

# BeIWatch

THE NEWSLETTER OF BELFAST NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Building Secure and Confident Communities



## JANUARY CO-ORDINATORS EVENT AT CITY HALL

On January 13th 2010 Belfast Neighbourhood Watch will be hosting an event at the newly refurbished City Hall.

The aim of the event is to bring together all those involved in Neighbourhood Watch in the city to celebrate the successes of the project which began in 2004 and which now boasts over seventy schemes. Guest speakers from the District Policing Partnership, Police Service of Northern Ireland and Belfast City Council will join the many co-ordinators who manage the schemes at a local level. Speaking about the event Alan Gibson, Neighbourhood Watch Development Officer for Belfast City Council, said, "the January event is an opportunity for all agencies involved in Neighbourhood Watch to say a big thank you to the volunteer Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators who work tirelessly to make their community a safer place to live".

## STAY SAFE, STAY SECURE

**A regional advertising campaign to help prevent older people falling victim to bogus callers has been re-launched by Criminal Justice Minister Paul Goggins, MP.**

Launching this year's television advertising campaign, Mr Goggins said; "Through the re-launch of the 'Stay Safe Stay Secure' campaign we want to remind everyone - particularly older people - to take sensible precautions when they are opening the door to a caller they are not expecting".

"Most callers will be genuine, but with fewer daylight hours

it is timely to remind everyone that they should not open their door until they have thoroughly checked the caller's identity".

He continued "This year we are able to improve our campaign with the support of the QUICK CHECK service - a 24-hour freephone service providing householders with a resource to check the identity of callers. I believe that this is a very important factor that will improve the confidence of all the community."

Discussing the initiative, Acting Assistant Chief Constable Nigel Grimshaw said:

"Bogus callers depend on the good nature and good will of others. They tend to target the more vulnerable members of our society and in particular senior citizens. I would advise everyone to be cautious of unexpected callers.

"Do not open the door unless you know the individual. Simply ring 0800 013 22 90 and your call will be answered by a trained operator. They will take the details of the company which the caller claims to be visiting on behalf of, then contact the organisation and determine if the caller is genuine. If there is something suspicious the operator will contact the police directly."



# SECURE YOUR HOME

**Burglary remains a crime of great concern for all families and householders. However, by introducing simple preventative measures, homeowners can minimise the risk to their property and possessions.**

Jewellery, mobile phones, laptop computers, video game consoles and MP3 music players can be found in many peoples homes and it is these small, easy to carry items of high value that

are most sought after by thieves. Car keys to assist in vehicle theft are also a great temptation for the burglar.

Burglary is, in the main, an opportunistic crime rather than one where detailed prior planning is applied and around 50% of all house burglaries in Belfast, occur through unlocked doors and windows. Therefore, by denying this simple opportunity to thieves homeowners can reduce the risk of their home being burgled.

**There are five simple steps to protecting your home:**

1. Close and lock all vulnerable, external doors and windows.
2. Put high value, portable items out of casual view.
3. Report people involved in anti-social behaviour and loitering, to Police.
4. Consider additional security lighting around your home.

5. Consider installing and using an intruder alarm in your home.

Neighbourhood Police Officers and Crime Prevention Officers can advise householders on simple crime prevention methods to use to make their homes safer. Just call 0845 600 8000 and ask to be put through to your local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

## UPDATED DATES FOR FORTHCOMING DPP MEETINGS

### North Belfast Sub-Group

Thursday 11 February at 7pm  
The Spectrum Centre, 331 Shankill Road

### East Belfast Sub-Group

Monday 22 February at 7pm  
The Mount Business Centre, 2 Woodstock Link

### South Belfast Sub-Group

Tuesday 9 February at 7pm  
Richview Regeneration Centre, 341 Donegall Road

### West Belfast Sub-Group

Monday 15 February at 7pm  
Highfield Community Centre, Highfield Estate

Email: [dpp@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:dpp@belfastcity.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 028 9027 0683  
028 9027 0684  
Textphone: 028 9027 0405

## NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER APPOINTED

**In October Alan Gibson replaced Sean McCormick as Neighbourhood Watch Development Officer for Belfast City Council. Below, Alan outlines his hopes for Neighbourhood Watch in the coming year.**

"Neighbourhood Watch has been running in Belfast since 2004 and to date there are over 70 accredited schemes operating in the City. This success is down to the hard work and dedication of the individual Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators who run the schemes at a local level. Without their civic mindedness and desire to make a contribution to the community, Neighbourhood Watch could not succeed".

"I would also like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Sean McCormick, who worked tirelessly to both facilitate the formation of new Neighbourhood Watch schemes while supporting those already in existence. In my new role as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator I intend to build upon the successes to date and cement Neighbourhood Watch as the foremost community response to crime and anti social behaviour".

Alan, who is based at the Cecil Ward Building 4-10 Linenhall Street, can be contacted on 028 9032 0202, 079 2004 8052 or via email [gibsona@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:gibsona@belfastcity.gov.uk)