

CASCADE



GLOUCESTER NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

Issue 88 | Winter 25

Giving you the support and the knowledge to help you and your neighbourhood work together against crime

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Message from Tony



Welcome to a new edition of Cascade, my first as Chair of Gloucester Neighbourhood Watch.

Following David Brown with all his achievements over the last 6 years as Chair and almost 30 years on the Committee, is a hard act to follow.

We thank him and are very pleased he continues on the Committee and as Editor of Cascade.

We are continuing to encourage more members to join NHW and to have more coverage especially in new developments. I am a coordinator in Gloucester Docks where there are several other co-ordinators and we liaise.



L-R Bob Lloyd (Vice Chair), Paul Finch (Treasurer), Liz (Docks Co-ordinator)

The excellent talk by Lewis at Matson reemphasised the community benefits linked with NHW and I know this happens in many areas of the City. It is more than just crime prevention, it is looking out for each other and helping where appropriate, keeping the area tidy and safe.

With thanks to those who helped, on Gloucester Day the NHW stand was out again, engaging with the public and reminding residents to be vigilant.

A new PowerPoint presentation was in use, also crime prevention items and literature about the many benefits of NHW were handed out.

As always this Cascade will be distributed to coordinators by committee members, saving on postage. Hopefully it is also an opportunity to meet co-ordinators and hear about how their area operates and of any problems that we can help with. If we miss talking to you, there is a new email to contact me as Chair/Secretary and the committee < info@nhwglos.co.uk >.

With 206 co-ordinators, 17 deputies and around 5,400 members just in Gloucester we are a large organisation helping the community and we need to share good practices.

In the meantime I wish you all a safe and healthy time, especially during Christmas and New Year.

Tony Aldridge, Chair

Biennial General Meeting

Gloucester Guildhall in July

Speaker, David McFarlane explained the Ten Principles of Crime Prevention, as covered during the training of Constabulary PCSOs:

1. **Target Hardening:** make theft more difficult eg owning a dog
2. **Target Removal:** eg don't leave laptop in full view in car.
3. **Remove the means:** eg no ladder to assist access.
4. **Reduce the payoff:** eg by property marking such as Smartwater
5. **Access Control:** eg door bell camera.
6. **Visibility/Surveillance:** eg offender being visible, join NHW
7. **Environmental Design:** eg prickly / impenetrable hedges
8. **Rule setting:** eg rule stopping the wearing of helmet or hoodie
9. **Increase the chance of being caught:** locks, chains, smoke triggered by alarm. Plastic "spikes" on top of boundary fence.
10. **Deflecting offenders:** education, youth groups eg use an artist to divert from graffiti to constructive painting.

At the meeting David Brown (Chair) and Peter Rotherham (Vice Chair) stepped down both have decided to remain on the Committee. David and Peter were thanked for their service.

Tony Aldridge is now Chair and Secretary, with Bob Lloyd now Vice Chair. Paul Finch remains as Treasurer. Other committee members are David Brown, Sue Bruce, Charlie Morgan, Peter Rotherham and Tony Ward. Each member is a co-ordinator in their geographic area.

Thank you to those residents who attended.



Keep the 'Merry' in Christmas

Rhian Rose-Jones (Crime Prevention Team)



Gloucestershire Constabulary

The festive period brings increased opportunity for criminals, whether it's targeting homes full of new gifts or taking advantage of busy crowds and dark nights.

Here are our Christmas security top tips.

- In the lead up to the big day, be vigilant to avoid **delivery scams**. Ignore any unexpected texts or emails claiming there is a problem with your delivery and asking you to click a link. **This is a common scam.**
- Always check your **delivery status** directly on the retailer's official website or other trusted source. If you are not likely to be in when a package is delivered, use secure collection points (like lockers or shops) or arrange for a trusted neighbour to retrieve parcels immediately.
- When out and about make sure that your cash and cards are secure, use **front or inside pockets** and keep bags closed and in sight at all times.
- Never leave shopping bags, gifts, or other valuables visible inside your car. **Put anything you must leave in your car inside the locked boot, out of sight.**
- When leaving your home for any period, leave lights on to **create the illusion that someone is home.** It sounds simple but always ensure all doors and windows are locked before you leave or go to bed.
- Criminals will be on the lookout for gifts - **don't leave them in view** of the windows, especially not under the Christmas tree.
- After the big day, be sure to **hide the evidence**. Large, intact cardboard boxes (for new TVs, games consoles, or bikes) sitting by your bin are basically **a checklist for thieves.**



Most of all enjoy the festive season and stay safe and secure!

The Constabulary CEV (Community Engagement Vehicle)

A Gloucester Neighbourhood Watch Committee Member often accompanies the Police CEV when it appears in different parts of the City.

This gives an opportunity for the public to engage with their local PCSOs, have their bikes security marked, get helpful crime prevention items, literature, sign up for alerts and talk about any local issues.

Attending one of the deployments in the City Centre it was also interesting and reassuring to see the high level of Police activity. Illegal bikes and scooters were confiscated, shoplifters arrested etc.

The CEV was recently in Mariners Square in Gloucester Docks. In the picture above (L-R) NHW representatives Tony Aldridge (Chair) and Liz Bennison with Docks Security and two PCSOs.





Important numbers to keep handy

Have something to report or need help? Here are details for local authorities and organisations you can contact:

- **Gloucester NHW Committee** - info@nhwglos.co.uk
- **Crime Prevention Advice:** Crime.Reduction@gloucestershire.police.uk
- **Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111** or use <https://crimestoppers-uk.org> anonymously to give information on crimes / suspicious activity
- **Support in dealing with ASB:** Visit short link: <https://bit.ly/4dFuiBM>
- **Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service** (Mon-Fri / 9am to 5pm) - **01452 726 570** or support@gdass.org.uk
- **Victim Support Line - 0808 16 89 111** (24 hours)
- **Samaritans - Freephone 116 123** any time
- **NHS Mental health crisis / emergency helpline - 111**

ALWAYS REPORT FRAUD.
YOUR REPORT COULD HELP OTHERS
www.actionfraud.police.uk

When is it time to call 999?

- When **crime** or **disorder** is in **progress**
- When **offenders** are **nearby**
- When **life** is at **risk**
- When **injury** is **caused** or **threatened**

Over 50% of 999 calls are not emergencies

Sign up for Community Alerts now : www.yourcommunityalerts.co.uk

Your Community Alerts is a free messaging system that enables residents to participate in a two-way exchange of information about what is happening across the county.

You can receive up-to-date messaging from public agencies in Gloucestershire such as the police. You can choose exactly the type of alert you wish to receive.

The aim of this system is to send you relevant information from public sector agencies of your choice that is relevant to where you live.



Neighbourhood Watch are independent, working in partnership with the police, corporate companies with aligned values, voluntary organisations and individuals from all communities who want to improve their local area.

Cascade is intended for delivery to more than 5,000 households across Gloucester, with the help of our volunteer co-ordinators and Gloucestershire Constabulary.

Edited by: David Brown: a digital version in pdf format may be requested from the editor.



Matson Engagement Event

An event took place at the Redwell Centre, Matson in September to inform local residents how NHW can bring improvements to the community and help reduce crime.

Committee members, the local PCSO, Police Liaison Officers attended and the event was promoted by local posters, social media and on Radio Gloucestershire.



Photo by new Chair, Tony Aldridge

Lewis Whitter, Serious Violence Project and Evaluation Lead from Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service spoke of the importance of community and Neighbourhood Watch in the reduction of serious violence.

Dr David Bruce then demonstrated the vital use of bleed kits, of which there are now several in key locations, eg near Food Dock and outside Boots, Eastgate. However unlike some counties Gloucestershire does not yet have an online location map.

Bike marking was available at the Matson event but no bikes were brought.

If you would like a similar informative event in your area and know of a suitable venue, please contact the committee: info@nhwglos.co.uk