

THE LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

AT A RECENTLY HELD Neighbourhood Watch meeting at Chadlington, I was asked to take over as the Main Co-Ordinator at Milton-under-Wychwood. I have already some seven years experience as local co-ordinator at both Shipton and Milton. Neither village can be classified as a high risk area for crime but nevertheless there is a disturbing amount of crime and vandalism within the local area.

Looking at the local watch groups in Milton I am surprised how poorly Milton is covered by this voluntary scheme. Two areas in Milton are well covered with active watches that work well, but the rest of Milton is not covered.

This is our village and we appear to do very little to protect ourselves. The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was introduced to give all of us a hand in protecting our village, our homes and our property at little or no cost to ourselves.

Firstly we should be sure that our houses and other buildings are made as secure as we possibly can. The Crime Prevention Officer at Banbury Station (phone 01295 252525) will be pleased to give you information on how to protect your property.

We can at all times take note of other properties and take note of the unusual.

We can look out for strangers loitering, or their cars parked for lengthy periods in the village. If in any doubt talk to your local watch co-ordinator.

Should you have cause for real concern do not hesitate to call the police on 999. These calls are free. The police are used to receiving calls from Neighbourhood Watch members and are very helpful. Occasionally such calls save the police much time and trouble in tracking wrong-doers; please do not think this is all a waste of time.

The Local Neighbourhood Watch Schemes are appreciated by the police and contribute to the fight against crime. They almost daily pass to me information for me to pass to the local co-ordinators regarding suspicious happenings in our village.

These things may appear trivial but with every town and village in Oxfordshire and in neighbouring counties contributing, this amounts to a whole heap of information with very little effort on our part. It is our homes, our property and our village that we are protecting.

If you require any further help you can contact me, Norman Frost, telephone 830802. I will be pleased to help.
