



Preston Neighbourhood Watch
Taking action in crime prevention



Lancashire Constabulary

police and communities together

PRESTON NHW NEWSLETTER JUNE 2010

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the second newsletter in the new format. There are lots of interesting articles on a wide variety of topics including anti-social behaviour, recent scams reported to trading standards, crimestoppers information, the law on the use of mobile phones whilst driving and the Police Summer Confidence campaign.

Following feedback from coordinators for more local 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 hap-

pening 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



Meerkats exemplify the motives behind Neighbourhood Watch. As a community they watch out for all members of their particular group and act in the best interest of the group.

The Musketeers quote "All for one and one for all" is very apt to Neighbourhood Watch schemes as their greatest strength is their unity.

Over the years being neighbourly seems to have gone out of fashion, Neighbourhood Watch is bringing back the old values of being neighbourly and bringing the caring back into communities.

This has a throw back effect of communities working together in other fields to promote the welfare of the community, such as combating anti-social behavior.

www.pnwa.co.uk

Working Together To Take Anti-Social Behaviour Seriously ...our pledge to you

We know that if anti-social behaviour happens to you, it can have a big impact on your quality of life which is why in Lancashire, we are committed to tackling it by working together. Taking reports seriously and will:

- Assess your case to make sure we offer you the right support and involve you where appropriate in our plans for tackling the problem.
- Treat all the information you give us in confidence and work with other partners to make sure we get the right solution
- Make it easy for you to tell us about local issues and get involved in solving local problems.
- Ensure links between Neighbourhood Policing teams and other organizations to deal with problems quickly.

You should report anti-social behaviour to your local council, the police, or your registered social landlords. You can do this in person. By telephone or in writing. They can also provide you with further details.

Brought to you by Safer Lancashire.

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www.saferlancashire.co.uk

your space my Space ...



RECENT SCAMS..

22nd March 2010.

Residents are advised that there are several possibly unfair practices hitting Lancashire at the moment.

We are receiving lots of complaints from small businesses about various companies Cold Calling by telephone and demanding payment for previously-agreed advertisements in various types of publications, ranging from health and safety

magazines, to wedding planners or hotel brochures. In many cases card details are given on the understanding that the contract was agreed by another partner or the company boss, when in fact no contract is in existence. In addition, many of the publications do not appear to exist. Businesses are requested to advise their admin or accounts staff to double-check all payment request for advertising.

Throughout Lancashire : A company hands out draw tickets for a car, they then ring consumers to tell them they have won the car but have won the opportunity to have a carpet shampooed free of charge. They do not inform consumers on the phone that they are going to try and to sell them a Kirby vacuum cleaner for almost £2,500. Consumers may then face a long session of demonstrations and hard sell tactics in their home, as well

as further sales attempts by phone. Trading Standards advises that unless residents really want an expensive vacuum cleaner they should not accept the offer of a free carpet clean, since it is easy to say yes to an unwanted product once the salesman are in your home.

Warning issued by LCC, please call 01772 532763.

Warning issued by Lancashire Trading Standards . Tel. 08454 040506

CRIME REDUCTION NEWS...TELEPHONE WARNING

POLICE are warning residents not to give out personal information over the phone following a spate of dodgy calls. Several residents have received calls from a man claiming he is checking security information.

He then quizzed residents as to whether they had burglar alarms, belonged to a Neighbourhood Watch

scheme, if they lived alone, whether they are married and if their partner is at home. It is not known whether the phone tricksters are plotting burglaries or some other scam. Police, said: "We are warning residents to be wary of what they tell strangers after this latest information has come to light. "Neighbourhood Watch schemes do not cold call, but may visit door to

door to see if you are interested in the scheme and will have the appropriate identification." He added: "There is no reason why anyone has to know if you have a burglar alarm or whether your spouse is home. If you do get asked this, please call us on the non-emergency number.

"If a police officer visits you to offer home security ad-

vice, they will always carry identification, and you can check their validity by asking for their collar number and ringing the police switchboard to verify this. "If you are in doubt, never give any information out."



FIGHT CRIME WITHOUT REVEALING YOUR IDENTITY

CRIMESTOPPERS INFORMATION

What is Crimestoppers

Crimestoppers is an independent UK-wide charity working in partnership with the Police to help fight crime, you can pass on information about crime & criminals by phoning the anonymous **0800 555 111** number or via a secure and anonymous online form at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Lancashire Crimestoppers Statistics April 2010

Latest statistics for Lancashire Crimestoppers for the month of April 2010 show that Central division (Preston) achieved the highest conversions rate for the County when con-

verting calls into Sanction Detection with approx one in 3 calls leading to an arrest & charge.

UK wide around 18 people are arrested and charged every day as a result of information given to crimestoppers. One person every 6 days is charged with murder, thanks to crimestoppers information.

Interesting Cases for the Month

Crimestoppers information led to the arrest and charge of a male for cultivation of cannabis. A warrant was executed at the address after detailed description was outlined of the appearance and condition of the premises. Over 90 cannabis plants with associated lighting and ventilation equipment were recovered.

Mobile phones - The Law

It is illegal to drive a vehicle or ride a motorbike and use a hand held mobile phone or similar device. It is also illegal to supervise a learner and use a hand-held phone. Hands-free phones are also a distraction and you risk prosecution for not having proper control of a vehicle if the police see you driving poorly while using one.

- A hand held device is something that "is or must be held at some point during the course of making or receiving a call or performing any other interactive communication function".

A device "similar" to a mobile phone includes a device that can be used for sending or receiving spoken or written messages, sending or receiving still or moving images or providing Internet access.

If you accept a roadside fixed penalty notice, you will receive 3 points on your licence and a fine of £60. If a case goes to court, in addition to points, you could face discretionary disqualification on top a maximum fine of £1,000 (or £2,500 in the case of drivers of buses/coaches and goods vehi-

cles).

What's wrong with using a mobile phone while driving?

It is dangerous because a telephone conversation (or texting) distracts from the mental concentration needed to drive safely. You put yourself and other road users in danger.

Research has shown that driver's reaction times are up to 50% slower than normal when driving and using a mobile phone. It also shows that your reaction times are 30% worse than

when driving under the influence of alcohol. Other research suggests that if you are using a mobile phone while driving you are four times more likely to have a crash.



STOP PRESS....

Summer Confidence

Lancashire Constabulary is launching a summer confidence campaign. The police will be working with partner agencies during July and August to conduct a number of different activities to promote public confidence within the criminal justice arena.

The campaign will include additional activity to deal with anti-social behaviour, vulnerable people, road safety, quality of life issues, access and visibility and criminal justice.

The campaign starts on 12th July and will last six weeks. There are a number of activities planned throughout Preston that will impact on local communities. Examples of the some activities include an operation to combat anti-

social behaviour on public transport, dealing with the illegal use of mini-motos, test purchase operations to deal with under age drinking.

Following the Rogue Trader week there will be a follow up with the vulnerable people week with activities around bogus callers to premises and the launch of a third party hate crime reporting system.

Work will continue to promote road safety including the wearing of seat belts, drink drive campaigns, and the use of mobile phones whilst driving.

Criminal Justice week will open the door to all the agencies involved in bringing people to justice in-

cluding the Crown Prosecution Service and Her Majesty's Court service.

During the access and visibility week additional work will be undertaken to promote partnership working within Preston culminating in an Open Day at Preston Police Station on Sunday 15th August .

As a neighbourhood watch coordinator please will you promote this campaign within your watch. If you require any further information please will you contact me at Preston Operating Centre and I will be glad to assist you. I can be contacted on Preston 209676.

Sergeant Nigel Parkinson
Preston Police

**SUMMER
CONFIDENCE
CAMPAIGN
12TH JULY-
22ND AUGUST**

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 NW Association
www.lnwf.co.uk

**PRESTON NW
ASSOCIATION**

www.pnwa.co.uk

WATCH NEWS...

.No call is a waste of time - National counter-terrorism campaign

'No call is a waste of time', that is the key message of a national counter-terrorism campaign launched across the UK on Monday 8 March 2010.



The public are being encouraged to pick up the phone and report any activity or behaviour which is suspicious or out of the ordinary to the confidential

Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321.

The annual campaign will run for a month on national and regional radio, in national and regional press and in a range of magazines.

The advert includes a picture of what appears to be a normal neighbourhood garage brimming with bottles of chemicals and boxes. It asks the reader to consider what they see and questions whether the garage is being used by a handyman, a pest controller - or whether it is being used as storage by a bomb maker.

In addition to the adverts, leaflets are being delivered to around four million homes across the country. The leaflet contains the same garage images and also includes a list of suspicious activities that residents should keep an eye out for.

SECTOR NEWS AND LOCAL RESULTS