



Neighbourhood Watch SCOTLAND

newsletter

Summer | 2020



SPARC
SCOTTISH PARTNERSHIP AGAINST RURAL CRIME

The past year proved to be eventful, influential and productive with Rural Watch Scotland at the core of both the national and all local partnerships.

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Looking ahead

It's been an interesting 6 months... since Neighbourhood Watch Scotland joined the Scottish Community Safety Network in a pioneering new partnership.

A partnership that brings together 2 significant community safety organisations together under a single Chief Executive Officer (me), with some shared backroom functions and a common goal to support safer communities across Scotland.

In our first 6 months we have brought 2 staff teams together; strengthened governance; recruited a new Chair; submitted aligned budgets to the Scottish Government; created a single communications plan and joined up our payroll provision. And all of this while Brexit and Covid-19 have provided an unprecedented backdrop.

When we were starting to think about what each other organisation could bring to the

partnership – we expected to see some mutual benefits around shared information, extra contacts and links – NWS wanted access to SCSN's strategic partnerships and development capacity and SCSN saw the advantages of access to communities through the watch and alert systems. It's been much more than that though. We have plans to jointly deliver focus groups in communities that can enable frontline community safety issues to directly inform partnership strategy and action. Well we did – until Covid came! Like other third sector organisations we have had to adapt. Put on hold some of our exciting plans. And do something different. So, now we are working more

closely than ever before with the Building Safer Communities executive group to use our alert system to disseminate new types of information out to all our members and users and also to be able to inform the development of Covid community responses. Our staff team are working from home, keeping safe. And our board are meeting virtually to ensure that Governance continues. We are fortunate to be able to do this. And we are grateful to our funders to allow us to be so agile and responsive. So, while the day to day work continues the plans remain in place to continue to align both organisations closer together to make sure that the communities we serve continue to be safe.



Lorraine Gillies

CEO, Scottish Community Safety Network

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Neighbourhood Watch SCOTLAND

Thoughts from the Chair

As I write this, the Covid-19 pandemic has meant we've been under various forms of personal, work, social and travel restrictions for about three months.

Some of us (me included) have been shielded, as individual health conditions made us particularly vulnerable to the affects of the virus, and the potential for personal isolation was enormous. The way people have responded to these immense changes to our lives has been remarkable. Communities have rallied round, businesses have fought to find new ways of working, people have found different ways to keep in touch with their loved ones, and neighbours have looked out for each other as never before.

Well I say never before, but isn't that essentially what all involved in Neighbourhood Watch have always done, just in different ways? Late last year I was approached to become Chair of Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, and although I've not been a Board member

for a long time, I've had occasional personal involvement in its aims since the late 1980's. More recently I'd had far stronger links to NWS through my day job, which is focused on improving community safety around flooding. I found an organisation which wanted to move with the times, and find new ways to meet the challenges of a changing society. Neighbourhood Alert had brought an excellent use of technology, collaboration with SCSN would be making us stronger in partnership, but everything still has people and communities firmly at its heart.

As well as the amazing staff team and fellow trustees, I'd like to pay tribute and thank all of those who have served before me, giving so much to helping our communities be safer places to live, NWS wouldn't be what it is without

them. I will try my best to lead and support all of us who work to develop and deliver that ambition, and look forward to meeting more of you locally once we properly emerge from the current pandemic. Change is constant, but all of you are the ones consistently helping each other and NWS play a strong and vital role in our communities. And finally... do please get in touch if you've any feedback on NWS, or ideas on how we can serve you and your communities better. We'd especially value more national volunteers, including those with digital media skills and strong financial experience, and broader community representation as a Board trustee would be welcome. Thank you, and stay safe.



*Stewart Prodger,
Chairman,
Neighbourhood Watch
Scotland.*

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland and SelectaDNA Partner to Offer a Great Deal on World Leading Forensic Marking for Your Property



Imagine a thief has broken into your home – they will target your most valuable items first – laptops, tablets, smartphones, jewellery – anything they can sell on quickly.

However, if each valuable item they come across is marked with SelectaDNA – a unique formula of DNA, UV tracer and microdots – and is displaying a warning sticker, then the chances of the thief stealing it drops dramatically.

SelectaDNA is a forensic marking system produced by security company Selectamark, which comes in kit form for domestic and commercial use. The product contains a liquid specifically DNA-coded to each individual customer or company, and which can be easily applied to any items of value.

The liquid also contains thousands of unique microdots, allowing the Police two ways to identify marked items. If equipment is stolen and later found,

Police can link it directly with the crime scene, not only allowing the property to be returned to its owner, but also increasing the chance of convicting the thieves.

SelectaDNA is not only being used by 1,000s of householders throughout the UK to prevent and deter housebreaking, but also by many schools, hospitals and businesses that own expensive and vital equipment.

SelectaDNA Home Kits are now being offered to members of Neighbourhood Watch Scotland as part of a new partnership to reduce housebreaking.

The kits are available at a special promotional rate, using the code **NHWSOT25. Just head to www.selectadna.co.uk/nhw to view product information and use the code.**

Keeping our communities informed, supported and safe



Our operational plans for 2020 were thrown somewhat off course with the outbreak of COVID-19 but the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland Team have rose to the challenge and continued to safely work from home whilst awaiting; through the Scottish Government route map, for news as to when we can return to Enterprise House and commence our direct community engagement.

Although keeping in touch by Zoom and other virtual methods with each other and our partners we still need that essential face to face contact with our communities.

Since lockdown we have been extremely busy working with our partners and ensuring we continue to keep our communities informed, supported and safe.

SINCE MARCH

229

ALERTS have been sent out across Scotland by ourselves and key partners

104

104 of these ALERTS have been COVID-19 related

1.8m

ALERTS have been sent out and directly received by 1.8M individuals

The ALERTS have covered a range of relevant Community Safety issues both national and local keeping everyone informed, supported and hopefully safe.

We have also noticed a significant increase in new registrations for ALERT and indeed new Watch areas being set up. During May alone we have had 20 new Watch areas starting up across Scotland with daily enquiries from more asking how to get started.

We feedback this information weekly to the Scottish Government and Building Safer Communities Partners.

Our biggest asset is however you and we know the fantastic work and support you are all doing to make our communities safe. We can make a difference if we continue to look out for and care for each other.

Varrie, Mark and myself would like to thank you for your ongoing support and once lockdown is over look forward to planning our NWS Roadshow where we will be travelling out across Scotland to various venues to meet up face to face with our co-ordinators and members. Our aim is to meet up with as many of you as possible. Stay Safe.

Willie Clark, NWS Co-ordinator



Secured by Design (SBD) is the widely respected and long-established official police security initiative operated by the Police Service across the UK.



SBD provides a recognised standard for all security products that can deter and reduce crime and keep you safe – Police Preferred Specification.

Since SBD launched in 1989, SBD have worked with businesses to encourage innovation to deter and reduce crime, constantly adapting crime prevention advice to keep pace with changing patterns of criminal behaviour.

SBD is the only way for companies to obtain police recognition for security-related products in the UK.

What practical benefits does this bring for you?

SBD accredited products will reduce the likelihood of you becoming a victim of crime and help keep you safer.

A Police Scotland study (2017) of 3,000 housing association homes built on more than 150 developments in Fife, East Central Scotland, over the last 20 years found reductions in crime of 87% every year.

Because products are robust, they will last longer too.

Studies led by the University of Surrey (2016-17) have found that SBD is good for the environment too. Burglary prevention measures installed individually or in combination, were found to produce less carbon emissions than an incidence of burglary.

When buying security related products, what should you be looking for? How do you know that a product is sufficiently robust to do the job you want it to do? What should you be asking for?

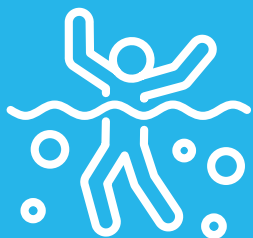
- When buying security related products always ask for SBD recognised products
- Look out for the SBD police security initiative logo on security related products, because only SBD member companies can use it
- Check on the SBD website. There is a wealth of information on the SBD website, including a list of 5,000 products in over 30 different crime categories that have been recognised as having achieved Police Preferred Specification. If it's not on the website it's not SBD.

SBD accredited products include doors, windows, external storage, bicycle and motorcycle security, locks and hardware, asset marking, alarms, CCTV, safes, perimeter security products and many others visit www.securedbydesign.com.

WATER SAFETY



Some easing of lockdown restrictions has meant that people in Scotland can now meet others from another household in outdoor spaces. Additionally, some leisure activities including fishing and kayaking are now also being allowed – if socially distancing and handwashing is adhered to. Although this is positive news, it is important to remember the risk that beaches and inland waters can pose. Cold Water Shock is a real concern especially as, with all the hot weather we have had this spring and summer, it can be tempting to jump into cold water to cool off. However, this sudden immersion makes you gasp and breathe in water which can lead to a fatal drowning.



ACCORDING TO SCOTLAND'S DROWNING PREVENTION STRATEGY, 40 PER CENT OF PEOPLE WHO DROWN EVERY YEAR IN SCOTLAND DO SO UNINTENTIONALLY IE THEY WERE WALKING OR CYCLING NEAR WATER AND FELL IN.

If you do find yourself in this situation, it is extremely important that you stay calm and float on your back until you can regulate your breathing again. Plan ahead if you are going to be taking part in any exercises or activities that will take place in or around water and assess the potential risks for everyone in your household or anyone else who will be accompanying you. Talk to your children and your family about the potential dangers of open water as Cold Water Shock can affect even the most experienced swimmer. In addition, continue to follow government advice and stay local. If you do not live near the beach or other waterways, don't travel there and continue to help take tension off our emergency services.

For further information on water safety you can visit:
<https://www.rospace.com/Leisure-Safety/Water/Advice>

Water Safety Scotland has also published some useful information and advice for being in and around water:
<https://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/information/>

Liz Lumsden – RoSPA Water Safety



Neighbourhood Watch updates

Garnethill Neighbourhood Watch

Garnethill Neighbourhood Watch continues to develop and expand supporting a multi-cultural and ever-changing community. Up until the coronavirus lockdown we were holding regular meetings with up to forty residents attending. These meetings are well supported by the Police, Local Authority, Local Housing Associations and Neighbourhood Watch Scotland. The issues of crime in the area is always high up on the agenda however our relationship with our local community

officers makes it easy for us to report concerns and assist where possible in tackling issues that affect our communities. Illegally and inconsiderately parked cars within our watch area; being adjacent to the main city centre, is a common problem however working together with Police Scotland and Glasgow City Council we continue to try and tackle this issue to help with road safety and access of



emergency vehicles to the area. Looking forward we hope that the new normal will allow face to face meeting to resume and the local relationships that we have been building can go from strength to strength to make Garnethill a safer more secure area to live and work.

Bill Beckett, Garnethill Neighbourhood Watch.

View Over the Garden Wall



Due to lock down we have spent lots of time in our garden. Our wee azalea and crab apple tree are now in full bloom. We have seen lots of different bumble bees, some huge and others quite dainty, visiting and collecting among the flowers. A hover fly comes and visits on a daily basis and seems to have a routine which is beside us, then zooms off and always comes back to the same spot. We have noticed a great increase in neighbours getting involved in their gardens and with us having the tools for the community garden, it is our pleasure to be able to accommodate folks who don't have the necessary tools.

I called in to the community garden and had the pleasure of meeting Alan and Daniel who were painting, hoeing, digging and generally making a huge difference to the place. They have painted the benches and footers, all this and supplying their own tools and paint. They tell me that last evening, our local fire service topped up the big water container as the lads had used up all the water from the barrel which collects rain water.

We must say a big thanks to everyone who helps and who sees the garden needs looking after. It is a COMMUNITY GARDEN and the community are doing the business. Community spirit is alive and thriving in Beith and district.

Norrie Brown – Beith and District

Glasgow West Crime Prevention Panel & Neighbourhood Watch Association



Glasgow West Crime Prevention Panel & Neighbourhood Watch Association was founded almost 25 years ago, and two of the original members are still on the committee. We are a support group for approximately 40 NHW groups in our area. We hold regular meetings for coordinators in conjunction with the police who kindly provide accommodation.

Over the years there have been many changes, the best of these being the formation of Neighbourhood Watch Scotland who give us tremendous support. Sadly, the police are no longer able to give us as much time as before, but we still keep our eyes and ears open, and report anything suspicious to them.

The committee are very loyal, and most have served for many years, turning out at fetes and galas with information and advice on crime prevention. Since the coronavirus problems we have not been able to meet, but we can still communicate with one another, and the excellent Alert System keeps everyone in touch, even in isolation. Next year we are looking forward to celebrating our quarter century, when hopefully life will be more normal.

Jean Brown, Glasgow West Crime Prevention Panel.





SPARC

SCOTTISH PARTNERSHIP AGAINST RURAL CRIME

For the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime, (SPARC) the past year proved to be eventful, influential and productive with Rural Watch Scotland at the core of both the national and all local partnerships against rural crime groups.



SPARC published Scotland's first rural crime strategy which provided a clear vision, aim, four objectives and seven priorities with a focus on tackling serious organised crime. This template enabled the 13 territorial policing divisions to model their local partnerships with the same structure and thus create a more cohesive, professional and tangible approach, regardless of geographic location.

Priority was given on ensuring firstly those living, working and enjoying Scotland's rural communities and environments had confidence any crime related issues affecting them were taken seriously, acted upon and understood and secondly raise awareness and increase visibility of SPARC throughout Scotland.

Through establishing new, whilst strengthening existing, local rural crime prevention groups within Local Authority and/or policing divisions across Scotland where issues raised locally can be understood, tackled and resolved locally, Rural Watch Scotland was recognised as the mechanism to help rural communities communicate, be better connected and informed plus feel safer. Particularly heartening has been the number of individuals signing up to Rural Watch Scotland and momentum has gathered pace as the benefits of the Alert system have produced results.

In terms of increasing visibility, from April – September 2019, working in conjunction with Valtra and the Hamilton Ross Group, a tractor and Rough Terrain Vehicle which were marked up in police livery to assist in conveying this objective throughout Scotland were loaned to SPARC.



We managed to attend a total of **49 agricultural events** and shows leaving a footprint in all **13 territorial policing divisions** and **23 local authority areas**. Such was the positive feedback, interaction, media coverage and response, members of SPARC were invited to bring the initiative to a conclusion at the Scottish Parliament where numerous MSP's from all parties attended a photographic opportunity on how rural crime is being prevented and tackled in Scotland.

Another highlight was the launch of the Scottish Heritage Crime Group, a sub group of SPARC which has been formed with the remit of developing a strategy around protecting Scotland's 6 UNESCO World Heritage sites plus several thousand cultural and historic sites.

Currently and undoubtedly due to COVID-19 restrictions, throughout Scotland there has been a significant reduction in reported rural crime throughout Scotland however SPARC is already preparing its focus for the remainder of the year with forestry and flytipping high on the priority list.



For further information on the work of SPARC, please contact Police Scotland's rural crime co-ordinator, Inspector Alan Dron who is located at the Scottish Crime Campus, Gartcosh, alan.dron@scotland.pnn.police.uk





Trading Standards Scotland (TSS)

is the national coordinating body for Trading Standards and consumer protection issues across Scotland. Visit our website for more information and to sign up for our ScamShare bulletin to receive updates on the latest scams affecting Scottish consumers: www.tsscot.co.uk

As communities deal with uncertainty and isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic, there are many who require help from others and many who wish to volunteer their time and services.

By following five simple guidelines, those wishing to provide help and those in need of help can ensure that they stay safe:



TSS is currently focusing on tackling scams within 7 specific problem areas:



Find out more about these issues and get advice on avoiding scams at www.tsscot.co.uk/priority-areas

Here are some general tips to help you stay Scam Aware (find lots more advice and links to trusted sources of information on our website):

Doorstep Scams	Phone Scams	Email Scams	Online Scams
<p>Never feel obliged to answer the door to a cold caller</p> <p>Take time to think before making a decision - don't agree to make any payments on the doorstep</p> <p>Do plenty of research into a company before dealing with them - get 3 quotes from trusted traders* and check 3 different review sites</p> <p>*www.approvedtrader.scot</p>	<p>Don't press 1 or follow instructions given in an automated message</p> <p>Don't give a cold caller remote access to your computer</p> <p>Never give personal or financial information to a cold caller. If in doubt, hang up, clear the line and call them back using a number found on a bill/statement or their website.</p>	<p>Don't click on links or open attachments in emails from unknown senders</p> <p>Be wary of official-looking emails asking for financial details or payments - always verify that these are genuine before clicking on links or entering any details</p> <p>Don't make purchases or charity payments via a link in an email from an unknown sender</p>	<p>Be wary of surveys on social media - you don't know who you are sending your personal details to</p> <p>Be wary of pop-up adverts, particularly if items are advertised at a price that is significantly cheaper than on official websites</p> <p>When buying goods or services online, pay by credit/ debit card or PayPal if possible rather than bank transfer. This will offer more protection if you are a victim of fraud.</p>

● Report all scams to Advice Direct Scotland on 0808 164 6000 or through consumeradvice.scot

● Report fraud or suspicious activity in your community to Police Scotland on 101 or 999 in an emergency



**NEIGHBOURHOOD
ALERT IN
SCOTLAND HAS
CONTINUED
TO GROW**



THIS CONTINUED GROWTH ALONG WITH NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERT BEING SEEN AS A TRUSTED PROVIDER OF INFORMATION WITH ADVICE ON CRIME, SAFETY AND RESILIENCE ISSUES.



WE CONTINUE TO BUILD AND DEVELOP OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR KEY PARTNERS WITHIN POLICE SCOTLAND, SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE, TRADING STANDARDS SCOTLAND, SEPA, SCOTTISH GAS NETWORKS, SCOTTISH AND SOUTHERN ENERGY NETWORKS AND MANY OTHERS.

The team look forward to passing the milestone of **25000 REGISTERED USERS** in the near future.

Over the last 12 months the number registered users of **NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERT HAVE RISEN BY 19.2% TO JUST OVER 24500 USERS.**

There are currently **1862 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH GROUPS** and Community Groups registered.

Over the last year **1034 ALERTS HAVE BEEN SENT OUT ACROSS SCOTLAND TO 2,004,423 RECIPIENTS.** These have been **SHARED DIRECTLY WITH 6,013,219** (not including propagation across professional and community social media channels) **SATISFACTION LEVELS WITH REGARDS RELEVANCE AND CONTENT OF ALERTS REMAINS HIGH AT 92%.**


Encouraging increased engagement and feedback from communities and partners on the effectiveness of ALERTS in preventing crime, promoting safety and resilience confirms Neighbourhood Watch Scotland's commitment to providing the right information at the

right time to the right people. Over the coming months Neighbourhood Alert will be getting an upgrade. VISAV the company who supply us with the software are in the process of finishing the development of V4 and looking to

role this out to us shortly. The team at Neighbourhood Watch Scotland and all the administrators across Scotland are looking forward to these developments which will enhance our ability to deliver high quality information and advice to all our registered users.

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland SCIO

Office 23, Enterprise House, Springkerse Business Park, Stirling, FK7 7UF, Tel No: 01786 463732

 www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk

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**Neighbourhood
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