

Winter 2010

CRIME WATCH

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HORSHAM SOUTH SECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Local Police Staff changes.



As of the 4th of January this year Horsham South Neighbourhood Policing has grown. Storrington and

Billingshurst now have their own Neighbourhood Police Constables.

PC Paul Rolland (AR700) has worked as a Police officer in Sussex Police for 29 years and lives in Storrington. He is looking forward to working in the village and one of his first projects will be to hopefully set up an office for him and the local PCSOS to patrol from on a daily basis.

PC Phil La Roche (CL635) has been a PC in Pulborough for 4 years and was previously a PCSO in Billingshurst. The office in Billingshurst is up and running and he and PCSO Adrian Bell are making the most of that facility.

Inspector Tim Tapley (AT018) has become the Inspector for the Neighbourhood Policing Team. Insp. Tapley was a Response Inspector covering the division on a 24hr response basis and has a vast experience of international Policing having worked overseas on secondments. He has for a long time wanted the role of Policing Inspector for Horsham and is very excited to now have that responsibility.

Sergeant James Makepeace (CM026) is moving from Pulborough to Horsham town and will be the Sergeant for Neighbourhood Team north of the district. **Sergeant Steve Boyes** (CB531) based in Steyning will once more cover the entire South Horsham district.

Submitted by Sergeant James Makepeace

Crime Trends.



Current crime trends in the South of the district focus on non-dwelling Burglary and vehicle crime. The geography of the local district means that many areas with sheds, garages and parked vehicles are off the beaten track. Vans and other vehicles that are used by tradesmen are key targets and it is advised that when they are parked tools should be removed and if possible the rear part of the vehicle parked close to a wall or another vehicle.

Sheds and garages are also prime targets and should be made secure with robust locks and alarmed if possible.

Submitted by Sergeant James Makepeace



Local input to Newsletter and Website.

This newsletter and the NHW website www.nhwsteyning.org.uk are produced for the benefit of Neighbourhood Watch members in the Horsham South Police District. This large district roughly covers the area between the A29 in the west to the A23 in the east and the A283 in the south to the A272 in the north of West Sussex. If NHW co-ordinators or members in the area have any comments, suggestions, issues or require adverts for meetings etc. that they would like included in the newsletter or web site then please contact the editor David Langdon at david@nhwsteyning.org.uk



More Cold Weather?

With the cold weather we need to turn up the heating and perhaps light those open fires and wood burners. But this of course increases the risk of fire or carbon monoxide poisoning. It is therefore essential that all heating appliances be regularly checked that they are working efficiently and correctly. By now everyone should have at least one smoke alarm and hopefully a carbon monoxide detector, but how many of us regularly check these vital pieces of safety equipment.

You should: -

1. Once a week - test the alarm. Press the test button until the alarm sounds. (If the battery is low most alarms make a short bleep every minute or so)
2. Twice a year - Open the case & gently vacuum the inside to remove dust from the sensors. If it doesn't open, vacuum through the holes.
3. Once a year - Unless it is mains powered change the battery.
3. After 10 years - It is best to replace your alarm with a whole new unit.

If you have questions about fire safety in your home please contact your local fire brigade who will be more than happy to advise you.



Buy With Confidence

After this hard winter are you thinking of improvements or repairs to your home? Who do you get to carry out the work? Can you trust them to do a good job and not cheat you? If you are in any doubt where can you get advice? In the first instance ask your local friends and neighbours to recommend a good tradesman. If this draws a blank then you can turn to Trading Standards.

West Sussex Trading Standards has recently published their second edition of the **Buy With Confidence Approved Traders Directory**. This is a list of businesses that have been vetted and inspected by Trading Standards. You can request your **free** copy by calling 01243 642124. You can also request multiple copies if you want to distribute them locally. Please email: - advertising@westsussex.gov.uk with your request. Alternatively, you can view all 300 traders on the website link below http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/ccm/content/trading-standards/buy-with-confidence/buy-with-confidence-directory.en;jsessionid=aQTnUOTxWVc_

Car Jacking!



With the improvement of car immobilisers and alarms car thieves are now tricking owners to leave their cars open with the engine running so they can steal them and make a quick getaway.

The owner returns to their car in a car park and starts the engine ready to reverse out of their space, however looking in the rear mirror they see a sticker that has been placed on the rear window. As this is partially blocking their view they get out to remove it leaving the engine running. As soon as they are at the rear of the car a thief appears from nowhere and jumps in the car and drives off pushing the owner out of the way. If the owner has left their wallet, handbag or house keys in the car the thief then has free access to their house and/or credit cards etc. So if you see stickers on your windows when returning to your car then wait until you can remove them safely. A winter variation on this is when an owner is defrosting their car by leaving it with the engine running to warm up. Or maybe they are filling up with fuel and leave the keys in the ignition while paying. The thief simply gets in the car and drives off.

Please be aware it only takes a couple of seconds to drive away a car if it is not secured.