



THE CO-ORDINATOR

Delivered by:-

Winter 2009

Issue 30

**The Newsletter of the Eastbourne Neighbourhood Watch Association
encouraging the Community to work together to fight crime in close co-operation with the
Police, Crime Reduction Partnership and supported by Eastbourne Borough Council**

The 2008 Eastbourne Neighbourhood Watch Association A.G.M

The 2008 A.G.M. was held at Christ The King Church Hall on the 12th November 2008. The meeting was marked by the retirement, after nearly five years as Chairman, of Lionel Lacey-Johnson and the unanimous voting in of Jan Newens as the new Chairperson. After a break for coffee and biscuits the meeting was addressed by the Chairman of the East Sussex County Council, Councillor Bob Lacey, Councillor David Rogers of the Sussex Police Authority, Mr David Kemp of the Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership and Chief Inspector Dick Coates, Commander Eastbourne Police District, all of whom gave very clear summaries of their involvement with NHW and praised the work of NHW members throughout Eastbourne. The attendance of these special guests was much appreciated by all and is regarded as a measure of success of partnership working in the fight against crime.

The NW Numbers game... our target for 2009 is at least 300 schemes.

| Wards | Schemes B/F | Schemes Added | Schemes Discontinued | Total Schemes | Homes Covered |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Meads | 53 | 1 | Nil | 54 | 1,472 |
| 2. Devonshire | 22 | 1 | 1 | 22 | 540 |
| 3. Upperton | 22 | 2 | Nil | 23 | 565 |
| 4. Old Town | 22 | 1 | 1 | 22 | 733 |
| 5. Ratton | 33 | 4 | 1 | 37 | 807 |
| 6. Hampden Park | 19 | 1 | Nil | 20 | 932 |
| 7. St Anthony's | 18 | 1 | Nil | 19 | 337 |
| 8. Sovereign | 21 | 2 | Nil | 23 | 1,419 |
| 9. Langney | 17 | Nil | Nil | 17 | 425 |
| TOTALS | 227 | 13 | 3 | 237 | 7,230 |

Fire Safety. * FREE Fire Safety Check and FREE Smoke detectors fitted *****

The East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service wishes to remind us all of the importance of fitting serviceable smoke detectors in the right places in our homes. Please do not hesitate to contact them on **0800 177 7069** for a FREE Fire Safety Check. If you are the carer of a family member or neighbour remember that they may not be able to react quickly to a smoke alarm and it is even more important that you call the above number to seek expert help and advice on the best ways of protecting those with reduced mobility or poor hearing. Please mention Neighbourhood Watch when arranging your Check.



The Eastbourne Neighbourhood Watch Members Handbook.

The new Eastbourne Neighbourhood Watch Members Handbook is currently with the printers and it is hoped to begin deliveries to all NW Scheme Members at the end of January 2009. The handbook provides a handy reference to information on how to make your home more secure, the threats from fraudsters and bogus callers, the correct procedures for reporting crimes or suspicious activity, how to help protect the most elderly and vulnerable members of our community, how to keep safe from the risk of fire and much more. The handbook is completely FREE to NW members having been sponsored by Eastbourne District Police, the Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership and the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.

The more we know about the threats to our security the greater chance we have of winning the battle –
KNOWLEDGE helps to fight CRIME!

Neighbourhood Panels.

Progress continues with the setting up of Neighbourhood Panels in the 21 Neighbourhood Policing Districts. Panels are in the process of being set up in Ratton, Willingdon Trees, Hampden Park, Downside, Rodmill, The Hydneye, Old Town, Summerdown, Upperton, Upper Meads, Langney Point, Shinewater, North Langney, West Langney, Langney Village and Sovereign Harbour.

It is planned to introduce panels in the remaining five Districts during the coming year. The aim of all panels is to provide a forum at which people can raise any issue of general concern to their local area.

If you are not sure of the number of the Policing area where you live please contact Jan Newens on 07733480858. Alternatively and for more information on the Panels visit the Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership Website at www.eastbournenp.org

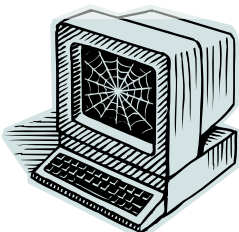
New Year message from our local Police Commander

Our neighbourhood panels continue to grow and I am placing more staff into the dedicated neighbourhood teams. Another Police officer will join the town centre team from the 1st February which will boost our visibility within that area. I aim to grow the neighbourhood team by another 3 Police officers next year so we can really address the issues you want us to deal with. This will have no effect on my response teams who will still be staffed fully to attend any emergency calls within the town.

Eastbourne is getting safer each year. With the economic downturn we all need to be vigilant though. Please report any suspicious behaviour. Keep an eye on elderly neighbours as criminals do prey on the elderly. Lock your property up and make sure anything with a serial number is logged on the Immobilise website. If you want advice on that then please contact your local officer of the station. Eastbourne is one of the best places to live in the country and with the continued support of the public and partners within the town it will remain that way. Working hard to keep you safe and secure. Local Policing - Keeping Eastbourne safe.

Dick Coates - District Commander

WEB-WISE D-I-Y



Register your mobile phone on www.immobilise.com

Don't forget to log on to www.fixmystreet.com in order to report any problems associated with graffiti, broken paving slabs, street lighting and road signs etc in order that our local Council can be made aware. Reporting a problem couldn't be easier. (1) Enter a nearby GB postcode, or street name and area (2) Locate the problem on a map of the area (3) Enter details of the problem then (4) Their Web Team send it to the local council on your behalf. Help prevent people tripping and falling on our pavements.

Check out the Eastbourne Freecycle group via web site
www.freecycle.org

LATEST UPDATE ON THREATS



**East Sussex County Council
Report on Scam Activity in Sussex**

During September 2008 East Sussex County Council gathered together evidence of over 460 individual scams which had been reported to the Council's Trading Standards Service. Some of the cases revealed the misery suffered by victims, some of whom had lost thousands of pounds.

In one case a 72 year person had sent nearly £100,000 to American criminals operating a share investment plan, in another a man living in poverty had sent regular payments all over the world after being promised that he would win a fortune, The latter case only came to light after the gentleman had been taken into care.

It is estimated that scams cost the UK about £3.5 billion a year.

Trading Standards are appealing to anyone who has been told they have won a prize to **STOP** and **THINK** before sending any money.

Debt Letters

Doing the rounds recently has been a letter purporting to come from a debt collection agency based in the Czech Republic.

Use some common sense if you receive one of these or a similar one in the future. The letter will normally contain the fictitious name of the company who have reported you together with equally dubious account and reference numbers together with the amount you supposedly owe. In any event if you really did have an outstanding debt then long before a recovery agency becomes involved the company you purchased the goods or services from would have written to you on a number of occasions. Please do not be tempted to telephone any of the numbers supplied as this is basically a premium rate telephone scam. The clue in this particular letter was the phrase, 'Due to very high call volumes you may experience intermittent connection problems to our call centre. Please continue calling until your call is connected to a call operator'. Naturally they want you to keep trying to contact them – that's how they make their money.

Remember this – Just because a strange company writes to you and says you have a debt doesn't necessarily mean that you do.

Internet Auction Site Frauds

Without doubt the largest number of Internet related crime complaints received by the Sussex Police are in relation to these types of transactions.

It is important to state that buying and selling items through most of these sites is intrinsically safe but only if you follow the rules. Deviate from them and you will find yourself in a minefield.

Think of your own local community. Now wouldn't it be nice if everyone was honest and trustworthy? Well the same applies to these auction sites. They can only reflect the world they serve and are populated by both heroes and villains. It is essential, therefore, that you read and understand each auction sites terms and conditions. Above all you must understand that this type of deal is a transaction between strangers. Despite their good efforts eBay can't protect users if they ignore the rules.

Remember this – In the case of Internet auction sites 'rules are not for bending'. They are designed to safeguard you and your money.

Do not breakaway from them.

For all of these scams - if you need advice about bogus demands for payment, please ring Consumer Direct on 0845 040506 or visit www.consumerdirect.gov.uk



Contact:
Mrs Jeanette Bird

**Temple Bird
SOLICITORS**

For specialist advice concerning:

- Wills and Estate Administration
- Lasting Powers of Attorney
- Inheritance Tax planning and Trusts
- House Sales and Purchase

Wills and House Title Deeds stored free of charge

Home visits arranged by appointment

40 Meads Street Eastbourne
Tel 01323 732355
Fax 01323 722611

Neighbourhood Watch in Eastbourne has a mission to: -

Help to Prevent Crime - Assist the Police in detecting crime
Reduce the fear of crime - Improve Police-Community liaison

Reporting Incidents

Generally speaking the standard of our reporting of incidents is still not as good as it might be.

Please always remember the golden rule-

Crime in progress or about to happen—Call 999

Concern or recent incident ---Call 0845 60 70 999

The Neighbourhood Watch Police Support Office (NWPSO) telephone number 01323 414218 should NOT be used to report incidents of criminal activity because-

- a. The desk is only staffed on a voluntary part time basis
- b. The desk officers have no direct access to the Police Control room which records all reported incidents for future reference.

The NWPSO number should be used to obtain advice on NW administrative matters such as who to contact about non-criminal problems and the placing of NW Street Signs.

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Devonshire Cllr Nigel Goodyear | 641211 | Old Town | David Visick | 724982 |
| Hampden Park | | Ratton | Alf Pulfer | 507639 |
| (East) Keith Fillery | 504042 | St Anthony's | Nigel Parker | 645529 |
| (West) Roger Strange-Burlong | 508863 | Sovereign | Gill Ashby | 646563 |
| Langney | Vacancy | Upperton | Colin Sargent | 731909 |
| Meads | Roy Peacock | | | |

How Security Minded are you?

Although Eastbourne is one of the safest places in which to live we should not become complacent. Remember criminals go for easy targets, whether it is the breaking in to a home, taking advantage of a moment's forgetfulness, a "soft touch" or careless disposal of papers containing personal details. Look at your property through the potential burglar's eyes, what are the weak spots, are you careful not to leave the doors or windows open when you just "pop out for a minute"? How would you deal with a cold caller? Do you put un-shredded bank statements etc in the rubbish bin to be found by a fraudster on the local dump? For copies of the latest leaflets giving advice on these matters call the Neighbourhood Watch desk at Hammonds Drive on 01323 414218.

KNOWLEDGE helps to fight CRIME!

Vacancies

Street Co-ordinators Wanted

If you would like to become a Neighbourhood Watch Street Co-ordinator and help to strengthen your community action against crime, please contact Jan Newens - Tel: 01323 749100 Mob: 07733 480858 or jan.newens@virgin.net or alternatively leave a message at the Neighbourhood Watch Police Support Desk on 01323 414218

Langney Ward Co-ordinator

Jan Newens has moved away from Langney. If you like getting involved in community matters and if you are concerned about crime in Langney why not do something about it? It takes a couple of hours delivering the quarterly newsletter and attendance at our quarterly committee meetings. Contact Jan if you are interested.

Disclaimer. Eastbourne Neighbourhood Watch Association is unable to accept any liability for claims arising as a result of readers using services advertised in this Newsletter.

Any comments or items for our Neighbourhood Watch newsletter please contact our editor via email to nw_eastbourne@btinternet.com . **Stay Safe** Thank you.