Neighbourhood Watch Report

(Naunton Annual Parish Meeting on 21st May 2018)

This year my report as Naunton's Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator is not very different from that given last year.

On the day that this report was prepared there were 69 addresses to which email messages were being sent (two more than in the previous year) covering 102 individuals. As I believe everyone must know by now, new data protection regulations are coming into force on 25th May which it certain circumstances make it necessary for people to consent to the retention of certain data. This requirement was thought to include Neighbourhood Watch schemes and consequently I duly informed those on my email list of this change in the law and requested all to confirm their wish to continue to receive my messages.

I am pleased that most have confirmed that they wish to continue to receive the emails I send out about police matters and the occasional donations which I receive from "the Phantom" - with many expressing their pleasure in receiving the messages (especially the Phantom reports) - and all who have done so have had a personal acknowledgment. However, on the day of preparing this report I have been notified that it has been determined that it is not necessary for existing participants in Neighbourhood Watch schemes to give formal consent to the retention of their addresses by co-ordinators such as myself. So the fourteen addressees who at the time I wrote this had not yet responded to my data protection messages will not be chased for consent although any new participants in the scheme will have to complete certain formalities.

Those on the list will continue to receive occasional messages which I send to myself with a blind copy to my Neighbourhood Watch group list. This procedure has been adopted so that I know messages have gone through and those in the group do not get the addresses of all other group members listed in their inboxes.

At the date of producing this report and since the last Annual Parish Meeting I have sent out 73 messages but that is not as bad as it suggests because some of the messages were advisory not warnings and 13 related to The Phantom who, since the first manifestation towards the end of 2016, has secretly placed twenty-five different items in my garden!

As stated in previous reports, it is appreciated that some of the police messages and advice which I pass on may seem trivial and/or irrelevant but I work on the basis that the information I am distributing may be of value to at least some of those to whom it is sent, bearing in mind that recipients can easily delete anything in which they have no interest and if bored by my messages can ask to be removed from my list. For the record, I only pass on about half of the "alerts" which I receive from the police limiting what I forward to matters which I consider relevant to the Naunton community.

It is hoped that the scheme will continue to be of value to participants and that should the Phantom continue deliveries, news of them will amuse folk as much as receipt of them delights me.

Diana Woolley

16.05.18