

GNeWs from Goxhill Neighbourhood Watch

It has been a while since I wrote anything for the Gander with news about Goxhill's Neighbourhood Watch.

Largely that has been because, after about 10 years, it was beginning to feel a bit repetitive and forced. However, there have been some developments of late that I would like to tell you about, so here I am once again.

During March and April about 300 houses in the village were posted with flyers about SmartWater - a new development in property marking.

- SmartWater is a liquid that you dab on to your property. It is virtually invisible except under strong ultra-violet light - when it glows.
- It has been described as DNA code in a bottle of nail varnish - though I expect its inventors might feel a little insulted by that.
- A bottle is uniquely registered to you and all you do is paint it on to your property. If you move house you just notify SmartWater of your new address and they update their database.
- The bottles are normally quite expensive to buy (we were told £40 at the presentation I attended), with an annual administration fee.
- Safer Neighbourhoods North Lincolnshire obtained a grant so that it could be supplied free (with no ongoing fees) in our county - but only whilst stocks last.

Sorry that we were not able to cover more houses but it is not just a matter of posting flyers. Each bottle needs to be registered and signed for, plus any questions about its use answered. Even at just 5 minutes each, plus abortive visits when recipients are out, it can take quite a while. Many thanks to Roz Abbott, Martin D'Alessandro, Dave & Penny Carnell, Denise Holtby, Don Noble, and Stan Robertson for all their help with that. At the time of writing about 90 households have taken up the

offer and the first batch of 50 bottles issued. Once all the outstanding registration forms from those are back I should receive the second batch for the remaining 40.

If you would like SmartWater but were not amongst those 300 homes canvassed - or even if you were but failed to take up the offer originally - then please get in touch. If there are still some bottles available then I will do my best to obtain one for you.

This all takes us a big step forward from where we were a few years ago: marking up items with our postcode and house name/number using a marker pen or engraver. Nevertheless, if you want to visibly and permanently mark bikes, mowers, tools, et cetera then you can still borrow GNeW's engraver for a week or so at a time.

Talking of steps forward, another one has been the creation of a GNeW website at: <http://beehive.thisisscunthorpe.co.uk/GNeW-Goxhill>

My main aim has been to provide help, advice and useful information, so do not expect anything very flash. Why not give it a visit and let me know if you find it helpful - and especially if there is anything else that you would like to see on it? For those of you who do not use the internet and would prefer to stick with the printed word, I have put much of the same information into a GNeWsletter. It is printed on bright orange paper and copies have been left at Goxhill Library; I will call in every now and then to top them up if they run out. If anyone has a problem reading it because of the fonts used or the orange paper then just let me know what the problem is and I will print it out differently for you.

That's all for now but please feel free to get in touch either by emailing gnew@tesco.net or by telephoning 530363.

John Guggiari, GNeW Area Co-ordinator