

## BICYCLES

Bicycles can be easily stolen if not secured properly and are sometimes transported to another part of the country and sold on.

The more expensive bicycles are a real target for thieves and, if they have access to a van, thieves can steal a number of bicycles in one day.

Please remember the following advice :

- Buy a good quality bike lock and use it. Look for a 'Sold Secure' approved lock or ask for a recommendation from your local bike shop.
- When leaving your bike unattended in the street, secure it to a solid item of street furniture such as railing or post.
- Secure any removable parts, such as the wheels, or consider taking them with you.

Security mark or engrave your bike. Tayside Police operate a Cycle Passport marking scheme where for a small charge a bike can be security marked, photographed and the details recorded on a national database.

[source: [www.tayside.police.uk](http://www.tayside.police.uk)]

## GET SAFE ONLINE

Get Safe Online is a joint initiative between the government, the National Hi-Tech Crime Unit (part of the National Crime Squad) and private sector sponsors from the worlds of technology, retail and finance.

Millions of UK internet users are putting themselves at risk of attack from internet criminals because they do not understand the threats to them and their computers while they are online or the ways to protect themselves against

## SAT NAVS

Portable satellite navigation equipment is becoming very popular with motorists – but it's also becoming very popular with criminals.

If you have a portable system then keep it safe by taking it, together with any cradles and suction pads with you when leaving the car. Remember to also wipe away any suction pad marks on the windscreen or dashboard - thieves will look out for these. Don't simply put your sat-nav under the seat or in the glove box, these are the first places that a thief will look.

You can also help by following these tips :

- Use a UV pen to mark your equipment with your postcode and house number or your vehicle registration number – anything that can help the police identify your property if we find it in the possession of someone else.
- Make a note of the make, model and serial number of your equipment and keep that information in a safe place at home – not in the car.

[source: [www.tayside.police.uk](http://www.tayside.police.uk)]

these threats.

The 'Get Safe Online' campaign aims to tackle this problem by raising public awareness of these issues and provide solutions.

The campaign's website - [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org) - is a one stop shop for reliable, up-to-date information about online safety, giving home users and small businesses the advice they need to use the Internet safely.

[source: [www.tayside.police.uk](http://www.tayside.police.uk)]

# EAST PERTHSHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

## August 2011 Newsletter



<b>Emergency</b>	to report a serious crime	999
<b>Non-emergency</b>	to provide/gain information or report a minor crime	0300 111 2222
<b>CrimeStoppers</b>	to report a crime anonymously	0800 555 111
<b>Trading Standards</b>	customer related information	01738 476 476
<b>Useful websites</b>	East Perthshire Neighbourhood Watch	<a href="http://www.epnwa.org.uk">www.epnwa.org.uk</a>
	Strathmore Centre for Youth Development	<a href="http://www.scyd.co.uk">www.scyd.co.uk</a>
	Tayside Police	<a href="http://www.tayside.police.uk">www.tayside.police.uk</a>
	National Fraud Authority	<a href="http://www.actionfraud.org.uk">www.actionfraud.org.uk</a>
	Internet Watch Foundation	<a href="http://www.iwf.org.uk">www.iwf.org.uk</a>

**Do we have your contact details on file for Police Alerts or EPNWA info?**

Check with Adeline Casey. Your details are not shared with third parties.

WELCOME: East Perthshire Neighbourhood Watch Association is still going strong in your area. Get in touch on the non-emergency Police number 0300 111 2222 to find out how to join, or start up a watch.

If you are already signed up, think about the sort of information you would like to see in the next newsletter, or discussed at public meetings, and contact any of the association members below. Your input is vital to keep the association alive.

Irene Robertson, Chair Tel: 01828 633045 Email: chair@epnwa.org.uk  
Adeline Casey, Secretary Tel: 01250 874685 Email: secretary@epnwa.org.uk  
David Rhind, Treasurer Tel: 01250 874006 Email: treasurer@epnwa.org.uk

Your local street contact is.....

Telephone number.....

## OUR PUBLIC MEETINGS

Since October 2007, EPNWA has been holding open-forum public meetings in local towns. Rotating between Alyth, Blairgowrie, Coupar Angus, Kettins, Kirkmichael, Meigle, Wolfhill, and Woodside/Burrelton, the meetings are an opportunity to air views to Inspector Ged Fitzpatrick and local Neighbourhood

Watch Representatives. The meetings are informal with no agenda, name register, or minute taking, and attendees can arrive and leave as they wish.

A wide range of subjects is discussed, and the latest newsletter as well as community safety information is available to collect at each meeting.

## DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday  
6th September 2011**

**BLAIRGOWRIE**

**7pm**

**Blairgowrie Christian Fellowship  
(The Old Red Cross Hall)  
34, Lower Mill Street**

## When telephoning Police on 0300 111 2222

the list of options are:

1. Lost & Found Property
2. Custody Queries
3. Advice or information, or transfer to specific department or officer
4. Police attendance required
5. Keeping children safe, or Sex offender disclosure

stay on the line after the options to be transferred to a member of staff

## INSPECTOR GED FITZPATRICK



I joined Tayside police in 1990 at which time I was posted to the Blairgowrie section in Western Division. As such I have very fond memories of my early years in the force and it is with a touch of nostalgia that I return here 20 years later.

I thereafter transferred to central Division where I carried out variety of duties including

beat duties in various areas throughout Dundee. In 1995 I transferred to a Support Group where my main duties involved working in plain clothes within the stolen vehicle section.

I returned to beat duties in Dundee in 2000 and in 2002 I was promoted to uniform sergeant where I was posted to Eastern Division (Angus) and where I was stationed in Brechin/Montrose.

In 2003 I returned to Dundee where I continued to carry out the role of Uniform sergeant in the Maryfield area. In 2004 I transferred to Central Division CID where for the next three years I dealt with both volume and serious crime across the whole division.

In 2007 I transferred to Headquarters Crime Division (which became the Force Information and Intelligence Division) where I dealt with Intelligence matters covering the whole of the force area.

Neighbourhood Watch plays an important role in local policing and I look forward to further strengthening the relationship between Tayside Police and EPNWA.

**Ged Fitzpatrick  
Section Inspector**

## CARAVANS

Thieves often target caravans for spare parts or to sell on elsewhere. By their nature, caravans are more difficult to secure than your home or car.

There are, however, measures you can take to help prevent your caravan becoming a target :

- When not in use consider storing it within a lockable shed or garage or in a dedicated caravan storage facility. There are companies which offer such a service. Do not necessarily go for the best price and visit each site to establish which will be most secure for your caravan.
- If parking your caravan in your driveway

try to position it within a well lit spot and within reach of your light sensor should you have one. Security posts can also be built into your driveway.

- Consider fitting an alarm to your caravan. Some alarms are specifically designed to activate when tipping or towing is detected.
- Ensure that the 17 digit VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) is etched into all the windows.
- Wheel clamps can also be effective but ensure that they are properly fitted to prevent the wheel from being deflated and the clamp removed.

Lock the coupling head into a cover with a hitchlock. [source: www.tayside.police.uk]