

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Chairman's report 2011 – 2012

I usually commence my reports by stating that it has been a busy year, this report is no exception, and it has been an exciting one.

One of our main objectives this past year has been to warn residents on Doorstep Scams and Rogue Traders. We obtained Home Officer booklets on these subjects and these were distributed by hand to all residents in Doddinghurst. All new scams that we became concerned about were circulated immediately by E Mail. Unfortunately several of NHW members are not connected to the internet, so we depend on everyone to pass this information onto vulnerable residents.

We also rely on the publication of the Link to inform residents, we are grateful to David Frankton and his team for assisting us. Emma Clark, our Crime reduction Officer, regularly submits features to The Link and often passes on very good information regarding personal safety and securing properties. She regularly updates us on crimes in Doddinghurst and the immediate area; this is also circulated to members by E Mail.

Each month we create a 'Its Scary be Wary' poster which is displayed in the local shops and on indoor notice boards. The theme changes each month to advise readers on how to avoid being a victim of the latest scams or types of theft .

This year, the Junior Section format was changed to incorporate our work with the children as part of the normal school day curriculum, rather than squeezing short sessions in to lunch breaks or after school. We started with a visit to a morning assembly, then over the next five weeks Emma Clark scheduled five one hour sessions with each of the Year Five classes. The sessions concentrated mostly on personal safety and the security of property. On the final session we ran a Junior Section Speed Watch in Church Lane outside the school. All the children had a chance to use the speed gun, and several astonished us with their ability to both read number plates and tell us the type of vehicle.. We were able to talk to the children about some aspects of road safety. Despite the large number of us standing there, including a uniformed police officer, we detected motorists, speeding, using mobile phones whilst driving and not wearing seat belts. I would like to thank Mrs Cooper and her staff for their overwhelming support.

We continue with our speed watch sessions around the village. It is most discouraging to detect so many vehicles exceeding the speed limit, this is despite the fact that we often display advance warning signs. The speed of traffic in Church Lane was monitored over a period of 7 days, 24 hours a day. The information has now been made available to us. We will use this information to request the Parish Council to apply to Essex Highways Department for a 20mph limit in Church Lane.

Doddinghurst NHW Junior Section were recommended to the High Sheriff Awards, and were fortunate to receive a Citation for the Junior Section and a sum of £150.00. Doddinghurst NHW was also recommended to the High Sheriff and was awarded a Citation for their work in the village. This was in recognition of the work of the committee for their hard work.

As well as running our own web pages as part of the doddinghurst.org.uk website, we make occasional updates to the national MyNHW website which can be seen countrywide.

We were fortunate to be granted £269.00 from Brentwood Borough Council; this will allow us to purchase a gazebo to be used at local exhibitions. The exhibition Trailer was becoming too expensive to hire.

We intend to hold a number of exhibitions in the village this coming year covering Road Safety, personal safety and to prevent residents from being the victim of scams.

We again thank the Parish Council for the use of the Meeting Room and their support during the year. The NHW Annual General Meeting will be held later this month and changes to our monthly meetings will be discussed.

I would also like to thank all the members of NHW who give up so much of their valuable time to support me and the community, it is very much appreciated.

Bill Reid