

Bingham Neighbourhood Watch

www.bingham-watch.com

NEWSLETTER

December 2011



Nottinghamshire Police New number - 101

Nottinghamshire Police now have a new non-emergency number: **101**. **101** replaced the previous 0300 300 9999 number on 7 November 2011, though the old number will be phased out gradually. **101** is now the number to call for non-emergencies that don't require an immediate police response. These include: reporting a stolen car, property damage, suspected drug dealing, minor traffic collisions or providing information to the police. **101** calls are charged at 15p from landlines or mobiles, irrespective of time or duration of call. You should still use **999** in an emergency, i.e. when a crime is taking place or someone is in immediate danger.



PC John Kneale - Beat Manager

We're very disappointed to report that John Kneale retires from Nottinghamshire Police in December this year, and we'll greatly miss the marvellous support and friendship that he has given to Bingham NW. John rarely missed our quarterly meetings, where he presented the monthly crime sheets and handled our questions with calmness, transparency and good humour. John will be sorely missed and we wish him and his family every success in whichever venture he now pursues. At the time of writing we await news of his successor.

Are you all lit up?

Shorter days, longer nights, and how cheering it is to light up your house as evening falls. Do you enjoy sharing your interior designs, flat screen TV, computer, paintings and lovely ceramics with passers-by? It can all look very cosy and inviting. BUT remember - there may well be people out there in the dark taking more than a passing glance, who will enjoy relieving you of your treasured possessions. DON'T give them encouragement. Think SAFETY. **Close your curtains!**

Hide your house keys and car keys! Never leave them in or near a door or window. We know of incidents where burglars have gained entry, even when the family has been asleep, by reaching through a cat flap or letter box with a pole or similar device to steal house and car keys; they then steal your car, iPhone, iPad, laptop, etc. Always set your burglar alarm at night., if you have one.

Crime figures July-September

Bingham crime levels remained steady during the three-month period July to September 2011, averaging 20 offences per month, equivalent to two crimes every three days; low for a town of nearly 10,000 population. The main offences were theft (32% of all crimes), damage (19%), burglary (19%), assault (15%) and theft from cars (7%). A number of the thefts were commercial, i.e. petrol from filling stations and items from shops. However, there were 10 thefts from domestic premises, involving cycles, garden plants and valuables such as jewellery, purse and handbag. The message is: take special care over security of cycles and valuables. Theft of plants is more problematic, and the best advice is vigilance, taking close notice of any stranger 'admiring' your garden; take special interest, note the time and description, and record the registration number of any unfamiliar vehicle nearby. **Which? Gardening** provides excellent advice against garden theft; just Google '**Garden theft which?**' to bring up a superb page on 'Garden theft'. Of the burglaries, four were on commercial premises, three were households and three were on sheds. Do you have a shed alarm? If not, we sell them at £7 each via your co-ordinator. Finally, to learn more about crime in your area, visit the Police.uk website at www.police.uk and type in your postcode.

Gordon Sanders

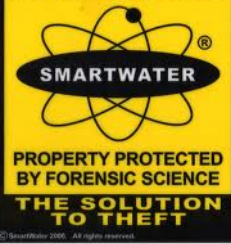
Gordon Sanders, our chairperson for the past few years, stepped down at our AGM in November 2011. Gordon took on the role at short notice and has made a superb, unstinting contribution to the Bingham scheme. He has been a great ambassador for the scheme, involving himself in media liaison, police liaison, launching new schemes, overseeing our stalls at Bingham Fairs, obtaining and selling security devices, storing all our publicity material, and a wide range of other leadership duties. We owe Gordon a debt of gratitude and are grateful that he's kindly offered to continue to sell the security devices and to provide a supportive role to the new chairperson, yet to be appointed. Gordon will of course continue as co-ordinator for The Paddock/Walkers Close scheme.

Scheme expansion

In 2000 membership of Bingham NW had grown to 52 streets. Now there are 90 streets in the scheme, a growth of 73%. Do you have a friend or friends who live in a street which is not in membership? Perhaps it's now time for you to persuade them to talk with their neighbours and look to joining.

SMARTWATER

WARNING



Why choose it?

- Proven to deter criminals
- Over million UK subscribers
- Award winning technology
- Possible insurance discount
- 100 per cent conviction rate
- Over 600 UK convictions

We hold a stock of SmartWater vials, which we sell at the 44% discounted price of £10 each, cash with order. Orders should be placed through your co-ordinator. If you don't know your co-ordinator please ring **838871**.

Inspector Phil Hallam

Police Inspector Phil Hallam, guest speaker the co-ordinators' September meeting, gave us a detailed account of the latest policing situation in Bingham. He also

"The role you play is truly invaluable and I cannot put a price on the work you give to the community and to the police. Without you and your goodwill, crime will go up."

praised our scheme as one of the best in the county. Phil outlined the

changes resulting from severe budget constraints, involving fewer officers and closure of several police stations, including Bingham. Our own Beat Manager John Kneale would be retiring in December, though the PCSOs would be retained and John would be replaced. Phil reported some very favourable crime figures for Rushcliffe, showing reductions against the previous year in house burglary, robbery and vehicle crime, with figures for all crimes showing a fall of 21 % from the previous year. He reminded us that 75 % of burglaries are preventable. Current trends included thefts of metal and petrol. Phil also described measures being taken to combat ASB. The Q & A session covered such issues as contacting the police, crime sheets, street lighting, speeding and police presence on market days. Phil was warmly thanked for his detailed report.



Season's Greetings!

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and safe New Year. In these times of austerity and uncertainty in the world please pause to ask yourself: 'Do I have a neighbour who might welcome a hand of friendship at this time?' If so, this might be the time for 'neighbourliness'.



If you're already in Neighbourhood Watch, please persuade others to join us. Tell them to call **838365** or visit www.bingham-watch.com

New scheme launch

The **Partridge Close** scheme was launched at the Old Court House on Thursday 13 October. There was an excellent turnout of residents and we congratulate co-ordinator Polly Lunn and her residents for their initiative. Chairman Gordon Sanders welcomed residents and introduced Sgt Chris Jury and PCSO Sally Charles of the Nottinghamshire Police Safer Neighbourhood team. Gordon issued the welcome packs and showed a wide range of security devices available to members at discount prices. Vice-Chairman Bob Garland outlined all the communication systems, with emphasis on our website, the six-monthly Newsletter and the benefits of joining Neighbourhood Alert. He also explained about SmartWater, with Chris Jury adding further details. Chris Jury and Sally Charles spoke on several issues, including burglary, car security and domestic security, followed by a Q&A session. Overall, this was a very informative and successful meeting, and we wish Polly and all residents every possible success with their scheme.

Street lighting

Bingham NW, in its response of March 2011 to the County Council on the proposed changes to street lighting, undertook to monitor crime levels following the changes. At November 2011 we can report that average monthly crime levels for the 5-month period June-October 2011 were almost identical to the corresponding period in 2010. Burglaries over this period in 2011 were just 2 more than in the same five 5 months in 2010 (19 against 17), while criminal damage incidents fell from 23 to 20. So the lighting changes have not so far resulted in more darkness-related crime; however, the dark nights are now with us and we shall continue to work closely with the police to monitor crime figures over the winter.

Keep 'em out!

- ▶ Always lock windows, doors and garden gates to prevent a burglar from simply 'walking in' to your home.
- ▶ Use window alarms, intruder sensors, door chains and spy holes.
- ▶ Don't leave Christmas gifts or valuables on show or within easy reach of doors, windows or cat flaps.
- ▶ Remove all keys from view and never leave them in the lock or near the door.
- ▶ If you're out, make your home look occupied – use a timer switch to turn on lighting inside and outside, and leave a radio playing to deter a would-be burglar.
- ▶ Use your burglar alarm if you have one.
- ▶ Close curtains or blinds after dark to stop people looking in from outside.
- ▶ Ask for proof of identity before letting anyone into your home.
- ▶ Always lock windows and doors even if you are at home.

Bingham's safe!

Your vigilance will keep it that way.

Officers

Chairman: To be advised
Vice-Chairman: Bob Garland
Secretary: Kay Howells
Treasurer: Chris Trivett
Website: Bob Garland
Newsletter: Joy Holbrook & Bob Garland
Security co-ordinator: Gordon Sanders