

**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF
SAFETY HOMES**

**24 HOUR ANSWER SERVICE
07880952144**

**Call us today if you wish more information or
would like to join.**

Alternatively you may write to:

**The Secretary,
N.A.S.H
20-22 Broughshane Street
Ballymena**

**Email: mmapsley@aol.com
Visit: www.nicommunitysafetyhomes.com/**



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N.A.S.H NEWS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SAFETY HOMES

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND READERS

ISSUE 3 VOLUME ONE



Date: October 2006

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- *Welcome to the new look magazine*



Page 2

What's inside

Page 4	Knife amnesty....is your child carrying?
Page 6	The Lions Message in a Bottle. What's in your fridge?
Page 7	You ask us
Page 8	Just a thought
Page 10	N.A.S.H Releases new information CD



028 9024 4039

Victim Support NI, Annsgate House,
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Antrim Road Ballymena

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF SAFETY HOMES**



With compliments

N.A.S.H. Launches new C.D

Not sure Who we are? Need to know more about what we do?

The National Association of safety Homes is pleased to announce that a new compact disc is now available, on request, to any group or association or any individual who just wants to know more about us. To obtain your copy apply to:-

**The National Association of Safety Homes
20-22 Broughshane Street
Ballymena**

or

online at our web site, www.nicommunitysafetyhomes.com

or

Tel 07880952144

OUR NEW LOOK

We all have to move with the times and N.A.S.H. is no exception! Costs and savings are as important to us as they are to any other charitable or privately funded community support group. To this end we are reducing postage costs by reducing or newsletter to a more convenient and user friendly style. We are further reducing costs by making it available online in PDF format. Visiting our web site and downloading the booklet yourself helps us reduce costs. Alternatively if you would prefer to have it emailed directly to you then visit us at:-

www.nicommunitysafetyhomes.com

emailing your details to us.

Have a great winter season and a happy Christmas to each and everyone from the staff at N.A.S.H.



Susan Maitland
Secretary

New period of knife amnesty

The government has announced that there is to be a second opportunity for people who carry knives to surrender them during this latest round of amnesties. From the 20th of November 2006 until the 10th December 2006 anyone who has a knife which they believe they have to carry are urged to deposit them in the special boxes at locations advertised throughout their locality.

Knives can never be seen as weapons of defence as they afford no barrier to an assailant. They are designed to cut, wound and kill not to shield one from an aggressor and any person found carrying a blade or point is liable to arrest and prosecution.

Knives 'carried by 29% of pupils

The BBC News has learned that a staggering 29% of secondary school pupils are presently carrying knives which they believe are for defence from attack. N.A.S.H would urge you if you are a parent or guardian to check that your son or daughter is not carrying any such weapon and to discourage them from associating with others who do.

Crimestoppers - the only charity working to solve crime in the UK - is urging youngsters to call them if they know someone who is carrying a blade.



To Join N.A.S.H Call—07880952144

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Hours of Business

Mon - Fri 9am to 6pm

Sat 9am - 1pm

Sun - Closed

Just a thought

1. If you attend a formal dinner and find a spoon placed horizontally above your dinner plate, what is it for?
 - A. For looks
 - B. Soup
 - C. Dessert
 - D. Salad
2. The fish knife goes where in a formal dinner place setting?
 - A. To the right of the dinner knife
 - B. To the left of the dinner knife
 - C. Right of the dinner fork
 - D. Left of the dinner fork
3. Who should get off an elevator first?
 - A. The elderly
 - B. Women
 - C. Men
 - D. Closest to the door
4. You should always try to have an equal number of men and women at a dinner party.
 - A. True
 - B. False
5. If a man and woman who aren't together encounter each other on the street at night, what should the man do?
 - A. Engage her by saying hello so she'll know he's not threatening
 - B. Walk to the other side of the street.
 - C. Walk behind her, and enough so she'll know he's not threatening
 - D. Pass her quickly so he'll be out of her path



Justice Minister Cathy Jamieson said

“It is worrying to hear young people say they carry a blade for their own protection. The fact is that carrying a knife makes a night out more likely to end in bloodshed, not less. People who start the night as the best of friends can end up on hospital beds or mortuary slabs - simply because they reached for a weapon. Start with a blade, throw in some drink or drugs and you create an explosive cocktail - with serious consequences for the perpetrator, their families and their

Police to crack down on knife crime

It's illegal to carry a knife in a public place without good reason, or to market knives as suitable for combat. Police forces are now focusing on spreading the word about the damage done by those who sell or carry illegal knives.

This effort will include:

- ***weapons awareness programmes in schools and youth organisations***
- ***working with retailers to prevent the sale of illegal knives***
- ***patrolling knife hot-spots***
- ***greater use of magnetic searches in public places such as bus and train stations***
- ***test purchasing operations with Trading Standards to identify irresponsible retailers***



The Lions Message in a Bottle: Keep your personal details in the fridge!

Message in a Bottle is not solely a Lions initiative, however it is an initiative that very many Lions Clubs across the country have taken to and recognise as a means of fulfilling their motto “We Serve”, often funding the scheme from their own charity accounts.

This scheme is free to the user. Whilst it is focused on the more vulnerable people in our community, anyone can fall downstairs or have a car accident, so this scheme can benefit anyone, including you. As a minimum it will save the Emergency Services valuable time identifying you and your emergency contacts. By telling whether you have special medication or allergies or not, it is a potential lifesaver and provides peace of mind to users and their friends and families.

The Lions 'Message in a Bottle' scheme is a simple idea designed to encourage people living on their own, the elderly and others, to keep their personal and medical details on a standard form and in a common location - The FRIDGE

1. Complete the details on the form.
2. Put it into the bottle supplied and place in the door compartment of your fridge.
3. A sticker is placed on the INSIDE of your front door.
4. One is stuck on the fridge door.

The Emergency Services will know to look for it in the event of being called to your home.

More information and the bottles themselves can be obtained from your local health centre, Chemists, age concern office, local community groups, most community safety partnership offices, The lions club in your area, N.A.S. H and in some cases your local neighbourhood police.

To Join N.A.S.H Call—07880952144



You ask us:-

In some respects the following question is unusual for an NI setting but none the less has some relevance to the way of the world today.

I have a Muslim woman who wears the full Hijab . She only want other woman to deal with her . We have tried to help her as much as we can but its got to the point where she only wants women to help her. Some of my female colleagues do not have the skills or knowledge to help her or there has not been a female member of staff on duty . She has refused the help of male workers . We are at a loss at how to help her .

Thank you for your question, which raises some very interesting, but clearly difficult issues. We have been in touch with a number of people who work in multi faith areas and who work with people from a range of faith and cultural backgrounds. First of all, wearing full Hijab does not of itself mean gender separation. This woman is stating a preference to work only with women, the way any woman could make a similar choice. So the issue at its simplest is about single sex service provision. Religion is not absent in this instance, but we need to look at each issue separately. So the immediate reply is that the situation is not going to be settled by appealing to legislation. The woman isn't entitled to a woman staff member to help her, even if it would be good practice to do so if that were possible. If the service was about health or being searched by the police, legislation provides for same gender contact, your organization does not fall into this category. So how to help her? One option would be for the woman to bring a chaperone (family member?) or for one of the women at the centre to act as a chaperone. I see from your question that your women staff feel that they don't have the skills to train her themselves, but they could act as chaperone while someone else delivers training. Sometimes the issues are more about what a community might think of a woman for talking to a man alone rather than an individual's personal difficulty with it. The sense of shame can be enormous and some people can be particularly sensitive to anything which could be perceived as bringing embarrassment to a family. This probably needs explaining to the men at the centre as it is almost certainly not any personal suspicion directed against them.

Our thanks to:-
Elizabeth Gray-King
Community Engagement Expert