



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NUNEATON & BEDWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Here We Go Again

History is repeating itself as Crime Busters, Nuneaton & Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch Association's quarterly newsletter has been saved from the brink of extinction – and it's not the first time.

Crime Busters' first edition was published in December 2003 with a circulation of 2000 copies. This circulation figure grew rapidly until it plateaued out around 6800. Subsequently a total of fifty editions have been printed and distributed on time without a break.

The first edition adopted a "tabloid-like" format at the insistence of its founding editor Gordon Cull. It was a single, double-sided A3 sheet with not a trace of colour. Its real cut & paste production process needed specialist skills to convert into a format acceptable to printers. Its immediate popularity encouraged the decision to develop its format to the four page (A2 folded) publication that remains until the present day.

Gordon continued as editor up to and including edition 14 (published in 2007). His announcement to step down posed questions about future viability but Gordon expressed his relief that Crime Busters future had been assured as he commented in his final editorial: "In our last edition I said that there was some doubt about the future of Crime Busters, well things are looking a little brighter, Brian Lowe, who is treasurer of N&BNW and Chairman of Warwickshire NW, has offered to take on the role of Editor. If anyone knows his way around N/Watch, Brian does, he has offered to do the job until someone else can be found,....."

Thirty-five editions later history was busy repeating itself. As reported in edition 49 both present volunteer Distribution Manager, Gordon Chadwin and Editor Brian Lowe had decided to call it a day. They announced plans to step down after edition 50. Their contribution has not been insignificant with Gordon having picked up from the printers, packaged and delivered through his circulation network an estimated third of a million copies. Brian in his role had edited content to the equivalent of 85 thousand words.

Once again the fate of Crime Busters has retreated from the brink of closure. Both issues regarding distribution and editing have been resolved. Volunteers from the Nuneaton Khalifa Muslim Society Women's Group have agreed to take up the reins of distributing Crime Busters across the Borough. Shabina Sheikh, a member of the Group has also agreed to become Editor from edition 51 to be published in Summer.

A planned transition from the old team to the new has been implemented. Several discussions have taken place and the new team has been informed of each step in the preparation and distribution arrangements of this edition. Subsequently both Gordon and Brian have agreed to support the new team by acting as mentors to them.

Let's hope Crime Busters is still going strong when it reaches 100.



Up with the Birds

For those of you that have Twitter accounts you might like to follow:
Nun & Bed NWA @NunBed

The account is part of the initiative set up by Nuneaton & Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch Association and is dedicated to supporting community safety with a particular interest in combating cybercrime.

This edition of Crime Busters is funded by
the **Office of Warwickshire
Police & Crime Commissioner**



Message from the Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner

I am pleased to be writing this column in what is a landmark edition for Crime Busters. Achieving the 50th issue is no mean feat and I hope readers appreciate the effort that goes on behind the scenes to make it happen. Aside from cajoling the contributors into providing their content each time, there is the not insignificant task of collating and editing all of this onto the page, arranging the printing and then finally distributing the finished copies. No mean feat, but something which (for the readers) is made to look seamless for each edition.

This is a landmark occasion for another reason – as it marks Brian Lowe's last edition in the editor's chair. The word 'stalwart' comes to mind when thinking of Brian and his drive and determination over the years are, I'm sure, the significant factor in Crime Busters reaching its golden anniversary. Nuneaton & Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch can count itself very fortunate in having benefited from his skills and expertise over many years – and I'm sure will continue to do so, despite his retiring from the editorial hot seat.

Like Brian, Gordon Chadwin has been a key part of the ongoing success of Crime Busters, ensuring it gets delivered each time to its readers. One of the unseen volunteers who help to make it all happen as if by magic (whereas in reality it takes a good deal of time and effort) Gordon too is stepping back from his role and deserves just as many thanks for his contributions.

While there was once a question mark over whether Crime Busters would continue beyond its 50th issue, I was pleased to hear from Brian that its future has been secured. Indeed, with a new generation from Nuneaton Khalifa Muslim Society Women's Group taking up the mantle, the future looks very positive.

This is also my last column for Crime Busters as Police and Crime Commissioner. As I mentioned previously, I am not standing for re-election, so by the time the new team produces issue 51, there will be a new Commissioner in post. Who that will be is entirely in the hands of the electorate, but when they take office I will be happy to brief them on the valuable role Neighbourhood Watch plays in the fight against crime – in all its forms.

With its ethos of encouraging people to look out for one another and sharing information about crime risks, Neighbourhood Watch plays a vital role in making our communities better places. Indeed, with neighbourliness becoming ever more fractured in today's society, its role is arguably greater than ever.

Of course, while Neighbourhood Watch's core purpose hasn't changed much over the past 30 years, the nature of crime has shifted quite dramatically. While once people were most concerned about intruders breaking into their homes, in today's digital world the intruder may actually already be there – indeed, they may even have been unwittingly welcomed through the front door. Cybercrime represents a major threat to everyone, so it is pleasing to see how Neighbourhood Watch has adapted to meet this new frontier. Nuneaton & Bedworth has been at the forefront of this, thanks to the DISC messaging system and other innovations, which have helped to spread the word about how to keep safe in an online world.

I have been a strong supporter of Neighbourhood Watch schemes for many years and it's why I have continued to provide funding to groups across the county from my Commissioner's Grant Scheme. I will certainly impress upon the next Commissioner the value of the work Neighbourhood Watch does and the important role it and Crime Busters play in getting information out to the community.

So, congratulations on reaching 50 issues – here's to the next 50!

Ron Ball

Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Editorial

On reflection

This fiftieth edition of Crime Buster is my last as editor. I feel it is fitting in my last editorial to remind readers that any success that Crime Busters has achieved has come about through team effort and I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the members of that team.

Firstly, and I consider foremost, **Gordon Chadwin** who has undertaken the key role of Distribution Manager from day one. Over the years "Chaddy" has been helped by a network of many other volunteers who played their part in supporting roles in helping the task of getting each copy of Crime Busters from the printers through the letter boxes of our readers. Without their efforts the production of Crime Busters would have been pointless. Thanks to you all.

A second key figure is **Gordon Cull** whose conception Crime Busters was and edited its first fourteen editions Without Gordon Crime Busters would never have been born or matured. On behalf of the readers I thank you Gordon for your brilliant idea.

During my time as editor I have been helped in a variety of ways by numerous people. Some have provided articles for inclusion and amongst these Senior Police Officers and the Office of Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner have done so on a regular basis. Roger Jones, retired professional journalist and volunteer Street Scheme Coordinator, has always been generous with his constructive advice and support. The reason why Crime Busters is relatively error free is because my wife Heather has proof read every issue I have edited. Marina at W Cawthorne & Son, our printers, has provided valuable advice on all printing matters and helped us produce a newsletter to be proud of. The financing of Crime Busters has been a key element and over the years Crime Busters has received financial supporters from a number of sources perhaps most importantly, in recent times, PCC Ron Ball. I am grateful to all of them.

Finally, I would like to thank all Crime Buster readers and most importantly our readers in Neighbourhood Watch Member Households who are the lifeblood of our great movement. I hope that you have found it to be an informative and interesting read over the years.

Onwards and upwards

I wish to warmly welcome Shabina Sheikh the new editor of Crime Busters and the group of volunteers from the Nuneaton Khalifa Muslim Society Women's Group who will take on the task of distributing future editions. I will do my best to support you through the early period of your new roles.

Although "traditional" forms of acquisitive crime have seen a long term downward trend they have been replaced on the threat landscape by cybercrime. As Crime Busters is a quarterly newsletter with a comparatively lengthy production and distribution process it does not lend itself to addressing the problems associated with the ultra-fast evolving nature of cybercrime. I feel that cyber-based communication methods are better suited to combating cyber-threats so from now on I will be concentrating my efforts on administering our DISC intranet site and Twitter account @NunBed.

Brian Lowe

Editor



Which is greater? Self control of the dogs or the trust of the cat?



A Message from Chief Constable Martin Jelley

It gives me great pleasure to mark this very special edition of the Crime Busters newsletter with a short message to you. I would like to begin by saying that it is a real privilege to be the Chief Constable here. Warwickshire is such a beautiful county and I have recently relocated here with my family. Warwickshire is an extremely safe place in which to live, work or visit and we have done really well over the past few years to keep crime rates low.

The work that volunteers do is key to helping Warwickshire Police keep its residents safe from harm and I am a great admirer and supporter of Neighbourhood Watch and the role it plays, particularly in relation to crime prevention and public reassurance, cannot be underestimated. A great example of this was the highly successful county-level cybercrime conference at Coventry University in June last year, which was well-attended and received excellent feedback. I know that many of the people involved in this event had never been involved in anything of this nature before. This demonstrated how dealing with evolving types of crime can inspire people who might not otherwise have joined Neighbourhood Watch, to take part and use their skills and interests to keep people safe.

As one of our key partners in reducing crime, I know that the Nuneaton & Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch Association works tirelessly for the benefit of the local community to ensure that people are safe from crime and enjoy a good quality of life in their local area. I want to build on the excellent work that has been seen in Nuneaton & Bedworth over many years and continue to build strong working relationships between the public and the police and to listen to, and together, address the matters that are important to you through positive local engagement. I thank each and every volunteer, who gives up their own time to assist in making their community a safe place to live and I look forward to recognising the excellent work that takes place within Neighbourhood Watch at my annual awards ceremony in April.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the outgoing editor of the Crime Busters newsletter, Brian Lowe. Brian is well liked and very highly respected and his dedication and commitment to Neighbourhood Watch and the protection of the local community were rightly rewarded in 2014, when he and his wife Heather both received a British Empire Medal for their voluntary service to Neighbourhood Watch; an outstanding achievement.

Well done for all that Neighbourhood Watch has achieved in Bedworth & Nuneaton and I look forward to our special relationship going from strength to strength over the coming months and years

Local Policing

**Superintendent
Martin Samuel**



After the last few years of seeing crime going down across North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, and Rugby we have seen crime start to go up again. This is by and large due to new crimes that are now counted (as of April 1st 2015) in relation to social media and the internet.

There is no doubt that Nuneaton and Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch Association has been at the forefront of warning of the dangers posed by unscrupulous criminals on the internet, and outlining the types of crime that preys on vulnerable people. Thank you for all the support in carrying out that warning and informing the residents and communities in the Borough. It is fantastic to see the help we have had from N&BNWA in preventing this new crime as well as continuing to tackle the more conventional crimes such as house burglary. I look forward to that very strong partnership continuing.

On a slightly different note this policing area has just completed its second Citizen's Academy. The course took place at North Warwickshire and Hinckley College and it was a pleasure to see members of Neighbourhood Watch, as well as other members of the local community at the classes learning about the wider role of policing in protecting the public.

Finally, I would like to wish Crime Busters a happy 50th edition and a big thank you to Brian Lowe, as he steps down as editor, for everything he has done to make the newsletter a success.

For A Safer Home, Register Your Appliances Now



For a safer home, **Warwickshire Trading Standards** is urging consumers to register their fridges, washing machines and other white goods with the new domestic appliance registration scheme.

Domestic appliances have never been safer. However, as appliances become older, unforeseen faults can appear and these sometimes require the manufacturer to repair or recall the product.

A new web portal now provides access to the registration pages of 47 leading brands of domestic appliances:

www.registermyappliance.org.uk

If then a manufacturer identifies a fault with a product which requires a repair or product recall, consumers can be quickly contacted.

The information consumers provide will only be used to notify them of product recalls and safety notices. The information cannot be shared or used for marketing purposes without their express consent.

Supported by Government and RoSPA.

Suffered from ASB? Stuart would like to hear from you

New blood, particularly young blood, has always been welcomed on the Crime Busters editorial team but, unfortunately, been very rarely forthcoming. However, Stuart Anderson, one of our youngest volunteer Neighbourhood Watch Street Scheme Coordinators has offered to contribute.

Stuart is hoping to produce a regular column in Crime Busters beginning with the next edition. He hopes to start with an article featuring problems associated with Anti-Social Behaviour and, although having been a victim himself, would very much like to learn of other's experiences and how being a victim has affected them. He would love to hear from readers who may have suffered from anti-social behaviour be it causing harm to an individual, to the community or to the environment.

If you feel able to share such experiences with Stuart you may contact him vis his mobile at 07502196471 after 4.15 pm on Monday – Thursday or any time Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



New, improved Security Items

A couple of the security products advertised below replace models previously supplied:

1. The **Personal Attack Alarm** is fitted with twin sirens producing a louder alarm and incorporates an LED torch function.
2. The new model **Door Chain** that is suitable for uPVC doors has **Secured by Design** (the Official Police Security Initiative) approval and requires no drilling of the door itself.

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N&BNWA Secretary: Heather Lowe T: 02476 350131 E: heatherivylowe@btinternet.com

When purchasing products from us PLEASE let us know that you are doing so in response to this advert in **CRIME BUSTERS**.

MAKE YOUR PROPERTY MORE SECURE

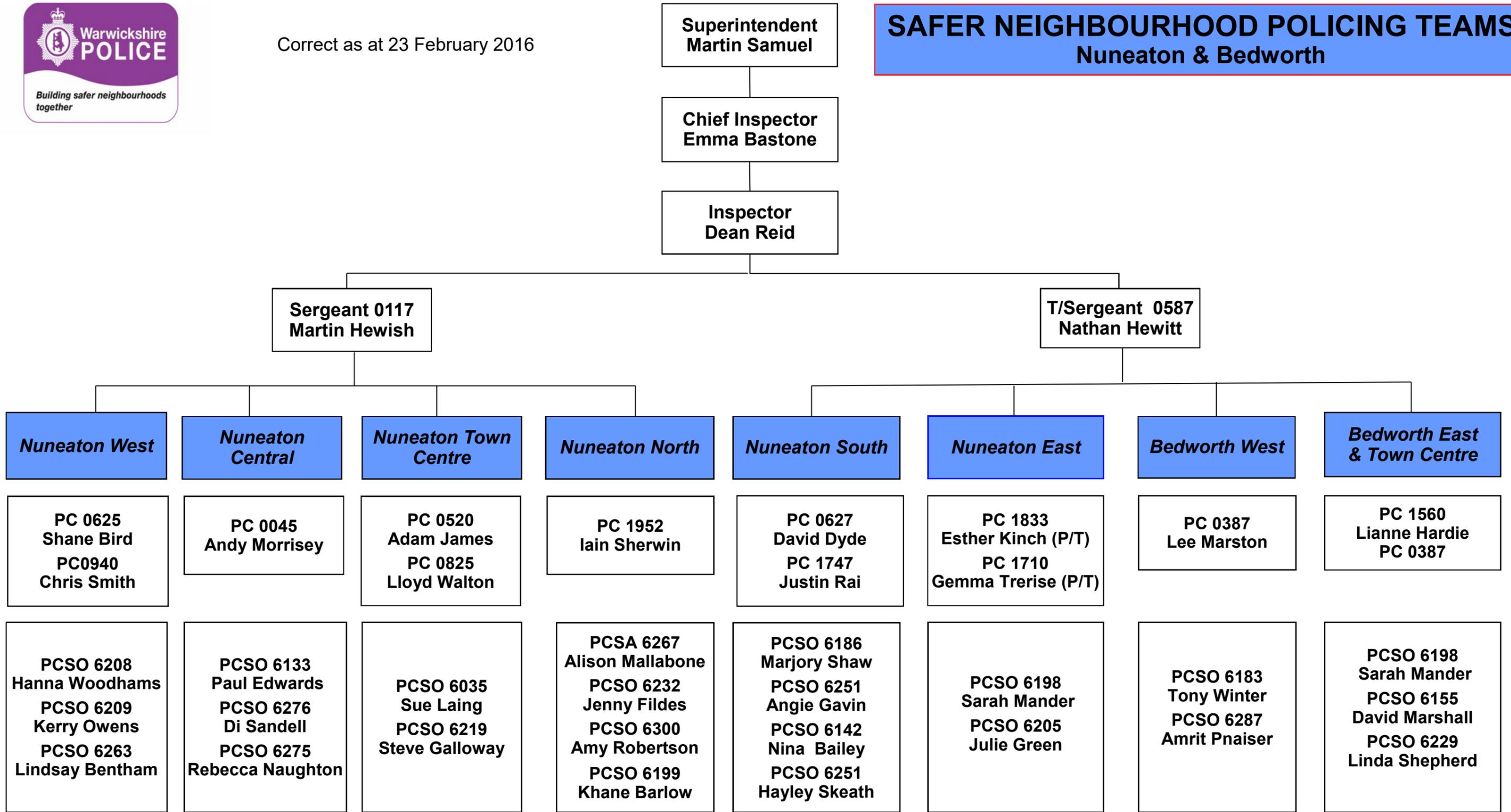
Item	Price	Item	Price	Item	Price
Personal Attack Alarm (New Model)	£3.50 each	Window Alarm	£3.50 each	Entry Chime Alarm	£4.00 each
Shed Alarm (Shock)	£10.00 each	Decoy CCTV Camera	£12.50 each	Timer Plug	£2.50 each
CRE Mark Tool marking Kit	£15.00	Vehicle Security Etch Pack & Registration Fee	£15.00 £10.00	Padlock Alarm	£10.00 each
Prikka-Strip	£1.25 Per 0.5m strip	Door Chain Suitable for uPVC doors	£7.50 each	Safe Can	£3.00 each

To purchase any of the above items contact Brian or Heather Lowe on 02476 350 131



Correct as at 23 February 2016

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAMS Nuneaton & Bedworth



In Nuneaton & Bedworth the regular police officers are supported by 60 volunteers of the Warwickshire Special Constabulary, having the same powers as the regulars

Giving further support are 17 Police Support Volunteers operating in general administrative and a variety of specialist roles