



Preston Neighbourhood Watch
Taking action in crime prevention



Lancashire Constabulary

police and communities together

PRESTON NHW NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2010

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the third newsletter in the new format. There are lots of interesting articles on a wide variety of topics including Computer Scams, Weird Laws, Recent Scams reported to trading standards, Crimestoppers information, Summer Burglary, Love my Lancashire and information on Drug Law.

Following feedback from coordinators for more local information Neighbourhood Policing teams have now been asked to provide local results and information on crime statistics. This information is specific to local beat areas so is more relevant to coordinators. Also there are other opportunities to find out what is happening

In your area by attending your local PACT meetings. These meetings are held once a month and are attended by your local officers and other organizations to solve local issues.

If you wish to find out the date and venue of your next meeting either contact your local officer or visit www.lancashire.police.uk

Weird English Laws

Here are a few strange English laws

All English Men over 14 are meant to carry out 2 hours of longbow practice each weekend supervised by the local clergy. This law dates from the middle ages when there was no regular British army and local gentry were ordered to train a quota of knights, archers, infantry, etc.

As the church was the official local instrument of beauracracy, they were deployed. The areas firing range was generally called a 'bottom' and many still exist such as Trotters Bottom in Hertfordshire.

London Hackney Carriages (taxis/cabs) must carry a bale of hay and a sack of oats. This was because they were originally horse drawn, this was repealed in 1976.

It is still illegal for cab drivers to carry rabid dogs or indeed corpses and by law they must ask each and every passenger if they have small pox or 'The Plague'.

It is illegal to be drunk on Licensed Premises.

WARNING! COMPUTER SCAM



Residents across Lancashire have been urged to be on their guard against the latest scam by internet criminals. Up to 80 residents in Lancashire were contacted by telephone by people claiming there was a virus on their computers.

In many cases the victims were told the caller was from Microsoft and that monitoring checks had revealed their computer was full of viruses. Under the scam, the consumer is led to their computer and told to enter a code that shows a list of errors running on that machine-which are normal.

The consumer is then talked through steps to "fix" the problem which allows the caller to gain remote access to the computer and asked to provide their bank account details to pay for the repair!

But the "One off" payment often turns out that monthly payments are taken from a payment of £70-£275.



Jim Potts, Lancashire trading standards chief trading standards officer, warned; "Although the incidents we know about occurred in Lancaster, it would appear that this is a nationwide scam and we believe those responsible maybe based outside the country. "Computer users should be aware that Microsoft does not make unsolicited calls"

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RECENT SCAMS..(FROM PRESTON TRADING STANDARDS)



Cleaner Sales - 17 June 2010

Residents are asked to be aware of the following practice currently targeting the Aldington area in Chorley, but also recently reported else-

where:

A business selling vacuum cleaners is intensively leafleting houses, distributing raffle tickets to win a Nissan Micra or a free carpet shampoo. Customers who give their details on the raffle tickets may then be contacted and informed they have won a free carpet shampoo. During the visit to carry this out, they will be subject to a sales pitch for an expensive vacuum cleaner costing between £1000 and £2000. Residents need to be aware of the sales business behind this free cleaning offer. Tradesmen should always leave premises when asked- if not, report them to Trading Standards.

Consumers agreeing to deal with traders where the contract is agreed at the consumer's home should be aware that they will have a cooling off period to cancel any work agreed to, or

any purchases made over £35, although in certain circumstances the customer may have to pay for any goods installed or work carried out so far. Also be aware that the contract will not be enforceable against the customer unless information about your right to cancel is given in writing.

We advise residents never to deal with cold-callers, to ensure you obtain full name, address and landline details from all workmen, and to double-check identification and references from other customers- do not assume credentials are genuine. Also ensure any price you

are quoted is fair and genuine by obtaining estimates from other traders or sellers, and by ensuring the work agreed and

the price to be charged is written down on a quotation before you agree to the work starting. Using a credit card for a purchase over £100 may give extra protection should problems arise further down the line.

Please refer any complaints and further information to Lancashire Trading Standards Service, 56-58

Warnings issued by Dawn Robinson LCC Trading Standards
01772 532763



CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111
Call anonymously with information about crime

CRIMESTOPPERS INFORMATION...

New campaign aims to Get Some Answers on illegal tobacco Smoke free North West has launched the Get Some Answers campaign in response to extensive research on illicit tobacco and its availability across the north of England. [July 2010] The campaign aims to create a shift in attitudes that result in illegal tobacco becoming unwelcome within communities. It targets those in the North East and the North West who already feel uncomfortable, or have the

potential to quickly become uncomfortable, about the presence of illicit tobacco. **What is illicit tobacco?** Illicit tobacco can be either smuggled, bootlegged or counterfeit: **Smuggled:** these are generally legitimately manufactured tobacco products which have evaded payment of tax by being illegally transported, distributed and sold. **Bootlegged:** these are tobacco products which are purchased in a country with a low level of taxation and illegally brought into the UK, evading payment of tax illegally manufactured tobacco products which are often made abroad, but sometimes in the UK. They are sold cheaply and tax-free. **Counterfeit** products are produced from inferior materials, and vast profits are made throughout the supply chain.

You can help by contacting Crimestoppers

CRIME REDUCTION NEWS...



We are reminding people to make sure that we lock our windows and doors when out enjoying the sun. Crime is low in Lancashire, let's work together to keep it that way.

For your home

Burglary is at an all time low in Lancashire and has been for quite a few years. We'd like to keep it that way and have put together some tips for you that will help to keep your home extra safe;

You should;

Fit burglar alarms that people can see and good outside lighting. Test them frequently to make sure they work.

Fit key-operated locks to all windows.

When you go out, always lock the door and close the windows - even if you are just going out for a short time.

Fit dead locks to the doors and don't leave the keys where they can be seen or reached through the letter box - keep them out of sight.

Make sure the side gate and shed are locked.

Leave a light on in a room and remember to draw the curtains when you go out at night.

Install security lights to light up the front porch and/or the garden

Also think about;

Marking important and expensive items with your postcode and house number using special security markers. Keep a record of the make, model and serial numbers of all electrical equipment.

Cancel newspapers, milk etc when you are on holiday.

Make sure callers to your home are genuine. Always ask for ID.

Keep shrubs, hedges and large plants cut back. They can provide a screen for thieves to work behind.

Buy home insurance. It's cheaper than paying out to replace any stolen possessions. Remember: if you don't lock your house, your insurance may not cover you.

For specialist advice, crime reduction advice in the Preston area contact; Sue Slater 01772/209793

**HATE
NOISE**
♥
QUIET

Tell us what you love about your neighbourhood and we'll take action to keep it peaceful and tidy;

Contact your Neighbourhood Policing Team with your views;

**HATE
MESS**
♥
CLEAN



We all want to feel safe where we live.

We all want to live somewhere that is calm, clean and quiet. No one wants to live with aggro, noise or mess.

Go to the wall and tell us what you **love about where you live** and we'll take action to keep it peaceful and tidy.

**HATE
ASB**
♥
RESPECT

**HATE
AGGRO**
♥
CALM

STOP PRESS



Drug laws

The different kinds of illegal drugs are divided into three different categories, or classes. These classes (A, B and C) carry different levels of penalty for possession and dealing.

The Misuse of Drugs Act is the main piece of legislation covering drugs and their categorization.

All of the drugs on the list above - whether Class A, B or C - are designated as controlled substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, and using them is illegal. Class A drugs are considered to be the most likely to cause harm.

The Misuse of Drugs Act states that it is an offence to:

- possess a controlled substance unlawfully
- possess a controlled substance with intent to supply it
- supply or offer to supply a controlled drug (even if it is given away for free) allow a house, flat or office to be used by people taking drugs

Drug trafficking attracts serious punishment, including life imprisonment for Class A offences.

Cannabis

Cannabis was reclassified from Class C to

Class B in January 2009.

Penalties for supply, dealing, production and trafficking

The maximum penalty is 14 years imprisonment

Penalties for possession

The maximum penalty is five years imprisonment.

Young people in possession of cannabis

A young person found to be in possession of cannabis will be arrested and taken to a police station where they can receive a reprimand, final warning or charge depending on the seriousness of the offence. Following one reprimand, any further offence will lead to a final warning or charge. Any further offence following a warning will normally result in criminal charges. After a final warning, the young offender must be referred to a Youth Offending Team to arrange a rehabilitation programme.

This police enforcement is consistent with the structured framework for early juvenile offending established under the

Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Adults in possession of cannabis

Anyone caught in possession of cannabis could be arrested.

Alternatively, police may::

issue a warning (primarily for first-time offenders)

issue a penalty notice for disorder, with an on-the-spot fine of £80

USEFUL CONTACTS

FRANK

<http://www.talktofrank.com/>

URBAN "75"

<http://www.urban75.com/Drugs/helpline.html>

DRUGLINE

<http://www.druglinelancs.co.uk/aboutus.HTM>

USEFUL CONTACTS...



Emergency

Dial 999 when there is danger to life or a crime in progress.

Non emergency

Dial 0845 1 25 35 45 for all non emergencies. Calls will be charged at a local rate.

CRIME STOPPERS

Dial 0800 555 111

Lancashire NHW Forum

E-Mail at www.lnwf.co.uk

PRESTON NHW DETAILS...

Preston NHW website

www.pnwa.co.uk

www.mynw.co.uk

WATCH NEWS...



Crime Prevention

Neighbourhood Watch is one of the biggest and most successful crime prevention initiatives ever. Behind it lies a simple idea, and a central value shared by millions of people around the country:

Getting together with your neighbours to take action can cut local crime.

Everyone knows that the police are there to fight crime, but they need your help to do an effective job. Neighbourhood Watch (or Home Watch as it is known in some areas) is all about an active partnership with the police. Neighbourhood Watch schemes can:

- cut crime and the opportunities for crime
- help and reassure those who live in the area
- **encourage neighbourliness and closer communities**

Junior Neighbourhood Watch

Junior Neighbourhood Watch (or Kids Against Crime) is a relatively new idea that is finding popularity in many areas in the UK. The scheme aims to engage with young people and encourage them to take an interest in what is happening in their neighbourhoods and to generate an interest and awareness in their personal safety, their community and crime and disorder issues. It has been said that "crime can not thrive in a community that cares"; the scheme is to inspire young people to care. Working with local schools, the scheme is aimed at young people aged 7 and older (although some areas have children as young as 4 to take part). Police officers, along with partner agencies, deliver sessions during school time or as after school activities (such as Rainbow, Brownie and Beaver groups as well as youth clubs).

More information on;

Home Office/Neighbourhood watch crime reduction website; www.direct.gov.uk / www.mynw.co.uk

SECTOR NEWS AND LOCAL NEWS

Ring United Utilities telephone **0845/7462200** contact number for "Water Board Officials"

who may call to the house unexpected, ring the above number to check ID, before allowing them access to the home.

Not Sure? Don't Open the Door!

