



Alresford and District Neighbourhood Watch Association



The Alresford & District Neighbourhood Watch Association AGM was held at the Alresford Golf Club on Tuesday 11th September, 7.30pm.

The meeting was chaired by Colin Harris, who welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them, as there are many other calls on people's time. He went on to inform the meeting that Geoff Harris, a founder member of the Association had passed away earlier this year.

There were 16 Attendees including the speaker Julie Gallagher, from Hampshire Trading Standards, and 12 apologies received.

PCSO Bruce Hagger and PCSO Rhys Griffiths gave the Hampshire Constabulary Report, covering the following:

- Summer is always a busy time of year for rural Winchester with various festivals, an influx of visitors and tourists plus school/college holidays. Year on year there has not been a significant rise in crime, but there were a number of incidents, summarised below;
 - Small series of vehicle crime in various villages, including East Stratton, Micheldever, Shawford, Compton and Otterbourne. Two arrests made and are still under investigation however the series highlighted local communities pulling together by being extra vigilant, reporting suspicious incidents and looking out for the vulnerable members of the community.
 - In July there were burglaries at Sparsholt College and Alresford Tesco Express. These were linked to other crimes in Hampshire and the Thames Valley Area with one suspect arrested and a second identified and under investigation.
 - During the summer there were >50 thefts from vehicles, 21 residential burglaries and 16 commercial burglaries. Residential includes shed and garage burglaries.
 - The PCSO's explained that ensuring our community priorities are aligned with the most prevalent types of crime, allows them to spend time effectively policing our community by responding to crime, engaging with vulnerable groups and educating the public on the dangers of fraud.
 - Encouragingly there has been a decrease in the number of local fraud offences against the elderly and if anyone knows a group/body who would benefit from police input then please get in touch via: winchester.rural.police@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Bruce and Rhys then took various questions from the floor and reminded all those present to report every crime, even if we think the police will take no action, as they are all recorded centrally. The challenge they are facing is that too many people report crimes on Facebook and do not contact the police directly.

Guest Speaker, Julie Gallagher, gave a presentation on 'Friends against Scams' explaining that there is a National Trading Standards Scams Team National Initiative aiming to:

- Reduce 'doorstep crime' such as odd job offers to remove trees/clear gutters which start at £50 and grow to £2000 as 'more and more needs to be done'.
- Reduce 'telephone scams' as most of these originate outside of the UK and are difficult to cut off at base. Current examples given included HMRC calls for outstanding tax bills, bogus police officers regarding fraudulent activity on your bank accounts, rogue traders offering benefits for 'money paid up front' and emails stating a close friend is in trouble overseas and requires money.

Colin then read out the Annual Report and included the following points:

- David Pain is standing down from the Committee and Colin thanked David for his sterling work over the past few years.
- The Association continue to supply articles to the Alresford Forum and if anyone has suggestions for a topic then please let any member of the committee know.
- There are vacancies for Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators in Itchen Stoke, Swarraton, Chiltern Court, West Street and the Bridge Road area in town. If anyone is interested in helping with these or joining the Committee then please do contact the Association.

**Alresford and District Neighbourhood Watch
Association website-**

www.neighbourhood.watch.alresford.org

e-mail – contact.adnwa@gmail.com

**CRIME IN PROGRESS – 999
NON URGENT – 101
CRIMESTOPPERS – 0800 555 111**