fraud at bay when banking online** - protecting yourself from fraud is mainly down to common sense - it is important not to panic. Here are a few steps to keep your money secure :-

- \* Be sensible - treat your personal details as "valuables" - don't disclose them to any strangers contacting you by phone or e-mail or at the front door. Don't share PINs or passwords.
- \* Be technically aware - your bank will not send you e-mails suggesting you reset your security details. These are 'phishing

scams' which often direct you to fake websites which then steal your personal details. Install security/anti-virus software e.g. Rapport

- \* Don't publish your address, phone numbers, date and place of birth, passport or driving licence numbers anywhere. Never use public Wi-Fi hot spots to access any websites (such as banking, shopping) where you have to provide financial details
- \* Regular checking of your finances - make sure that you check your bank, credit card and other financial statements regularly. If you are not getting your post, check out why - someone might be intercepting it. Check your credit report frequently - it costs just £2 from Experian, Equifax or Callcredit.
- \* Always shred unwanted bank statements, receipts and documents containing financial details
- \* Cancel cards that you no longer use
- \* Keep your card in sight - never let your card out of sight when paying in shops and restaurants

**Fed up with junk mail and unwanted telephone calls?** - most of us receive unwanted mail and phone calls; often the phone calls occur just as you are sitting down for a meal!

To reduce the amount of **personally addressed junk mail**, you need to contact :-

Mailing Preference Service, Freepost 29 LON20771, London, W1E0ZT or by website:

[http://www.mpsonline.org.uk/mpsr/mps\\_choose\\_type.html](http://www.mpsonline.org.uk/mpsr/mps_choose_type.html)

It will take around 4 months before you see a reduction in the junk mail you receive.

To reduce the number of **unwanted telephone sales** calls, you need to contact :-

Telephone Preference Service, DMA House, 70 Margaret Street, London, W1W 8SS or by website -

[http://www.tpsonline.org.uk/ctps/number\\_type.html](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk/ctps/number_type.html)

**Buying second-hand goods** - all second-hand goods sold by traders are regulated by legislation.

- All second-hand goods must be safe for their intended use
- Do not buy second-hand electrical equipment or gas appliances from boot fairs, jumble sales, advertisements in newspapers, or shop windows, without evidence that a competent engineer has tested it for safety.
- Do not buy second-hand upholstered furniture unless you are certain the furniture meets the current safety requirements. A label on the underside of the furniture will give you an indication that the furniture is both cigarette and match resistant.

**Doorstep pedlars** - anyone calling at your door and trying to sell you items 'on the spot', requires a Pedlar's Certificate from Warwickshire Police. It provides details of the pedlar : name, address, age, height, colour of hair, eyes and complexion. It also shows the validity of the certificate. Please call Warwickshire Police on 101 should a pedlar not have the required certificate.

**Local contact details** - below are some useful phone numbers - please keep this list handy.

Age Concern Warwickshire	01926 458100
Gas - emergencies	0800 111 999
Severn Trent Water - emergencies	0800 783 4444
Tradeline	08456 123258
Victim Support	0845 3030900
Warwickshire County Council	01926 410410
Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service	01926 423231
Warwickshire Police (non-emergency)	101
Warwickshire Trading Standards	01926 414040

**Wishing all parishioners an enjoyable summer**

*Compiled, produced and published by Napton Neighbourhood Watch*