



Thames Valley Horsewatch



PRESS RELEASE

THAMES VALLEY POLICE BOOSTS HORSEWATCH FUNDS

Thames Valley Horsewatch (TVH), a group of volunteers working together to tackle equine crime prevention in the Thames Valley area, has received a much needed boost to their funds. Superintendent Richard List presented Garry Porter, Chairman and PCSO Wendy Taylor, secretary, with a cheque for £500.

At the presentation, Superintendent List commented:

"Thames Valley Horsewatch is a significant initiative which reduces crime within our rural localities. Although crime is low in Aylesbury Vale, rural crime does impact upon local communities. We are delighted to support Horsewatch, which represents both the police and local people working together to reduce crime."

Various Horsewatch groups run fund-raising activities for various TVH initiatives. This boost to the funds will mean they can carry out plans without first thinking of a fund raising initiative to pay for it.

TVH also have a website, www.thamesvalleyhorsewatch.org.uk which contains a lot of information regarding security.



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TVH works with Thames Valley Police to be the eyes and ears of the rural communities so intelligence can be put into 'the system' and, hopefully, reduce the criminals' ability to go unseen into premises to steal. TVH also visits owners' stables to mark their saddlery and equipment with their postcode in an effort to make the item less attractive for onward sale via the less reputable routes and, should we locate the stolen item, there is a good chance of getting it back to the owner. We advise on freezebranding horses and point owners in the direction of the companies that will carry this out.

TVH has also been instrumental in re-energising UK Horsewatch. The goal is to ensure there is a Horsewatch group in each policing area. To this end Suffolk, Wiltshire, Cambridgeshire and two Scottish groups contacted TVH and Garry Porter supported them with this work. TVH is also working hard with the National Equine Database, a repository for all horse passport information set up by DEFRA, to include stolen horse data and stolen on loan data as well. This work has enabled several owners to be reunited with their horses. PCSO Wendy Taylor built the website www.ukhorsewatch.org.uk which also contains the UK Horsewatch bulletin co-ordinated by Hampshire Horsewatch.

ENDS



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Photo information:

L-R: Garry Porter, Chairman of Thames Valley Horsewatch
Superintendent Richard List, Commander Aylesbury Vale LPA
Bally Morning Lady (Lady)
PCSO Wendy Taylor, TVP Buckingham South and Secretary of Thames Valley
Horsewatch