



PANWA NEWS



Petersfield Area Neighbourhood Watch Association

For Buriton, East Meon, Froxfield, Hill Brow, Liss, Liss Forest, Petersfield, Privett, Rake, Ramsdean, Ramshill, Sheet, Steep, Steep Marsh, Stroud, and Weston.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Autumn time is here, the leaves are falling and the farmers have got the harvest in. The weather is changing and there is a nip in the air. Time to get ready for winter. If you have any outside maintenance jobs that need doing now is the time to do them. To mend those fences, clear the rubbish, take any unwanted bits to the tip, put an extra coat of paint or varnish on the outside furniture doors and window frames, clear the gutters make sure the roof doesn't leak replace those missing tiles, check the sheds are dry and secure safely locked for the winter. Service the lawn mower ready for next year. Do you have an elderly neighbour you could help with these jobs? How about heating? Is the boiler serviced and maintained for the winter? What about loft insulation, cavity walls are they insulated too? How energy efficient is your home? Now is the time to take stock and change to energy efficient light bulbs. Going around turning OFF lights and equipment you aren't using, not leaving things on standby. Wearing more layers and warmer clothes so you can leave the main heating thermostat turned down one more degree. Have thick winter curtains to keep the cold out this will all help to cut the electric bills. Save water have showers not baths, wash up the cups and only use the dishwasher every other day or just on special occasions when visitors come around. Try and watch the weather to get clothes out on the line to dry outside and keep the tumble dryer out of action as much as possible. Do you use and re-use? Recycle? Anything you can. Only buy what you need as you need it, buy local seasonal goods with less packaging. Just by giving a bit more thought to ALL these things you can make a big difference. Did you grow your own vegetables this year? If not have you ever thought of turning some of the garden over to vegetables and harvesting your own crops. Do you have a compost bin to recycle rotting vegetables which you can use to fertilise the garden? Keeping your home safe and secure is part of our autumn jobs for our winter preparations alarms, sensor lights, good locks and padlocks; creaky noisy gates (don't oil them!) 'Beware the Dog' signs, prickly bushes keeping keys safe, all things to make your home welcome to neighbour and friends but unfriendly to the unknown callers and unwanted visitors.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEMBERS IN HANTS + IOW - 140,000 AND RISING

The number of households covered by Neighbourhood Watch has gone up from 110,282 in 2007-08 to 142,886 households for 2008-09. Our North & East OCU has 44,320 households. Percentage of total households covered: 19.17% And we still have one of the lowest crime figures in the country.

GARDEN SUPPORT SERVICES FOR OVER 60s

When scheme coordinators notice that the gardens of our older inhabitants are getting left to wither and thus give a hint of vulnerability to the opportunistic criminal; it is good to know that Hampshire County Council has set up the following service with the Shaw Trust for the next three years. The service will be available in all Districts except for Eastleigh (who already have a service) and Test valley, and consists of two elements:

1. A basic garden support service that is delivered to vulnerable older people during the year: a. April to Sept, a maximum of 4 visits of up to 4 hrs per visit. b. Oct to Mar; a maximum of 2 visits of up to 4 hrs per visit.
2. An emergency one off service to:- a. Facilitate hospital discharge where this is being delayed by virtue of the state of the garden i.e. access etc. b. Reduce the possibility of the householder being "targeted" due to the state of the garden advertising the presence of a vulnerable person.

The service is chargeable, with the basic contracted service being provided on a two tier chargeable basis:

1. For clients in receipt of an income related means tested benefit (to a maximum of 4 hours per visit) the charge will be at a maximum rate of £6 per hour.

2. For other clients the service will be charged at a maximum rate of £12 per hr for all hours worked (to a maximum of 4 hrs per visit.) For more details contact

The Shaw Trust on 0845 6044 643

PHOTOCARD DRIVING LICENCE EXPIRY DATES

Photocard driving licences started in July 1998. If you have a photocard licence, it may be worth checking that it is still valid and has not expired. The reason is that these licenses are only valid for 10 years and not for life as with the paper ones. The first photocard licences started to expire last year. The photocards are only valid for 10 years because you need to update the photo. Although the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) will send a renewal pack two months before your photo is due to expire, some people have not yet realised that there is an expiry date. The cost of renewal is £20 but is free if you are aged 70 or over. If you have a photocard licence and you want to check the expiry date, look at the front and just below the driver name is a series of dates and details – each one numbered. Number '4b' features a date and if you read the key on the back of the card you will see that '4b' means 'licence valid to'. More information about this is now available from www.direct.gov.uk - click on 'motoring'. You may also need to check the expiry dates of all the different sub categories covered.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL GOOD NEWS IN A REPORT ON UNDER AGE DRINKING

Our ACSOs (*Accredited Crime Safety Officers*) not only patrol our priority areas but also seize alcohol from those who are under age, which in turn reduces the amount of antisocial behaviour. A considerable amount of alcohol has been seized in the Petersfield area by the local ACSOs and the police team over the weekend; more good news is that they ran a test purchase operation around and about showed that the local shops were NOT selling alcohol to under agers. The police are seizing it, the shops are getting much better at checking who they sell to - even one local sergeant was recently refused a purchase as he had his 17 year old son with him and staff thought he was buying it for him - *although he claimed he was sure it was due to them thinking he was under 25*, This raises a question - Who is supplying young people?? Perhaps parents are buying it and then not supervising them once they have it, this is irresponsible and not to be advised. Please make sure you are not buying alcohol for anyone under age If you see someone else doing it then take them to task We are making very good progress in this area and the police need our help, If you have children Don't encourage drinking unless it is at home and supervised -All things in moderation. A council spokesman said **'Under 18s cannot have alcohol in a public place, it will be seized and a letter will be sent to their parents as well as a follow up visit afterwards.** Please be vigilant! Antisocial behaviour is fuelled by drink. Help keep our youngsters sober and better behaved. Thanks.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR ROAD?

Would you recognize a stranger in your midst, a different car someone or something unusual. How well do you know your neighbours? what cars they drive? Do you know their routines; would you know if they had a problem? If you haven't seen the little old lady walking out to buy her paper would you just leave it or go and knock on her door to check all is well? Could you offer to cut her grass at the same time you do yours? That is what a good neighbour would do. Can you keep an eye out for strangers lurking when a house is empty? The police are looking out for houses where drugs are being grown; where terrorists could be making bombs. Most roads are safe - they are drug and terrorist free. But do you see anything odd happening in your road? Have you noticed lots of comings and goings that seem unexplained? Terrorists have to live somewhere could it be near you? Do you really know your neighbours? Note the time, dates, any incident that strike you as odd. Talk to other neighbours do they have the same worries as you. What goes on in your neighbourhood matters! Help keep our elderly safe, watch our for rouge traders. Be a good neighbour.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD
CALL JANE HOOLAHAN 01730 261105
OR BRIAN HENDY ON 01730 268471**

LATEST SCAM WARNING

These come in so many varying forms, so **our message must be NOT to do business with cold callers, either on the doorstep or on the telephone.** In the latest scam an email is received saying it was from HM Revenue & Customs stating a Tax rebate is due. It was only for a relatively small amount of £178.00. A form is needed to download, complete and return. This form requested name, date of birth, mother's maiden name, address, phone number and full bank details, credit card number with the 3 digit security number on the back. It all looks very official but a phone call to the local tax office will reveal that this is a scam.

DO not EVER give security information away at others request. If you are not directing the enquiry at any time or confident of who you are speaking to, then politely decline. IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE THEN IT PROBABLY IS. Think if you are approached HOW can you win a competition if you haven't entered?

WARNING - Rogue Traders have been again cold calling in the Petersfield area offering to tarmac driveways etc. These traders are operating under the name of County Construction and are not providing consumers with the required notice of right to cancel, which gives consumers a 7 day cooling off period. They are asking customers to sign their order/receipt requesting that the work starts straight away. Claims are also being made that the tarmac is left over from another job, but this is also not the case. If anyone has had their driveway or path tarmaced by this trader in the past few weeks Trading Standards would like to hear from you. If you have any information about these traders, have agreed to have work carried out by them or require any further advice on doorstep crime please contact Hampshire County Council's Quick Response Team on 01962 833666 between Mon and Fri 09.00-17.00

'NEW AREA CO-ORDINATOR FOR FROXFIELD AND PRIVETT REQUIRED

could you take on this task it is fairly straight forward just liaising and encouraging the group in this area. Making sure the locals hear of the latest incidents, and crime safety advice.

IS YOUR SCHEME WORKING WELL?

How well is your neighbourhood watch scheme working for you? Are the newsletters getting around? Is all the information really getting around? What we do makes a difference and gives us all a better place to live, If you have comments, talk to your co-ordinator, let's make sure what we do - we do well.

LATEST GOOD NEWS from Sgt Stuart Tripp Ps

1900 - A length of fence was damaged along Tor Way in Petersfield on Friday night. A very public minded citizen left their home, followed the offenders, and then found a police officer in the Square. The youths were identified and then arrested for the offence. Great news! Our thanks to the witness and the police officer who dealt with this so quickly. Always good to hear.