

Newsletter — Edition 1

A message from the Chairman Steve Law



Welcome to the first of what we hope to be a regular Newsletter.

You have been telling us that communication is the key to a successful Watch scheme, so here at the North Yorkshire Neighbourhood Watch Association we decided to provide more information for you and your members in the form of a newsletter.

We already have a website www.nynhwa.co.uk where you will find a host of information and links to the relevant agencies, NHW forms and information etc.

Recent research, commissioned by National NHW was released, as Neighbourhood Watch and Rural Watch celebrates its 50th anniversary. It found that 65% of people agree that neighbourhoods would be stronger if people were encouraged to get to know each other better instilling a sense of togetherness and reducing crime levels. Yet despite this fact, one in ten Brits can't name a single neighbour. What is more damning 80% of people over the age of 80, who live alone, never see their neighbours.

Becoming part of Neighbourhood Watch or Rural Watch not only helps to create a safer, more connected community but can also have a positive impact on the value of homes and their appeal to buyers. Insights from Insurance companies also highlight that, homes in Neighbourhood Watch and Rural Watch areas benefit from lowered house insurance premiums.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter

Steve



Good Practice beware of those Average Speed Check Cameras!



If you are planning to drive north for some Christmas shopping etc and travel through the A1's 12 mile stretch of road works between Barton and Leeming Bar, then stick to the 50 mph speed limit and don't be tempted by others that are overtaking you!

Some 1,392 motorists have incurred speeding offences according to a report by North Yorkshire Police along this stretch of the A1 which is being upgraded. These cameras measure the speeds of vehicles between **EACH** camera.

So beware ... don't be one of the 25 motorists each day that are being caught for speeding!

News from Gail Cook Community Partnerships Officer, Ryedale District Council



Ryedale Street Angels is celebrating its first anniversary of the establishment of an initiative which provides assistance to people on the streets of Malton and Norton on Saturday nights.

The idea – pioneered by Malton based PC Jane Jones - is part of Christian Nightlife Initiatives, and Ryedale Street Angels began patrolling the twin towns twice a month in November last year – providing a “helping presence” to members of the public who may be worse for wear due to alcohol.

The team offer general assistance as well as hand out bottles of water - and even flip flops to women who are having trouble with their footwear!

A spokesman for Ryedale Street Angels commented: “We receive so much positive feedback from members of the general public for simply being available to help and support. We also learn that crime statistics have shown a reduction in ‘violence with injury’ and ‘damage to property’ in the last twelve months.”

While the service is free – help is needed to cover the costs of uniforms and insurance. Charity boxes can be found at Beecham’s Chemist, Pizza Master, and the Derwent Arms, Norton. In Malton, they are located at The George, The Yard, Suddaby’s, The Health Food Shop, Rory’s Bar, Malton Police Station and Ryedale District Council offices.

A great idea – and food for thought for introduction in other places as a good practice!



BEWARE! I'M AFTER YOUR MONEY – DON'T BE A SUCKER!

It is reported that 767 people in North Yorkshire have been found to be on "suckers' lists" – lists drawn up by scammers (internet criminals) to target vulnerable people who fall victim to a scam and are then often added to a "suckers' list" to be traded with other criminals, often globally.

Andy Fox of North Yorkshire Trading Standards is working with Police Officers, PCSOs and Police Volunteers to ensure that all 767 people receive welfare visits.

We all need to be mindful of the dangers of "copy-cat websites" and scams that regularly come our way with an aim of relieving us of those hard earned savings.

As Hambleton South Chairman - Bill Wood – comments:

Indeed, the fastest increasing crime is Fraud, including Cybercrime.

The latest National Crime Survey showed a dramatic rise. Fraudsters may not have an obvious presence, like burglars or bogus callers, but neighbours can still help to protect each other from becoming fraud victims. Fraud can be defined as trickery used to gain a dishonest advantage, often financial. Often people don't like to admit they've been defrauded. They can feel embarrassed, or just chalk it up to experience, particularly if they didn't lose a large amount of money. But no one should suffer in silence.

Some key messages for everyone are as follows:

- *Make your passwords stronger – use numbers, symbols, upper and lower case letters.*
- *Never give out any personal information unless you are certain you can trust the person contacting you and never give a PIN, or a password.*
- *If an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is.*
- *Banks and financial institutions will not send you an email asking you to click on a link and confirm your bank details.*
- *Your bank would never contact you to ask you for your PIN, password or other security information in full.*
- *Anti-virus package protects your computer – make sure it's up-to-date.*
- *Make sure your computer has a firewall installed.*
- *Software updates keep your computer safe – install them as soon as you get a reminder.*
- *Emails can contain viruses – only open attachments in them if you know who they're from.*
- *Computer firms do not make unsolicited phone calls to help you fix your computer, or to tell you it has a fault.*
- *Shred receipts with your card details on and correspondence with your name and address on.*

More about this in the Information that follows from Trading Standards.





Christmas Thoughts From Bill Wood – Chairman of Hambleton South

As Christmas comes nearer, people up and down the country are starting to think about their Christmas shopping and stocking-up on supplies. Criminals are no different in that respect and at this time of year can find rich pickings by taking advantage of the unwary. Some common sense precautions against getting burgled during the festive season are:

- Keep presents, both wrapped and unwrapped, out of view – make sure they're not visible from any window.
- Be careful when putting out gift wrapping paper – thieves will notice this and boxes for branded products like laptops, TVs or even accessories that could indicate there's an expensive piece of equipment somewhere in the house.
- Leave a light on (preferably use time-switches) and draw the curtains at dusk, especially when you go out in the evening.
- About a third of burglaries are 'sneak-ins'. The offender has not had to make any effort to break into the house - they simply walked in through an insecure door, or climbed through an open window.
- If you're going away, ask a trusted neighbour to pop in draw the curtains & collect the mail. It goes without saying to make sure everything is properly locked-up before you leave and do remember to set the burglar alarm, if you have one. Also cancel newspapers, magazines and milk deliveries.
- Don't forget to look out for your neighbours' too! Report anything suspicious to the police on 999 (emergencies), 101 (non-emergencies) or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.
- Remember that thieves also have their eye on cars – so don't leave valuables in the car if you can avoid it. Lock them in the boot if you can't take them with you. Don't leave anything on show in the car, not even a coat, or an empty carrier bag. Park somewhere well-lit and secure if you can, and of course take care of your keys at all times.
- With the dark evenings starting as early as 4 o'clock, remember to be careful when you're out and about. Keep your wallet, phone, keys and other valuables secure in your pocket, or bag. Be careful when taking money out of cash machines – put it away before you leave the machine and don't take out too much cash at one time. Be aware of what's going on around you and avoid taking phones or music players out of your pocket or bag in an area where there may be a risk of theft.

Wishing you a safe and a very Happy Christmas.



On a lighter note, over the past 12 months Steve Law has been building a model railway and whilst he tells us that there is still "lots to do" you can see the result of his work so far by following the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ND3FdYWY9jA> All aboard !



News from Trading Standards - Investigations and Safeguarding

From David Miller, Acting Section Head, Investigations and Safeguarding - Farming, Food and Health

Doorstep Crime

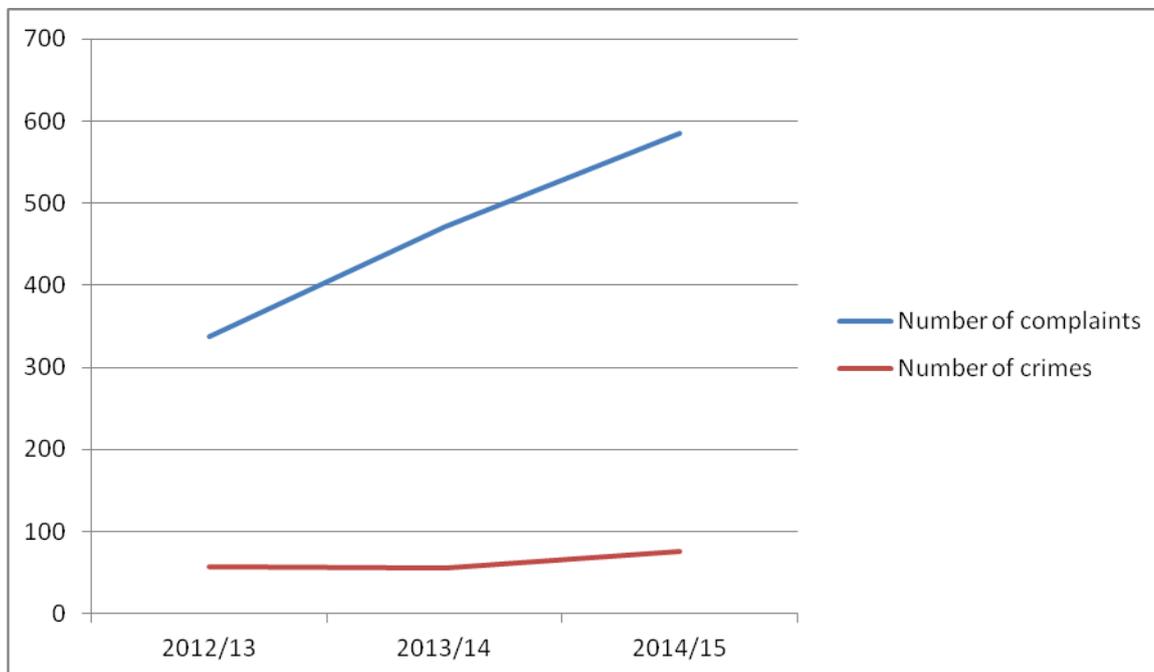
The protection of vulnerable residents continues to be a priority for Trading Standards especially with regards to doorstep crime offending. As of the end of quarter 2 of 2013/14, this service had received 292 reports of doorstep crime. Of this number, 38 have involved criminal activity with a significant number of further complaints requiring further investigation to ascertain whether or not criminal offences have occurred.

Since the turn of the financial year these complaints typically pertain to one of three types:

1. **Roofers.** Cold callers who claim that refurbishment to a roof is required. Often the rogue trader implies that without the work the roof will deteriorate considerably. The majority of these statements are untrue and are simply an inducement to contract with the home owner. Once the contract is agreed the trader can then suggest further work at vastly inflated prices. In our experience these traders do not comply with legislation that requires the issuing of cooling off periods nor do they issue any paperwork to clarify what remedial work is required.
2. **Fish sellers.** Traders who obtain a stock of fish in the morning and as the ice on which it is kept thaws throughout the day the price at which they are selling reduces. As the price reduces and the prospect of having left over fish at the end of the day increases, so does the pressure which potential customers are subjected to. We often find these traders refuse to offer any paperwork, they fail to identify themselves and often return to their vulnerable consumers on a 3-6 monthly basis charging excessive amounts of money for small amounts of fish.
3. **Driveways.** Rogue traders falsely purporting to be working on the roads 'for the council' who have some left over tarmac that they wish to get rid of. They fail to identify themselves and their initial sales pitch of a few quid per metre often turns into 'per square metre' with the price rising from few hundred pounds to a few thousand. Furthermore the chippings are invariably laid with no bituminous binder and the chippings therefore lay unprotected on the old surface. Hardly the quality of the roads that was initially promised.

Projecting the number of complaints in Q2 over the full year it is expected that we will receive somewhere in the region of 584 Doorstep Crime complaints in 2014/15. This compares to the 2012/13 figure of 337 and the 2013/14 figure of 471.

The number of crimes identified in 2012/13 was 58, in 2013/14 there were 55 and the projection for 2014/15 is 76.



From this we can see that despite a slight projected increase in 2014/5, the number of crimes reported is over previous years is relatively consistent. The issue for Trading Standards in the years to come is maintaining a response to all Doorstep Crime whilst dealing with significantly reducing budgets and resources.

Regardless of budgets and complaint numbers, Trading Standards continues to provide a robust response to Doorstep Crime allegations. As an example, on the 21st October 2014, Mr Brian Ward of Colne, Lancs, was successfully prosecuted for the victimisation of an elderly dementia sufferer from Skipton, after he persuaded the resident to pay him for unnecessary and overcharged gardening work. The consumer who could only recall paying 'Brian' for gardening work was particularly susceptible to rogue traders however by tracing cheques and by obtaining statements from concerned neighbours we were able to identify the offender, taking legal action against him whilst improving the safeguarding of the victim with the assistance of the family and friends. Mr Ward was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment suspended for 18 months with an order to carry out 200 hours unpaid work. He was also ordered to pay £500 in court costs.

No Cold Calling Zones

As mentioned above, Trading Standards are currently contending diminishing budgets whilst continuing to provide our statutory duties. Unfortunately this has meant that the time and resource available to provide pro-active services has reduced considerably. A consequence of this is that the number of new No Cold Calling Zones has also reduced. As 90% of residents who live in a No Cold Calling zone claim that the provision of their zone has reduced cold callers and 96% claim to be more confident in being able to send callers away, they are clearly very effective initiatives. We now apply a prioritisation system to new requests with the intention of any new zones being closely aligned to complaints of cold calling with particular priority placed on victims such as the resident in the above example. This ensures that the most vulnerable of communities are protected against further victimisation. We are also currently working on alternative ways of providing No Cold Calling Zones. The most obvious way of doing this is for communities to purchase the resources required to set up a zone. We are currently finalising our policy on this topic and if you want more information then please don't hesitate to contact the safeguarding team on:

- investigationsandsafeguarding@northyorks.gov.uk. For those who have a request currently on file we shall be contacting people in due course to explain the change of approach.

May I take this opportunity of reminding everyone that you do not have to live in a No Cold Calling Zone to report suspicious activity. We welcome any information relating to rogue traders and should any criminality be identified we will respond robustly. Whether you live in a No Cold Calling Zone or not that does not change so please continue to report incidents via the Citizens Advice helpline: 03454 04 05 06.

Furthermore, if you want a window or door sticker to warn cold callers that they will not be tolerated please ask.

Methods of self protection against cold callers:

1. Never deal with anyone over the doorstep.
2. Try and use local, reputable traders for property repairs.
3. Always ensure that you get written confirmation of the work proposed in advance of any remedial work.
4. If you agree to contract with a trader whilst away from the trader's business premises, then the trader should offer a 14 day cooling off period and the trader should provide you with paperwork that allows you to cancel the contract by sending a standard form back to the address stated on the paperwork.
5. Always obtain 3 quotes from different local traders before choosing who to employ.
6. Wherever possible obtain references from previous customers about the trader's professionalism and ability to carry out the work proposed.

Ongoing initiatives - Scam mail and the use of volunteers

Trading Standards are working with the National Trading Standards Scams Hub in undertaking welfare visits to those people susceptible to scam mail. To date, 767 North Yorkshire residents have been identified on lists, unfortunately titled 'suckers lists', which have been seized from criminals involved in the sending of scam mail. The majority of these people are individual's naive to the nature of the correspondence to which they have responded and require little or no further contact or advice. Sadly however, there is a minority of people who are extremely vulnerable and susceptible to the lies which the scammers tell them. These people who are often elderly and socially isolated send vast amounts of money to fraudsters on the presumption that they are investing in something miraculous or that they are going to win an extraordinary prize just by sending a small amount of money in exchange.

The vulnerability of these people is clear and the importance of preventing further victimisation is paramount however it is recognised that it is not feasible for Trading Standards staff to visit this number of people. In order to ensure those vulnerable residents are safeguarded against future victimisation Police volunteers have been recruited to establish contact with each person listed. The use of trained volunteers not only aims to ensure particularly vulnerable residents receive assistance to prevent further victimisation, but it also fulfils a substantial function at a much reduced cost to the service.

Points of interest

Food

From the 13th December 2014, the introduction of the Food Information for Consumers Regulations will affect over 7000 North Yorkshire businesses. All food catering businesses such as cafes, restaurants, public houses, schools, hospitals, care homes etc and all food businesses selling loose foods such as sandwiches, cakes, deli foods etc will be required to advise consumers as to whether the foods they supply contain any of 14 listed allergens, the most significant of which is peanuts. There are a number of cases each year of consumers dying from anaphylactic shock after unknowingly consuming a meal containing peanuts or peanut powder and this is one of the main reasons for the introduction of the legislation.

The other listed allergens include peanuts, other tree nuts, eggs, fish, shellfish, molluscs, mustard, milk, soya some types of seeds and cereals.

Public Health

The service continues to contribute to the implementation of the NYCC Alcohol and Tobacco Control Strategies with a particularly interesting initiative involving the Local Alcohol Action Alliance. The programme piloted in Scarborough aims to address alcohol misuse and the sociological issues which occur as a result. As part of a wide range of initiatives we are currently evaluating the effectiveness of systems employed by the pubs and clubs of Scarborough which look to prevent the sale of alcohol to minors. We are supporting local businesses in an attempt to initiate strategies which will benefit both the establishment and the community as a whole.

Social media

Trading Standards are substantially increasing our use of social media. The exchange of intelligence and information is vital in identifying breaches in a wide variety of trading environments and the use of Facebook, Twitter and Ringmaster is already proving beneficial in communicating with the wider community. We recognise the need to adapt to a changing society and intend on accompanying

future projects and initiatives with associated social media campaigns. Should you wish to contact us via any of these methods please feel free to do so.

Follow us



@nyccts



North Yorkshire Trading Standards



LinkedIn (North Yorkshire Trading Standards)



Networking Ideas from Selby Lead Co-Ordinator Cllr Mike Jordan

Mike writes:

As someone new to the Lead Co-Ordinator role, I have taken the decision to gently try everything!

I am about to have a second 6 monthly evening meeting at which all Co-ordinators are invited with the Police and others also coming along. The idea is to provide the opportunity for folks to network, hear what the Police are up to as a strategy, and learn what works and what doesn't. Way back in the 90's I used to help in Knottingley and we used to have regular meetings with the Police to see what was going on and what could be done to help people, and I think that work should continue. We need to keep Neighbourhood Watch in people's minds and also to emphasize the 'other' benefits that go with the role. I think particular emphasis should be placed on keeping one's eye on the elderly in an area, popping round to say "Hello" and just generally being there. With the reduction in Police presence on the streets and more and more reliance on technology, we do need an area to be looked after in some way or other, and Neighbourhood Watch will become more critical to that.



Crime prevention is better than cure!

Neighbourhood and Home Watch members have been the 'eyes and ears' of their communities for the last 32 years and have endlessly prevented crime and played their part in capturing criminals.

More people could be prevented from becoming victims of crime **if Police forces placed further emphasis on crime prevention** rather than chasing offenders, a report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) revealed in early September – follow the link below to learn more in case you have not seen the article, although it is not "rocket science" (lol) !!!

http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/news_and_events/press_centre/prevention_is_better_than_cure/

Obviously one means of assisting with crime prevention is by the generation of Ringmaster Message warnings – monthly statistics suggest wide ranges of volumes around the County and we need to encourage North Yorkshire Police to send out more so that we can assist them in the Partnership that exists between us.

Working hard to keep North Yorkshire safe and secure

North Yorkshire remains one of the safest places in the country to live, work and visit, latest Government figures have confirmed.



While the Office of National Statistics' "Crime in England and Wales, year ending June 2014" report outlines a marginal rise in total crime of less than **2%**, with 695 more crimes than the same period in 2013, this still places the North Yorkshire Police area as the **second** lowest crime location in England.

In addition, victim-based crime rose by less than 1.5% or 454 crimes.

Broken down into the main crime categories, the ONS figures for North Yorkshire show:

- domestic burglaries reduced by **2%** (**40** fewer incidents, **1576** in total)
- incidents of criminal damage dropped by **7%** (**392** fewer incidents, **5466** in total)
- a **6%** reduction in offences against [motor vehicles](#) (**165** fewer incidents, **2522** in total)
- there was a **5%** increase in theft (**583** more incidents, **10857** in total) the majority of these were lower level crimes such as cycle theft and shop theft
- the number of robberies decreased by **1%** (**1** fewer incident, **121** in total)
- sexual offences rose by **19%** (**125** more incidents dealt with, **786** in total). This rise is regarded as a positive reflection of the confidence victims have in North Yorkshire Police, particularly those making historical complaints. This was also influenced by Operation Yewtree and the opening of a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in York.

Reassuring for residents, more recent data for April to September 2014, has shown a positive position, this includes:

- All victim-based crime has fallen by **0.3%** (**41** fewer crimes, **15775** in total) with crimes against society such as drug and [public order](#) offences, where [proactive](#) policing strongly impacts on the numbers of crimes recorded increasing by **18%** (**329** more crimes, **2163** in total)
- Burglary is down by **2%** (52 fewer crimes, 2049 in total)
- Theft is down by **4%** (**226** fewer crimes, **5788** in total)
- Criminal damage is down by **11%** (**301** fewer crimes, **2564** in total)

Assistant Chief Constable Paul Kennedy said: "I have nothing but praise and admiration for the officers and staff at North Yorkshire Police, who [continue](#) to work extremely hard alongside partner agencies to keep our communities safe and secure. They are an absolute [credit](#) to the police service."

Commenting on crime trends, ACC Kennedy added: "The slight rise in the latest figures has to be viewed in the context of successive reductions of crime over the past six years. This is an overall **27%** reduction and **13285** fewer [victims](#) of crime over this period, "We anticipated that the rate of crime would eventually plateau in North Yorkshire, but I can guarantee that we have not - and will not - become complacent. We remain as determined as ever to

drive down crime, ensure residents can not only be safe but also feel safe, and put victims at the heart of everything we do."

Press Release - 16 October 2014

**Networking:
Ever thought of becoming a member of your Local Delivery Team within the
York and North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnerships (CSP)?**

By Terry Wallis



The City of York and each of the following areas within North Yorkshire each have their own **Local Delivery Team**:

- Craven
- Harrogate
- Hambleton
- Ryedale
- Richmond
- Scarborough
- Selby

Having been a member of the previous Safer Ryedale Delivery Group which has been replaced under recent re-organisation, I became a member of the new Ryedale Team earlier this year – the Group reports direct to the North Yorkshire Community Safety Board.

The Team involves a wide range of both professionals and persons from voluntary organisations and the purpose of the **Local Delivery Team** is to bring together the operational managers of the responsible authorities, supported by other relevant organisations, to co-ordinate and ensure the delivery of the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership Plan in the district, in particular to:

- (a) protect their local communities from crime and disorder, and help people feel safer
- (b) deal with local issues like anti-social behaviour, drug or alcohol misuse, re-offending and **crime prevention**; and
- (c) assess local crime and disorder priorities and consult partners and the local community about how to deal with them

Each organisation of the Local Delivery Team has one vote.



Sitting under the Safer Ryedale Delivery Team are six other distinct groups and I serve on the **Ryedale Equalities Forum** also, its agenda being distinct though interconnected with the PREVENT agenda which is absolutely relevant to the equalities work that is about ensuring that we create an environment within our duties and organisations where everyone is accepted, supported, engaged and empowered, albeit encompassing vulnerability and radicalisation.

As a result of being a member of these Teams, I recently attended a half-day Awareness Training Session relating to the new Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

I also attended a most fascinating and educational one day conference in Scarborough "Making the Link: Protecting Vulnerable Adults and Children" with first-class keynote speakers during the morning session and the selection of two workshops in the afternoon (I chose [CEOP: Internet Awareness](#) presented by Katie Hardy and [Channel: Case Study from North Yorkshire of multi agency working](#) presented by PC Julie Whitehouse of North Yorkshire Police.

The morning session of the conference had included an excellent delivery of "Understanding Radicalisation" by Dave Allport of Rewind – **did you know that 18 is used as a code by some extremist groups to refer to Adolph Hitler (letters 1 & 8 of the alphabet)???!!!** So what about 88 (Hi Hitler). The conference focussed upon both **Channel** (preventing radicalisation) and **PREVENT** (protecting the UK against terrorism – it aims to stop people supporting terrorism or becoming terrorists themselves) – more information on the latter can be found on:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-the-uk-against-terrorism/supporting-pages/prevent>

And if you don't think that radicalism and extremism is not happening in your area, then please think again because there is a lot of complacency around that is leading to concerns of false views of no local threats! Recently, the National Front suddenly became very active in both Scarborough and Whitby. Extremism has definitely been identified as a threat within our County and there are grave concerns about the misuse of *Facebook* (abuse by *Britain First*) and *Snapchat* by youngsters and others – as regards the latter, apparently messages can be deleted permanently instantly rendering parents out of control – and once sent cannot be retrieved.....!



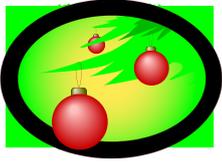
Well worth considering joining your Local Delivery Team to provide input/ideas !!!!!

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Please note that the sole PREVENT/Channel point of contact in North Yorkshire is the following person with whom contact should be made in respect of ANY on-going concerns/and or suspicions relating to potential extremism/radicalisation in your area (immediate and urgent concerns must be referred to the Police on 999 or 101 as appropriate):

PC Julie Whitehouse

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Message from the Vice-Chair Terry Wallis

I hope that you have enjoyed reading this first Edition of our Newsletter and thank all the contributors – our aim is to produce these Newsletters on a quarterly basis, so if you have not contributed to this issue, please give some thought for ideas in the future.

It just remains to wish you all a very **HAPPY CHRISTMAS** and a New Year that is full of blessings to you, your families, your friends and your neighbours and to leave you with the following thoughts contributed by Area Co-Ordinator colleague Susan Mansfield of Pickering:



Christmas is coming and the thieves are getting fat
Don't leave your keys under an old door mat!
Lock all your windows, hide all the treats
Don't let your Christmas be someone else's eats!

Christmas is coming and people are alone
Be watchful of their visitors - ensure that they are known.
You might have lots of family and lots of ho ho hee
So invite them round for sherry, or a nice good cup of tea !

Christmas is coming the toys are in the boot
Be mindful where you park your car, they'll be someone else's loot!
At home you sit and have a rest, your shopping is all done
But if you doubt a strangers acts - ring number 101

Christmas is coming and we need to stay alert
So look after your community and ensure no one is hurt
And when you've done your very best, just rev it up a notch
And show those thieves and tricksters 'don't mess with **Neighbourhood Watch** !

1st December 2014

