

Personal, Professional, Protective Policing

**ARDS NEIGHBOURHOOD
POLICING TEAM
NEWSLETTER**



WINTER 2011

Welcome to the first edition of the Ards Neighbourhood Policing Team Newsletter.

We hope that you will find it useful to read about the efforts of your local Neighbourhood Policing Team and the partnerships that they have developed with residents, statutory and voluntary agencies and elected representatives to tackle crime; reduce anti-social behaviour and protect communities.

As you read through the information I would ask that if you do wish to talk to any of the officers in relation to any matter of concern, please don't hesitate to contact them. Telephone numbers and email addresses have been provided to make this contact and engagement easier.

The Ards Neighbourhood Policing Team is committed to delivering a professional, protective policing service

in partnership with residents and businesses. To keep you informed of their progress we will be publishing a newsletter on a quarterly basis.

Martin Conroy
Inspector Ards Neighbourhood Team

Police Non Emergency
0845 600 8000

An advertisement for Women's Aid and the Domestic Abuse Helpline. It features a woman's face with a bruise on her cheek, a hand holding a remote control, and a television screen showing a soccer game. The text includes 'Blow the WHISTLE ...Report Abuse!', 'STOP DOMESTIC ABUSE', and '24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline 0800 917 1414'. There is also a small logo for 'women's aid' in the top left corner.

An advertisement for Willie Nickit, a character who steals presents. It features a cartoon illustration of Willie Nickit, a man in a red and black striped shirt and a cap, holding a flashlight and a bag labeled 'SWAG'. He is standing next to a red car with a license plate '4U2 TAKE'. The text reads 'WILLIE NICKIT? YES HE WILL' and 'KEEP PRESENTS OUT OF SIGHT SECURE YOUR VEHICLE'.

‘Seasons Greetings!’

Security Tips for Christmas Shopping

1. Make sure you put the goods you have purchased in the boot or your car out of sight or make several trips to the shops. Do not provide the opportunist criminal an invitation to break into your car.
2. Don't carry large sums of money that are easily visible and accessible to would be thieves. Keep your money, purse or wallet somewhere safe that only you can get to.
3. When you get your goods home keep them out of sight from anyone who wants to have a look in your windows. The criminal knows we keep goods at home to give out as presents so by putting in simple crime prevention steps you can make it more difficult. Thieves see an open window as an open invitation to gain access to your home and an open invitation to steal your valuables. Don't let them.

ARDS NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

FIREWORK SEIZURES

Firework related incidents are the biggest cause of reports of anti-social behaviour occurring during October of each year.

Information provided by the community has enabled Neighbourhood Officers to respond robustly and led to this significant fireworks seizure in the Ards town area. These seizures prevented the illegal sale and possession of fireworks, the anti-social use of fireworks and undoubtedly had a positive impact on the safety of our local community.



DIVERSIONARY SCHEME

Ards NPT and officers from Community Safety, have been involved in a scheme in recent months to help promote better relations with the local Children's Homes and their staff. By involving the children in an evening Cookery school, it is hoped that the scheme will prove to be a diversion from crime allowing them to experience fun in a safe learning environment.

DIVERSIONARY SCHEME

On 19th November 2011 Ards NPT organised a day away fishing with the members of the Glen youth club as a diversionary activity for the young adults. They travelled to Anglers First in Dromore. Here they learned how to cast and net our fish. Many fish were successfully netted and included rainbow trout, carp and trench. Everyone had a great day and all returned home with a fish each to cook for dinner.

SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY

After concern voiced from parents and school staff, Ards NPT have involved in a programme of education and enforcement at local schools including Abbey Primary, St Finians and Castle Gardens. Road safety advice has been delivered to students and via letters to parents. Parking and speed offences have been enforced where required. The New Year will see more schools being targeted.

PENSIONERS PERSONAL SAFETY TALK

Constable Martin recently attended Scrabo Manor, within her beat area, to speak to the residents about their personal safety both within the home and while out in public. Some free personal safety items were available for the residents.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Constable McVeigh is currently looking to expand Neighbourhood Watch to the Old Shore Road area. If you would like further information about this, contact Constable McVeigh on his number supplied.

COMMUNITY CONTACT

Are you part of a residents group, church group, community group or any other group or association? Do you have an email address for your group which we could send information to?

Your local neighbourhood officers are keen to get involved to discuss and attempt to resolve issues in your local area.

SPEAK WITH THEM, IT'S GOOD TO TALK!

SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Over October 2011 and November 2011 Con Buchanan and Con Conway have commenced an educational programme with several youth organisations around the Ards area. Lessons have been delivered on Knife Crime and further plans have been made to cover Internet Safety, Drug Misuse and Anti-social Behaviour in the New Year.

Constable Martin, covering the Scrabo area, is currently in Regent House delivering lessons on Internet Safety and Knife Crime.

Constable McVeigh, covering the East End area, is in Movilla High School with plans to establish a Student Surgery.

**YOU
CAN HELP
MAKE YOUR
NEIGHBOURHOOD
SAFER FOR
EVERYONE!**

Your Neighbourhood Policing Team

Name of Officer	Mobile Telephone Number	Neighbourhood Patrolled
Inspector Martin Conroy	07801 738 348	Neighbourhood Inspector
Sergeant Davie Lindsay	07739 075 571	Neighbourhood Sergeant
Constable Susan Farr	07742 676 930	Bangor Road / Donaghadee Road
Constable Melanie Conway	07795 152 796	Ards Town Centre
Constable Chris McVeigh	07786 116 945	East End / Movilla
Constable Stephen Buchanan	07795 152 796	Glen Ward
Constable Mike Harris	07825 013 479	Bowtown / Portaferry Rd
Constable David Selby	07742 676 925	Ards South / West Winds
Constable Jackie Martin	07795 607 496	Scrabo

When a neighbourhood officer is not available to take your call their mobile phone will switch directly to the Call Handling Centre where you can leave a message to be contacted. Alternatively you can email us on NPTArds@psni.pnn.police.uk



CHURCH WATCH

DON'T LET CRIMINALS WRECK CHURCHES
Sadly to say churches have become a target for criminals, stealing lead from roofs, stealing church property, smashing windows etc.

YOU CAN HELP
If you see anything unusual or anyone acting suspiciously around the church.

DO NOT DELAY - RING 0845 600 8000 in an emergency or a crime in progress ring **999**

You can help protect this part of your community

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ROADSAFE MESSAGE

**ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!
WATCH OUT FOR THAT CHILD!**

BOGUS CALLERS CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE

In recent months police in the Ards area have encountered several incidents of Bogus callers at private homes. These have taken 3 forms.

Callers says they are from Water Service and they need to turn on all the taps in the house as water pressure is building up. They put the home owner under pressure to open up quickly or house could be flooded.

Caller claims to be from NIE and need access to property to cut back hedges/trees that are interfering with power lines.

Caller claims to be a plain clothes Police officer making door to door enquires.

The following information will help you combat the Bogus caller.

Bogus Callers

While most callers to your home are genuine, some are not. Certain unscrupulous individuals, known as "bogus callers" or "distraction burglars", may try to trick their way inside your home in order to steal cash or valuables.

How to spot bogus officials

Water company officials don't need to access your home to test water pressure or repair a leak. If they do need to enter your house they will first write to you to arrange a suitable appointment.

Gas or electricity company officials expect you to check their identity before letting them in. They don't mind waiting while you do so.

If you have any doubt at all don't let the caller in. Telephone the company to confirm that the caller is genuine, but use a phone number from a utility bill or from The Phone Book or Yellow Pages. Never use a number give by the caller – it may be false. Use :Quick Check

QUICK CHECK

Bogus workmen

Bogus workmen can be very persistent in persuading you that urgent work needs to be carried out on your property. Never agree to have any work done by someone who turns up on your doorstep and says that your home needs urgent repairs. SAY NO.

If your home is in need of repair, use reputable workmen recommended by friends and family or firms that have previously worked for you satisfactorily.

Don't be pressurised into paying workmen before they do any work, and never accept their offer to drive you to the bank to withdraw money.

Other bogus callers

Be wary of people who knock on your door asking for a drink, looking for lost pets or asking to use your telephone. Be cautious of unfamiliar youngsters saying that their ball is in your garden. They may be attempting to gain access to your home or trying to distract you from your front door.



Most callers to your home will be genuine, however there are some who may not be. These callers are 'Bogus Callers' or 'Distraction Burglars' who may want to trick their way into your home to steal from you. If you are in any doubt simply check your caller out with **QUICK CHECK** on Freephone 0800 013 22 90.

Easy Steps with QUICK CHECK

- Before you answer the door, make sure your back door is locked.
- If you have a door chain remember to use it before you open the door.
- Ask the caller for their identification and check it carefully.
- Ask them to wait outside and close the door - genuine callers will not mind.
- Ring Freephone 0800 013 22 90, your call will be answered personally and promptly by a trained operator. They will check with the company on your behalf, that the person at your door is genuine. If they are not or they think there is something suspicious, they will contact the police immediately.
- Do not let anyone into your home until you are satisfied as to who they are.

QUICK CHECK is a FREE telephone service, which is available 24 hours a day all year round to residents throughout Northern Ireland.

Remember if in doubt check your caller out with **QUICK CHECK** on 0800 013 22 90.

In an emergency dial 999.

Please peel sticker and attach to your telephone



ntl:Telewest
business

FOLD
TeleCare



Making Northern Ireland Safer

GENERAL CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE



TOP TIPS FOR IT SECURITY

We are seeing increased efforts by cybercriminals to target businesses and individuals in order to gain financially. Emails which are sent across the Internet are not necessarily secure or private.

Only ever enter details into a site which starts URL or website addresses of HTTPS. The S at the end of the HTTP means **SECURE**.

Get Anti-Virus and Anti-Spyware Essentials and Malwarebytes or Spybot Search & Destroy.

Install a firewall. If you intend to have confidential data stored on your computer, it is strongly suggested that you make an investment in a commercial Firewall.

Back up your data. Solutions exist where you can plug your laptop into an external hard disk and it will identify all your personal files and copy them to hard disk.

Beware of email attachments. Do not open attachments that you are not expecting even if they appear to be from a known source.

Learn how to identify Hoax Emails and Urban Legends and not to forward chain letters which consume bandwidth on the internet or email inboxes.

Always use passwords and always lock your computer. Strong passwords consist of; Uppercase, lowercase, letters, symbols and numbers.

Effectively delete files. In most cases deleting a file sends it to a recycle bin and it also has to be removed from there. These files in most cases are easily recovered. Free "File Shredding" programmes exist which allow you to permanently delete files without any possibility of recovery.

Understand and Software Patch your computer with updates – some of these updates can be vital to ensure you are safe from would be hackers and crackers. Be cautious about the sites you obtain these patches from.



IDENTITY FRAUD

Protect your Identity

Some key warning signs in recognising identity fraud include:

You receive letters from solicitors or debt collectors for debts that aren't yours.

You receive bills for invoices for goods or services you haven't ordered.

You are refused a financial service (such as a credit card or a loan) despite having a good credit history.

You are billed for a mobile phone contract (or similar) set up in your name without your knowledge.



Lock all valuables and documents in a secure place.

Shred unwanted documents (e.g. old utility bills, credit card receipts etc.)

Inform all service providers promptly when moving address.

Set up a mail forwarding arrangement with the Post Office.

Never give your PIN number to anyone.

Check your credit report with a credit reference service.



Bank and Credit Card Statements

It is early detection or notification of fraud that will assist or prevent further fraud.

Regularly check your bank and credit card statements and bank transactions for evidence of fraudulent activity.

Report any suspicious or fraudulent activity to your bank immediately.

Don't throw out old statements and/or receipts with your household rubbish.

Dispose of them carefully, i.e. shred or burn.

CONTACT YOUR CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER

The Crime Prevention Officer for Ards is:

Ailish Teague



**02891 801502
07887803743**



Ailish.teague@psni.pnn.police.uk

