

## Message from the Chairman



### There have been some changes at the top!

At our AGM in June our previous Chairman, Vivienne Leighton, stood down. At the same time the Deputy Chairman - Bill Cunningham - also decided to stand down. I was elected, along with Geoff Dover as Deputy Chairman. Linda Kempton continues in her role as Administrator and will also be acting as the Treasurer. Vivienne has been at the helm for four years since taking over the Chair in 2007. I personally wish to thank her for her work and commitment and wish her the very best in her new role as Leader of the Council. So once again it's time to move onwards.

Certainly much has happened over this time and with the help and support of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, area coordinators and hard work and commitment of our Administrator, the organisation has blossomed to a whopping 230 Watches. Potentially this encompasses some 12,000 households - or in other words 30% of Spelthorne residents. This success does not go unnoticed and we are obviously proud and delighted to receive continued support from the Spelthorne Safer Stronger Partnership, to have gained recent and substantial sponsorship from BP and the Heathrow Community Fund (thank-you Vicki) as well as continued sponsorship from Holiday Inns. Other companies are also showing an interest and we'll develop these contacts to ensure that we can maintain free membership and provide appropriate benefits to Spelthorne Neighbourhood Watch.

On the steering group we now have representatives from Stanwell, Ashford and Sunbury, as well as Spelthorne Borough Council. Geoff Dover - as well as acting as Deputy Chairman - continues to maintain our website and produce the newsletter.

*Regards, Vic*

## Tips From Vic

### **Crime Prevention advice from Surrey Police Community Safety Team.**

And with my other hat on...

#### **Thefts of Catalytic Converters in Shepperton and Charlton Villages**

New style Mercedes vans continue to be the favourite target for the theft of the catalytic converters (CAT) and there continues to be a crime problem in the Shepperton and Charlton areas particularly, with parked-up vans being targeted overnight. Peugeot 806 and Peugeot 406 vehicles are also being targeted.

**Retainagroup Ltd** are manufacturers of a product that protects a CAT from theft. Surrey Police are using these kits to mark the CAT visibly and permanently with a unique code and the 24/7 phone number of the International Security Register - on which the code and details of the owner and vehicle are recorded.

You can also purchase your own CAT marking and registration pack for just £9.95. Call: 01233 333000 (24 hours) or email: [register@retainagroup.com](mailto:register@retainagroup.com) (website: [www.retainagroup.com](http://www.retainagroup.com)).

Our Autumn coordinators' meeting has been booked for Friday **21st October 2011. 7pm**

Our usual venue in The Hampton Suite,  
**Shepperton Holiday Inn.**

Further details are to follow.

#### **Registration Plate Thefts Continue...**

To make it more difficult to steal registration plates from vehicles, Surrey Police have been handing out free anti-tamper screw packs. I have also made sure these packs are available from the Police Station at Staines and also Shepperton library. They are going very quickly, so pick yours up before they all go!

Unfortunately there have been instances when even with these screws the number plates are being stolen. I can only suggest that you make sure you are using the right size screws and also glue the plates firmly on.

As from the 1st September the non-emergency number is changing from 0845 125 2222, which will be phased out over 12 months.



# Laleham Park Watch

Welcome to Laleham Park Watch.

This is our first Park Watch in the Borough of Spelthorne. The aim is to work with you to keep Laleham Park a safe place for everyone.

**Rowena Smith** is the Laleham Park watch coordinator and her contact details are: [rowena.smith1052@btinternet.com](mailto:rowena.smith1052@btinternet.com)

Thank you.

Rowena will hold your email addresses in a group email and send you out alerts and information by bcc (blind carbon copy) about Laleham Park received from the local police team/ neighbourhood watch office or yourselves who want to share information with other park watch members - just email Rowena.

Please encourage your friends and family who use the park on a regular basis to join the watch by emailing Rowena or the NHW office below.

Remember to report any incidents/antisocial behavior/concerns to Surrey Police: [spelthorne@surrey.pnn.police.uk](mailto:spelthorne@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

Call: 101 for non emergency calls or 999 in an emergency.

Fly tips/abandoned vehicles/dog fouling/litter - please report to streetscene at Spelthorne Borough Council: 01784 446411 or email: [streetscene@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:streetscene@spelthorne.gov.uk)

Thank you for joining Park Watch on behalf of;  
**PCSO Colin Gibbons** and **Linda Kempton**

## Possible Council Tax Scam

Message from Spelthorne Borough Council  
Please can you get a message out that there may be some fraudsters targeting Spelthorne residents claiming to be from the British Council and asking for bank account details to claim back Council Tax.

Spelthorne Council Tax office would not ring taxpayers to ask for bank account details over the phone and if residents receive such a call, they should ignore it and if the caller is persistent, they should contact the Police for advice.

We have had a call today from a Staines lady who has received at least 10 calls from this alleged organisation and has given them her bank account details and now is checking with us as she was a bit worried.

We have advised her to contact the Police but feel we should get a message out on the web to alert other residents

For further advice on crime reduction please contact the Crime Reduction Advisor or the Spelthorne Neighbourhood Watch Office or check out the Spelthorne Neighbourhood Watch website at

<http://www.spelthornenhw.info/top-tips/>

If you have any information regarding this or any other crime, please ring Surrey Police on 0845 125 2222 or - if urgent 999. You can also ring Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Thank you, Vic Smith

# Crimestoppers Property Protector

Tesco's to stock security system for personal valuables  
Eighty-two giant Tesco Extra stores are to stock Crimestoppers Property Protector, a security system which indelibly marks property so that thieves will think twice before helping themselves. Manufacturer Stealth Mark, based in the US, has teamed up with Tesco to offer its Crimestoppers-branded product alongside a host of electrical accessories being sold in 82 Tesco Extra stores across the UK.

Crimestoppers Property Protector is a low cost solution to deterring crime. Each bottle provides up to 200 applications and comes with deterrent stickers to display on marked items. The pack is priced at just under £20. Further available at: <http://stealthmark.com/solutions/enigmatag/>

Vic



## NHW Borough Statistics.

We now have **233** watches in Spelthorne.

At the moment, Neighbourhood Watch covers **29.36%** of households.

We have lost a couple of watches lately due to co-ordinators moving out of the Borough so our percentage has dropped slightly.

It is important to let us know of your deputy coordinator or someone willing to take on the task if you move away.

## **STOP PRESS !**

I have a small number of marking kits available FOR FREE - if you live in Shepperton or Charlton Villages and own or drive a Mercedes Sprinter, a Peugeot 806 or Peugeot 406 let me know and I will arrange to come and see you with one of these kits. Recently, CATs found dumped at the side of the road in Shepperton were identified using this marking method and returned to the owner.

Any further information on any topic raised in this newsletter can be obtained by contacting us as shown below, or looking on our [website](#).

Regards

*Geoff Dover* (Editor) and

*Linda Kempton*, NW Administrator.

(Mon+Tue Only)

**Phone: 01784 446420**

E-mail:

**[neighbourhoodwatch@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodwatch@spelthorne.gov.uk)**

