

Petersfield Area Neighbourhood Watch Association

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

PANWA NEWS

Spring 2009



Attached to this Newsletter

Your own Home Security Challenge

Liss Going from Strength to Strength

More watches are starting up in Liss and Liss Forest. A meeting is being arranged to give everyone a chance to get to know one another and carry on their success.

Do you know your Neighbours?

Time to talk over the garden fence, swap stories, time to give out the invite for morning coffee. If this weather keeps getting better then eating outdoors will be great. But do think about your neighbour, keep the music down. To save any complaints you could always invite them? Boundaries, fences and hedges can be a problem and cause rifts between neighbours, but with good communication and some tolerance disputes can always be resolved. TALK to your neighbour before issues arise.

Know your Road.

As well as knowing your neighbours do you know what cars they drive, what their routines are? Can you keep an eye out for strangers lurking when the house is empty? Would you recognise a stranger in your midst, a different car someone or something unusual? It is little things like these that help the police catch criminals. Note the time, dates, any incident that struck you as odd.

101 STATUS TO CHANGE

From April 1, 2009, the 101 number will become a police only non-emergency number for the Hampshire Police and will run alongside 0845 045 4545. The decision was made by **Chief Constable Alex Marshall** following the lack of cohesion within the 101 partnership in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Use 101 for all non-emergency contact with Hampshire Police including anti-social behaviour issues. If the matter is a local authority only matter, callers will be filtered to the appropriate agency.

APRIL 7th National Lets Keep Crime Down Day

JUNE 8th –12th National Tackling Drugs Week

NOV 2nd –6th Not in My Neighbourhood Week:

'Spring is here' Time to get out in the Garden.

While you're there have a good look around. If you were someone wanting to break in how would you do it? Most break-ins are done by gaining access at the back, entering by the back door or window. Look, see, where are the weak points? What could you do to make it less attractive to a burglar? And more secure. Prickly shrubs in front of windows are really useful, so are plastic spiky strips along the top of fences to stop burglars getting too close or climbing over. **Beware of the Dog** signs are good, but not as good as your Neighbourhood Watch sticker! Always look at the easy things first, it's no good having those elaborate alarm systems if you leave them turned off, it's no good having really solid bolts and padlocks on your doors if you are going to leave them unlocked. You don't want to be buying nice outside garden furniture for a burglar to enjoy. Secure large pots or seats to the ground or wall. Improvise, find new methods to safeguard your property. But the best thing at the end of the day is to collect up the tables, chairs, BBQ, and store them in a well protected lockable shed.

Floodlights and Alarms

Feeling safe in your own home is a high priority to most of us. Outside lighting and motion sensitive alarms will deter burglars. Bright lights are good they leave no dark corners for the burglar to hide checking out your comings and goings.

Message from Trading Standards

Re: 'Healthy Chocolate' - Residents are advised to be wary of the selling methods of these products as they could lead to people being exploited. The products, which claim to have health benefits, are only available through party plan type schemes or from the Internet. Anyone considering joining a home distribution scheme to sell these products should read the paperwork very carefully and make sure that they understand the terms, and in particular the financial commitment. Anyone thinking of buying the product should compare products & prices with what is available through other outlets i.e. supermarkets, health food shops and Internet shops. **Trading Standards** are keen to obtain further information so if you are approached either to buy or distribute and have concerns, contact **01962 833620** and **ask for the Food Team.**

From your Chairman, Spring again! First, apologies for the lack of newsletters at the end of last year. We were told police funds were tight and not forthcoming for the later part of the year. That hasn't stopped us before but coupled with other personal circumstances no newsletters were written. Sadly we have lost some precious coordinators, we give them our thanks for all they have done in the past. We also welcome a number of new Watches. My thanks to our hard working co-coordinators, police station volunteers and committee members for all they do. If any of you would like to participate more please call with your offer.

Fire Safety

Smoke alarms save lives - check that yours work. If you don't have one NOW is the time to get one

The kitchen is the most likely room for fire to start. A good place for a fire alarm is on the hall ceiling, just outside the kitchen door so it picks up the rising smoke. NEVER take the battery out of a sensitive alarm just to stop the noise, but close the kitchen door and fan the alarm till it stops. Cases have been known where a fire has started in the kitchen at night and a disabled alarm has failed to alert the family upstairs and caused loss of life. Having a second alarm at the top of the stairs is a good backup in case the downstairs alarm fails to go off for any reason. Have you a **fire blanket** to cover a pan fire? If not a wet tea towel will do. **Most upstairs double glazed windows are made to open and act as fire exits** but do you have a **rope ladder** upstairs to use to get out of an upstairs window? Think about where to keep it and how to attach it. It's no good having an exit if you can't use it. If you think there is a fire in a room behind a door **Don't open it!** Feel the door for heat and leave it closed. Look for smoke. Toxic fumes and smoke rise, so the cleanest air is closest to the ground - you may need to crawl out. On finding a fire don't panic. Stay calm. The first priority is to **'Get Out', and 'Call the Fire Brigade Out'**. Never mind rescuing anything else other than the family, they are the most important. Have you tested your batteries to make sure the alarm will work? This needs doing regularly so test it NOW.

Sgt Stuart Tripp shares Local Police Successes

A youth ripping off car badges is caught and charged. A man arrested for handling stolen goods in Petersfield was caught on shop watch CCTV. Police were able to locate his car which they found loaded with stolen goods. Please, if you see a suspicious car or van take the registration number. A detailed description, make and model, colour, etc will all help the police.

PANWA AGM

This was well attended by our members. There was a lack of uniformed police but apologies had been given. We continue to grow slowly. A talk on Smartwater was very interesting. New treasurer Judy Kempster has joined the PANWA committee. We thank the re-elected members for their service. It was agreed at the meeting to invite CI Kedge to come and give a presentation on StreetWatch to co-ordinators so we can be fully informed about this new crime prevention development. Committee members also met separately with CI Murray who is responsible for Neighbourhood Watch and discussed our remit and how it differs from StreetWatch. We will keep you informed.

Volunteer Sought to join Dedicated Team

PANWA Correspondence and Minute Secretary just to answer letters and take minutes at our meetings (only four meetings a year). If interested in this position then please contact Brian 268571 or Jane on 261105

Backing for the 'Ice' mobile campaign

The **In Case of Emergency (Ice) Campaign** encourages people to store next of kin details on their mobile phone under **'Ice1,' 'Ice2'** and so on. It is such a simple idea and yet very effective. This campaign has been around for quite a while now. The scheme claims that eight out of ten people do not carry any next-of-kin details - the same proportion that carry mobile phones. The scheme started in East Anglia and is usable on any mobile phone network. The scheme was thought of after rescue workers found the mobile phones of victims in the London bombings. For those who haven't come across it **now is a good time to act, and catch up with the rest of the UK. This is not a Hoax**, it will not unleash a virus in your phone to drain pay-as-you-go credit. If you have a mobile phone take a few minutes to follow this simple step - it could prove crucial in an emergency. **To Set up ICE on your mobile phone** Go to 'add new contact', in the name section write **ICE**, then add the phone number of your nearest relative, or friend who you wish contacted in case of emergency. i.e. **ICE Mum, ICE Sarah. Mums make sure your children have this information in their phone. Kids make sure your Parents and Grandparents have ICE programmed into their mobiles. This is important.**

Everyone should have an ICE number on their phone!

Do It Now!

'Important Notice' re Internet Scams

Never pass on information about a scam unless you have checked it with us first. Most scams are only sent to block the Internet. We have direct access to Trading Standard Information, so if you hear it from us then it is a real scam - that is the time to pass it on.

Do you have an escape plan incase of fire?

If not you need to put one together and try it out, check everyone knows what to do. Recently a family lost their youngest child, who in a panic rather than follow her father's instructions ran back into her bedroom, curled up in bed and wouldn't come out. It is always easier to do something you have already tried and practiced, especially for younger children. Regularly walk the escape route, make sure everyone knows where the keys for windows are and how to unlock them. The best way out is the normal exit so make sure the way is kept clear. Chose a second route if the first one is blocked. Never jump out of an upstairs window but lower yourself down as far as possible before you let go and drop, throw cushions and bedding down first to cushion your fall. If you can't get out, find a safe place to wait, collect the family in one room with a phone and a window that opens, put cushions and bedding around the door to block out smoke, open the window and call for help. (This is the time you wish you had bought that rope ladder).

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