



Alresford and District Neighbourhood Watch Association



The Neighbourhood Watch Association AGM took place on 13th September, at Alresford Golf Club and was attended by five Committee members, ten Co-ordinators and by three of the four members of the Winchester Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team, each of whom gave a short presentation.

Sergeant Bethan Wood said that her team had been based temporarily in Kings Worthy since May, when there had been a fire at Alresford Fire Station. The fourth member of her team is a part time PCSO who works for 20 hours per week. This area remains one of the lowest crime areas in Hampshire, but there had been two occurrences of note during the past year. There had been anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of Arlebury Park, but this had reduced after the Town Council closed the car park overnight and repaired some fencing. In July there was an influx of travellers at Stratton Bates, but excellent work by the Town Council, which took prompt action and supported the Police, resulted in the travellers moving on after only 24 hours. She thanked members of Neighbourhood Watch for being eyes and ears on the ground and helping the police and encouraged everyone to report suspicious occurrences promptly.

PCSO Bruce Hagger then gave a very interesting presentation on scams and frauds via post, telephone and e-mails. Much of this crime originates in Africa and India and is, therefore, almost impossible to prevent. In the UK about £3.5 billion per annum of successful crimes of this type are reported, but it is estimated that almost as much again is not reported. Current scams include fraudsters posing as officials, attempts to sell investments in wine, stocks and shares, gems and timeshares, romance and dating fraud and competition scams. His basic advice is **IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE THEN IT PROBABLY IS**, so don't have anything to do with it.

PCSO Rhys Griffiths then described some types of doorstep crime, such as distraction burglaries and attempts by rogue traders to persuade residents to buy things at inflated prices or to have building or gardening work done. His advice is **DO NOT LET SUCH PEOPLE INTO YOUR PROPERTY AND REPORT THEM TO TRADING STANDARDS OR THE POLICE**, (dial 999 if you feel threatened, otherwise dial 101).

Colin Harris, Chairman, then gave a short annual report in which he thanked his Committee and sought more volunteers to join it. He also said that new Co-ordinators for Chiltern Court, Bridge Road, Itchen Stoke and Swarraton are required. There was recent news that the gypsy and traveller site in Appledown Lane had been re-occupied, but there had not been any problems reported yet to the Police.

David Pain gave the annual financial report after which, there being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.