

Hi folks,

Welcome to LNWA Newsletter #30. As you all know by now, ACPO, the Metropolitan Police, the Home Office, the Neighbourhood & Homewatch Network and LNWA are anxious information reaches the "grass roots" so I'll be grateful if you can do your best to ensure this newsletter reaches every house in a Watch in your Borough. Our newsletters are accessible via our website, [www.lnwa.org](http://www.lnwa.org) so pointing people there is an alternative delivery mechanism.

#### SURVEY

Tribal has been commissioned by the Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network to deliver a feasibility study that considers the case for a national communication system that can be used by Neighbourhood Watch and Home Watch schemes and their partners. Tribal will also prepare a business case that evaluates the costs and benefits of such a system.

Tribal needs to understand how grassroots members currently communicate with each other and their partners and what they want from such a system in the future.

Tribal attended the regional NHWN conferences in London and Peterborough but will have missed out on the opinions of many of you. Therefore, Tribal is hosting an Internet-based questionnaire which I am asking all watch members to complete. The survey can be found at the following address <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NHWN>. Please take 5 minutes to complete it.

#### SAFE AND CONFIDENT NEIGHBOURHOODS STRATEGY

The '[Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods](#)' Strategy builds on the success of neighbourhood policing and will ensure anyone with a concern about crime and antisocial behaviour receives the assistance they need. It will also make it easier for the public to play its part in tackling crime and antisocial behaviour. This will be achieved through:

- rolling out a national police non-emergency telephone number – 101 – by 2012, making it as easy to report antisocial behaviour and crime over the 'phone as it is to report an emergency by dialling 999;
- support to enable communities to negotiate and sign neighbourhood agreements on how their local services, including the police, will keep their neighbourhood safe in 12 pathfinder areas across the country – and supporting more than 100 interested areas;
- more support for Neighbourhood Watch, including to work with Age UK to recruit older people (see details below);
- support from the [Future Jobs Fund](#) to employ young people in roles, such as police cadets, to support neighbourhood policing;
- inviting chairs of magistrates' benches to make appropriate arrangements by which magistrates could be involved with neighbourhood partnerships in their areas, whilst protecting judicial independence and avoiding any perception of bias; and
- repeating the successful [Community Cashback scheme](#) allowing people a say - including through online voting – on how a further £4m of criminals' ill-gotten gains are spent.

You can access the strategy and related links on the evidence, how neighbourhood policing teams and other parts of the force are mutually supportive and models of neighbourhood partnerships here:

<http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/community-policing/safe-confident-neighbourhoods/>

Neighbourhood Watch has a key role to play in tapping into the energy and enthusiasm of an estimated 3.8 million current households and others who wish to be involved. Its members can provide local intelligence, assist with planning and delivering campaigns (for example on home security), volunteer and act as a bridge between services and the community. In particular, these could be older people who, by engaging with services, could feel more secure in their homes.

The Government will invest a further £180,000 to support the development of the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network to work with and support volunteers in areas of greatest need, ensure they work closely with neighbourhood policing teams and promote these schemes to the public.

Additional funding has already been provided for Age UK to work with Neighbourhood Watch to encourage larger numbers of older people to become involved and train co-ordinators to identify and work with the most vulnerable old people in their communities. Other commitments in the strategy include:

- extra money for communities with low levels of confidence in local police and councils to vote online on how best spend money on local projects to tackle crime and ASB issues;
- a clear minimum level of local information that should be given to the public including outcomes of high profile court cases, details of out-of-court disposals, asset recovery seizures, community payback results and numbers of offences brought to justice;
- making local information on public confidence levels available online, building on the success of the national crimemapper website;
- PCSO accreditation to recognise and develop PCSOs working for their communities; and
- a new justice webportal so people can access magistrates' court outcomes online.

#### NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

If any of you out there are in a Neighbourhood Watch Association registered as a Charity, don't forget you can find help, support and guidance on access to funding by becoming a member of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations ( [www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/) ).

#### GAS SAFE REGISTER

In April 2009, the CORGI gas registration scheme ended. Capita Gas Registration and Ancillary Services Limited launched [Gas Safe Register](#). Anyone working on gas appliances and fittings must be Gas Safe registered; if not, they are breaking the law and could be putting lives at risk.

When the CORGI scheme ended, the orange shield ended too – it's not allowed to be displayed on anything or anywhere but we all know how unscrupulous rogue traders can be and they may use this old logo to dupe vulnerable people not yet used to the change of register.

You are invited to help us help them. If you spot the orange CORGI gas logo on any van, advertisement or shop, please e-mail: [Brandmisuse@gassaferegister.co.uk](mailto:Brandmisuse@gassaferegister.co.uk) who will investigate. All reports will be treated confidentially and your help will be much appreciated.

#### SCAMS AND SCARE STORIES

This month, I've had 2 of the usual e-mails purporting to come from HSBC and another very sad story from an employee of Hang Seng Bank Ltd, Sai Wan Ho Branch, 171 Shaukiwan Road Hong Kong. It went like this, warts and all:

"Good Day, I am Director of Operations of the Hang Seng Bank Ltd, Sai Wan Ho Branch, Hong Kong. I have an obscured business suggestion for you. I am here-by seeking your service in helping me recieve (sic) a large amount of money and in giving a clear research and feasibility studies on areas I could invest on. Your services will be paid for, and you will be a partner, if your recommendation is accepted.

As a bank employee, I can not operate any personal investment till I am retired and with the Anti-corruption Bill passed in Hong Kong; it is risky for a fixed income earner to own any huge amount of money in Hong Kong or any foreign country. It is then advisable to invest in any foreign land secretly and patiently wait retirement. For security purpose, due to telecom interception in Hong Kong, I shall not accept or acknowledge any phone call. Only fax messages/emails would be treated in relation to this proposal but not without this code; [CODE NO: AM-001]. Should you be further interested, I

would prefer you to reach me soon and finally after that I shall provide you with more details of this operation. Contact me through this email for further confidential correspondence:  
niam.cho001@yahoo.com.hk

Warm Regards  
Mr. Niam Cho”

Fair pulls at the heartstrings, doesn't it but, of course it's all a scam.

Although it is an American based website, it could be worthwhile checking for scam e-mails on [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com)

This site has many of the horror stories that circulate.

#### TWENTY ONE THINGS A BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU

1. Of course I look familiar, I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
2. Thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
3. Love the flowers. That tells me you have taste and taste means there are nice things inside. Those toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
4. I really do look for newspapers piled up in the porch and I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
5. If it snows while you're out of town, ask a neighbour to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.
6. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set.
7. A good security company alarms the window over the sink and the windows on the first floor, which often access the master bedroom and your jewellery. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.
8. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door. Understandable, but understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.
9. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. Don't take me up on it.
10. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.
11. Helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.
12. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.
13. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. Find it at: [www.faketv.com/uk/](http://www.faketv.com/uk/)

14. Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook.

15. The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosey neighbours.

16. I'll break a window to enter even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbour hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.

17. I'm not complaining but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?

18. I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems. I'll drive or walk through your neighbourhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.

19. Avoid announcing your holiday on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address.

20. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.

21. If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk in.

That's all for this month. Thanks for listening and, on behalf of the London Neighbourhood Watch Association, I thank each of you for your work and support for the Watch movement.

Kind regards,

Alfred J Kennedy  
Treasurer  
The London Neighbourhood Watch Association Limited