



## **Update from Stretton on Dunsmore's Neighbourhood Watch**

**Our May meeting saw an interesting and interactive talk by Paul Collett, Community Safety Project Officer, on crime trends in the current economic downturn and the implication of this on home security. We were given an understanding of how the crime statistics within Rugby Borough compare to those nationally, for example although there has been a national increase in the rate of burglaries, Rugby Borough has seen a decrease. Whilst this is good news we were informed that it is likely that the number of house burglaries and thefts from vehicles will increase during the economic downturn - this is one of the areas in which NHW can play a vital role. One piece of good news is that as people save money and therefore go out less and spend less on drink it is likely that the number of violent crimes will decrease.**

**Paul Collett also talked about a number of initiatives in which he, and his colleagues, are getting involved, including the impact that early intervention work with younger family members can have in breaking the cycle of offending and the intention to introduce rural CCTV.**

**At the meeting everyone present was offered free Smart Water. Smart Water is a colourless liquid solution that is used to 'mark' valuables. The liquid contains a unique code that is registered to you. It is a deterrent to burglars but if the unfortunate does happen, the police use the Smart Water to identify the owner of stolen items and can even use it to link criminals to the theft. We still have a limited supply of Smart Water, which will be made available at future meetings.**

**We are also trying to update the list of people who are willing to be coordinator for their street and there are still some roads in Stretton with no-one identified. Coordinators help communicate information from police alerts to their neighbours. It is not time consuming and it is certainly not curtain twitching! If you are interested please contact Lara Warburton on 024 76 540267.**

**For further information on Neighbourhood Watch please phone Lara, come along to our next meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> July at 7.45pm in the Village Hall - or catch up with Judy Haydon, our Community Support Officer at the Village Fete.**