



Valleys and Vale Neighbourhood Watch Association

# NEWSLETTER

[www.valleysandvaleneighbourhoodwatch.co.uk](http://www.valleysandvaleneighbourhoodwatch.co.uk)

Police non-emergency number 0845 090 1234

**Spring 2010**

**01452 335623**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

You will find enclosed with this newsletter, the notice of our AGM, which will take place at the Council Chamber, Stroud District Council, Ebley Mill, Stroud at 7.00pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010. The chamber will be open from 6.30pm. The guest speaker is detective constable Leigh Bickerdyke who is the lead officer in Gloucestershire on the subjects of bogus callers and rogue traders. She will give us a very informative presentation, including a hard hitting film, on how they operate and how to combat them. You will have every opportunity to ask questions, so don't miss it.

## **STAFF CHANGE**

Mr Rick Pellatt, who has served as Neighbourhood Watch Field Officer for many years has been seconded to carry out training in our local Safer Community Teams (SCT). He has indicated his intention to retire from police service in June this year and until then he will be training others to carry out crime reduction surveys so that this service is available after his retirement. We wish him all the best. Therefore, this means that Eddie Whitlock is now the sole administrator for Watch issues in our area.

## **BOGUS POLICE OFFICERS**

Over the last couple of weeks our surrounding police forces have reported offences involving two or three men, and sometimes a woman, in plain clothes, who have visited addresses of elderly residents claiming to be from the local police. They claim to have detained a person nearby and are checking houses for evidence of burglary, or they are searching for drugs. While the resident is engaged, another offender enters the house unseen and steals money. Residents report that the offenders produce some sort of I/D card. Thames Valley police had eight similar offences in one day and two similar offences have happened in the Gloucester area. Please be alert to this scam. Genuine plain clothes police officers have an I/D card the same as a credit card with their photo and hologram logo of the Gloucestershire badge. They will always allow you to hold and closely examine the card. Always check these cards closely. If you are not sure of the I/D do not let them in and call the police to check. Incident 360 of 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010 can be quoted in all such calls.

## **DIGITAL SWITCHOVER FOR TELEVISION**

You will recall that I mentioned this issue in the last newsletter.

The public phone numbers are;

General enquiries about switchover – 08456 50 50 50

Switchover Help Scheme – 0800 408 7655

The email address is [www.helpscheme.co.uk](http://www.helpscheme.co.uk)

Remember, genuine help scheme staff will only visit you if you ask for them. They will have I/D which you must check. Anyone calling at your door uninvited, claiming to give help for digital switchover will not be genuine. Do not let them in and tell the police.

### **CRIME UPDATE**

Here are the reported crime figures from 21/11/09 to 28/1/10 compared with the same period a year earlier. It indicates a 30% reduction in reported crime for the comparative period

	Total Crimes		* Burglary		*Theft		Damage	
	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Stroud INA	611	431	69	36	187	107	146	112
Stonehouse INA	254	150	42	13	68	51	66	31
Dursley INA	239	186	37	18	70	47	67	45

\*Burglary includes domestic/commercial/sheds etc. Theft includes from cars/ gardens/ shops etc.

### **INFORMATION SHARING**

All the information I send via our Watchword system and this newsletter and the website is for public consumption and can be shared in any way a co-ordinator thinks appropriate. The email part of the system causes some uncertainty because it includes a standard disclaimer that has to accompany all emails sent from a police source. This indicates that the email is intended for the recipient only. The recipient in the case of our watchword messages is the general public so the message can be circulated. I know some of you have your own email network in your Watch, others send it to a village information network for the whole village and some put it on local notice boards or in village newsletters. All of these are very helpful and I thank you for helping to spread the message.

Those of you with access to computers can visit our website and print or circulate this newsletter or part of it as you see fit.

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