



Alresford and District Neighbourhood Watch Association



When I recently gave a talk to the Alresford Ladies Group I soon became aware that few of the audience knew who their Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator was. This gives us a challenge. Last year in an attempt to improve our coverage we produced an A5 leaflet we called the "Postcard Project". Each Co-ordinator delivered postcards to their Watches giving the name and address of their Street Coordinator. It seems it hasn't worked! Perhaps it was treated as junk mail and never got read?

At the Ladies Group meeting a suggestion was made that we make a list of the Co-ordinators available, perhaps to be kept in the library or community centre. We will discuss this further at our next Committee Meeting

None of this changes the fact that the whole community is part of Neighbourhood Watch and if anybody sees anything suspicious, or out of the ordinary, a vehicle in an odd place, or cruising, clearly looking for opportunities, then they should be reported. Every small fact can help to build a bigger picture to the Police. In these times of increased terrorism, everybody needs to be on their guard, especially outside the house. Travellers who see a bag or similar, possibly unattended in a train, tube or station are encouraged to ask whose it is, as well as alerting security.

Crime Cannot Flourish in a Community That Cares, is a soundbite that a Winchester colleague often uses. Neighbourhood Watch is more than just trying to reduce crime and the fear of crime; it is about Neighbourliness; looking out for situations in which you can help your neighbours, as you would want them to do for you.

A friend of mine who lives in Swanmore told me of a recent occurrence which illustrates this. He went outside his front door to check the weather; to see what he needed to wear and heard what he thought was a cat. A bit odd he thought, but not that strange as he knew there were several cats in the area. Leaving, ten minutes later, dressed for his trip out, he heard the sound again. This time it didn't sound right, so he went to check. Peering through a hole in the neighbour's gate he could see his neighbour's wife was curled up on the back door step. So he let himself through the gate and discovered she had fallen and couldn't get up off the step. He called round for a bigger, (stronger) neighbour to help and between them they managed to lift her indoors.

If my friend had not gone to check, his neighbour could have been there for hours, even as it was she was very cold and shaken up. I call that Neighbourhood Watch!