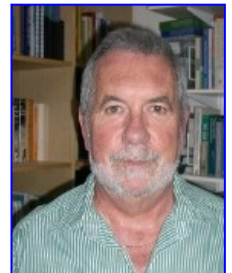


## Introduction from the Chairman

Well, I believe the cooler weather has now come to an end and the days are getting longer at last. Here's looking forward to a summer filled with sunny weather.

I expect most of you now will be looking forward to a holiday, so don't forget to put away ladders and garden tools, cancel the milk/papers/mail and tell a neighbour when you will be away.



### Reporting crimes and incidents

Have you ever looked at the police crime data on our website and thought that it omitted an incident of which you were aware? Have you ever been the victim of a crime or anti-social behaviour but not bothered to report it, thinking that nothing could be done? Then please read on.

It is vitally important that all incidents are reported to the police using the 101 non-emergency number (or via 999 if a crime is in progress or someone is in danger). The police can only respond to incidents they know about. Even if they are unable to deal immediately with every report, these reports are logged on police systems. The patterns they reveal then feed into operational decisions about where to deploy resources and personnel, as well as into budgetary calculations. So your reports can directly affect how Bingham is policed and how it fares in competition with other area for resources.

So remember, if you're aware of an incident, report it straight away. Don't rely upon someone else to do it.

## A perspective of NW

As a member of a NW scheme, you belong to the largest crime prevention organisation in the country.

The number of schemes in the UK has expanded from an estimated 42,000 in 1998, to 130,000 in 1995, to 155,000 in 2000, and who knows how many now, 16 years later? NW started in the UK in 1982, 34 years ago and the Bingham scheme launched 3 years later, so we've been going for 31 years!

In 2000, 27% of households in England and Wales, about 6 million, belonged to a NW scheme. That's a huge resource of human capital: roughly 14 million people in the UK, let alone the countless millions worldwide. Based on recent tragic events in Europe and elsewhere, the general public's need for vigilance and its role in counter-terrorism is certain to grow in the future, and as a society we need to learn how to harness much better that vast resource of human capital.

Prevention is always preferable to cure, and this requires extensive community co-operation and more strategic working arrangements between the police, NW and other security agencies.

Research has proved that NW is effective in reducing crime; it works; it's stood the test of time; people value it; so let's promote it at every opportunity.

## WEBSITE

**New Website for Bingham NHW!**

**Our website at [www.bingham-watch.com](http://www.bingham-watch.com) has recently undergone a face-lift!**

**The new mobile-friendly site has been modernized and updated with new content and FAQs on how to report crime. The website receives over a hundred visitors a week, with most users viewing the local Bingham crime data, supplied to us monthly from our local PCSO.**

**You can also use the website to view which streets are in membership, find phone numbers for the police and for crime-stoppers and even catch up on previous copies of the newsletter.**

**Please take a look around the new website and if you think of something that would be useful to include on the website then please let us know by email at [mail@bingham-watch.com](mailto:mail@bingham-watch.com)**

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH





## The value of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

April saw proof of just how useful our schemes can be, when one of our scheme members was the unfortunate victim of a cash card copying crime at the Bingham's Nat West ATM. After reporting the matter to the police, the quick thinking scheme member informed her scheme coordinator, Pam Richmond, of the incident. The news was then quickly circulated among all coordinators who were then able to promptly forewarn their scheme members of the situation.

It has been suggested that criminal devices are usually fitted to cash machines when a bank is closed and when there is a local distraction (on this occasion a large water lorry). It is therefore arguably safer to use ATMs in shops or get cashback on purchases, rather than using ATMs when banks are closed.

### THINGS YOU CAN DO as a scheme member.

1. Do any of the bushes or trees in your garden obscure the street NHW sign? If so, please trim them or prune them. It is important the NHW signs are visible as statistics show they act as a deterrent to would-be criminals.
2. Is your house easily identifiable? i.e. is the number easily visible from the pavement?
3. Are any of your scheme's NHW signs broken? If they are, report them to your Coordinator.

If you don't know your Co-ordinator then ring Bingham 876635 to find out. As mentioned in the last Newsletter, your Co-ordinator would be pleased to accept help in either delivering some of the Newsletters or offers of attending the quarterly meeting when he/she is not able to.

The police monthly crime data for the first quarter of 2016 shows an average of 32 offences per month, or just over one crime per day, and shows a reduction from the three months prior.

Over the first quarter, anti-social behaviour remained the most commonly occurring crime (36%) while domestic burglaries accounted for 10% and vehicle crime for 8%.

Looking at the low actual numbers of offences, this may provide Bingham residents with some reassurance that we are enjoying a low crime rate. However, it is vital to remain vigilant and employ crime prevention measures where possible.

Are there any lessons to learn from the above? Remember that criminals need **means**, **motive** and **opportunity**, and our role in NW is to do our utmost to reduce the last of these, opportunity. We cannot prevent all crime, but we can take basic measures to try to avoid becoming a victim of crime.

## WELCOME to Neighbourhood Watch

We welcome the new scheme on Fisher Lane. Thank you to Mike Bennett for volunteering as its valued Co-ordinator.

## Keep your valuables safe!

Marking your property makes it less attractive to thieves. Traceable property may be more difficult for an offender to sell on, particularly items that have been visibly marked. Marking your property also increases the chances of you being reunited if stolen and later recovered.

Bingham Neighbourhood Watch scheme recommends that home owners buy and use **Smart Water** to mark property. Your scheme coordinator can obtain this directly for you.

**SmartWater** is a traceable liquid and proprietary forensic asset marking system that is applied to personal, commercial, and industrial items of value to deter theft and to identify culprits for prosecution. The non-hazardous liquid leaves a long lasting and unique identifier that is invisible to the naked eye, except under an ultraviolet black light. Each bottle has a unique forensic code making marked valuables identifiable.

74% of criminals fear **Smart Water** and said they would not break into a home where a smart water sign was on display.

Answer

your  
door

HINTS

& TIPS

TO

- ➔ LOCK— Keep your front and back doors locked even when you are at home. This applies also to windows when you are in the garden during the summer months. Open windows are an invitation to an opportunist burglar.
- ➔ STOP— before you answer. Stop and think whether you are expecting anyone. Check you have locked the back door and taken the key out. Look through a spy hole or window to see who the caller is.
- ➔ CHAIN— If you decide to open the door, put the chain or door bar on first. If you have one. Keep the chain or bar on while you are talking to the caller.
- ➔ FIRE SAFETY— Only put on the door chain as you answer the door— don't keep it on all the time as this could delay your exit in case of fire.
- ➔ CHECK— Look at their clothing. Some official callers will have a uniform bearing their organisation's name or symbol. Even if the caller has a pre arranged appointment with you, check their identity card carefully. Close the door while you do this. If you are still unsure call the company concerned to verify their representatives identity. Look the company number up and don't rely on the telephone number given on the identity card as it could be fake.

