

# N.A.S.H NEWS

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SAFETY HOMES

ISSUE 1 VOLUME 1

NOVEMBER 2005

**N.A.S.H WISHES EACH AND EVERY ONE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR**

### Welcome address from the board of management

Let me begin by welcoming you to the very first issue of "N.A.S.H. NEWS" our new quarterly magazine that keeps you in touch with the organisations latest news and information.

It has been a long struggle to get the project up and running and many obstacles to overcome but we are getting there. I would like to thank all those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to achieve our aims especially local committee members who have put their faith in the scheme and said yes we want this for our residents, our estates and our villages.

One of the most important organisations to help us was the Board of Safety House Australia known as A.S.H without whose help and assistance this project may not have been possible and who gave us permission to use their copy right logo. (above right) Inside this edition is a



letter from the Australian board for you to read at your leisure, penned by their president personally to us all. What does Safety Homes do? I hear you ask; well we aim to provide what we term as "points of immediate safety" within each community, these points of safety are owned operated and run by each local community association, group or committee. It is somewhere a child can run too if it is in danger or frightened, somewhere the elderly can go for help if they become distressed, somewhere a passing stranger can seek directions, some where that tells every one in the area, **this is a safe com-**

**munity a proud community.**

Each committee will have a single representative elected from their numbers who will liaise with the Board of Management for safety homes. This will ensure that your group keeps us apprised of any issues arising in your area that safety homes may be able to help with. They will also be interacting with other local groups who will also be represented and an exchange of ideas and views can take place. If you are a member of a Residents association / group or interested individual please contact us to arrange a presentation or obtain an information pack.



Maurice Apsley  
President and Project coordinator

**Special points of interest: Safety Home owners please remember:**

- **Don't get involved**
- **Take the appropriate action but leave the work of the professionals to the professionals**
- **If you identify a training need tell your representative**
- **Don't worry if you don't get callers only 5% ever get used you fill a crime prevention role**
- **Business members have you started new shift managers? Make sure you let us know**
- **You are not alone! Help is always there for you.**

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### Police support safety initiative

The National Association of Safety homes is pleased to learn that the P.S.N.I 's Community Safety Branch, will assist us in preserving our integrity by ensuring that local community beat officers are kept informed when we, "sign up" new homes in their areas. Each home has its own unique reference number displayed on the exterior sign



"Bung-I-low"  
N.A.S.H 's Mascot

attached to the building: any signs appearing with out notification from us will be investigated. We At the National Association would also like to thank the Dept of Health and Social; services office of Public Safety for their assistance by providing pec's services, also the NIO community safety office and other bodies who assisted us during our set up period.

## A LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA

The safety House program in Australia began in the State of Victoria some 20 years ago. At that time Parents, of children attending the Woorana Park Primary School were worried by reports of strangers accosting youngsters on their way home from school. In three months there had been twelve such incidents. A parent, Max Williamson felt something should be done before there is tragedy and explored the successful Canadian Block scheme, whereby, people in blocks of flats offered their homes as a place of safety for victims of ghetto crime until police help could arrive. There was an enthusiastic response to the scheme from parents and the project duly began. Five years later there were 500 homes in Melbourne and 32,000 in the state of Victoria alone. There are now 70,000 in the continent of Australia. In recent years changes have taken place within Australia to the original concept for the safety House program which was aimed primarily at primary school children, to now encompass older children, teenagers and adults who also occasionally need assistance. There is also a move towards providing people with per-

sonal safety strategies through the publication of various pamphlets, for example, preventing bullying and harassment as well as guides to keeping safe on public transport or public events. The program has widespread support from the various police services, state government and local funding bodies. To have the scheme operating in Northern Ireland pleases us beyond words, we wish you all well and look forward to your own expansion throughout the U.K and Ireland. Northern Ireland I grant you is a different "kettle of fish" but the guiding principles of the project are the same the world over, to help communities keep themselves safe, their children safe and their elderly safe. Good luck and God Bless

*Beth Walker*

*National President*



**Crime can have serious consequences for its victims, who can find it difficult to recover and move on. Victim Support helps victims come to terms with the impact of crime, deal with practicalities – like applying for compensation - and cope with crime's longer-term implications, by supporting witnesses at Court. Three service strands help victims to recover -**

- **Community Service: Local support when the crime happens**
  - Giving victims someone to talk to in confidence
  - Listening, understanding and providing reassurance that victims are experiencing normal feelings in abnormal circumstances
  - Information on police and court procedures
  - Contact with other sources of help
  - Information about compensation, insurance and housing
  - Helping victims to recover and resume normal life
  
- **Criminal Injuries Compensation Service: Free assistance**
  - Help with making compensation claims
  - Supporting claim applications
  - Representing victims at appeals
  
- **Court Witness Service: Support at Laganside Crown and Magistrates' Courts in Belfast and all other Crown Courts**
  - Pre trial - Visit to court, familiarisation with court layout and proceedings
  - During trial - Safe waiting area, liaison with court officers and legal representatives, making suitable arrangements for witnesses with special needs and accompanying witnesses into court
  - After trial - Preparing victims for case outcome, encouraging continued contact with Victim Support Community Service



**Contact details may be found at the rear of this publication**

## N.A.S.H. gets support at Ballymena Traction Rally

This being the first full year of the organisations activities, raising finances is probably the most unpleasant but necessary part of the entire job. This said however, we were very pleased with the response that we got from all those who attended at the Steam Fair in the Ballymena Show-ground's, at the end of July this year.

The stall had various games that you could play to win prizes, a cake stall, hand made cards and guess the teddies name competition. Not forgetting the great Balloon race that we promoted throughout the year, balloons were also on sale.

Safety homes looks forward to returning next year, and we hope that you will call in and try your luck at some of the games and competitions that will be on offer.



THE N.A.S.H Stand at the Ballymena Steam Traction Rally

## Kells and Connor village opens its' first safety home!

Supported by the Kells and Connor Improvement Association, Ms. Paula Brown of Crosshill view in the village elected to be the first safety home for the area. *"I feel terribly proud that I have been the first to open here in the village and many people have shown an interest in the scheme now that the sign is up"* said Paula. The Board of Management would like to publicly thank the Committee of the above organisation for there faith in the project and also to extend a very warm welcome to Paula and the other members,

not least of which is Mrs Lorraine Craig who was elected Liaison officer by the improvement committee. We look forward to a long and happy partnership with Kells and Connor and indeed with Paula and Lorraine.

Our thanks also go the local primary school who raised over £250 in the spring Balloon race and in particular Mr Russell White acting principle for his support and assistance.

Well done Kells and Connor.



## Moorfields Community Association

Joining Kells and Connor and The Rectory Residents Association in the National Association of Safety Homes Family is Moorfields Community Group. A small association based in Rural Ballymena who have struggled over the last couple of years to get established and grow. N.A.S.H would wish them every success and assistance in their development and to the establishment of Safety homes within the rural community.

Rural communities, often don't have the infrastructure that they need to develop; but with the dedication of those who join com-



Moorfields community Association

munity groups in rural areas this infrastructure can only improve. Pressure brought to bear on external agencies by the members of that group saying "Hay we are here, we are standing up and being counted, give us what we need to grow" can bring results. Such dedication can go unnoticed by many, but not by us here at N.A.S.H and we look forward to helping our newest members become a real asset to their community and by recognising the hard work they are putting in, like so many more of you out there in your own groups...we salute you!

## N.a.s.h and the Neighbourhood watch scheme



The Northern Ireland office is committed by government to establishing the Neighbourhood watch scheme in as many areas of the province as possible.

Unlike N.A.S.H it's basis lies in crime and the reduction of it within communities. Many see this scheme as a way of reducing police in their areas and leaving the work of discovery and reporting of crime to the local people.

N.A.S.H would wish to support the NHW and encourage communities not to adopt this attitude but to explore what both organisations have to offer and select that which best fits your needs. Certainly the Neighbourhood watch signage deters the travelling criminal element from practising their trade in your area, but it (the scheme) is not designed to give assistance to people who may be the immediate victim of crime, unlike Safety Homes, where victims of street crime may seek assistance until police arrive or if they prefer not to call police then they can be kept safe until alternative arrangements are made.

Both schemes operate in a similar way using vetted representatives to coordinate the projects within their own areas of responsibility, Both are community based and both play a crime prevention role all be it a very small role within N.A.S.H almost a bi-product.

There is no reason why as a community group you cannot participate in both schemes if you so desire, or alternatively you may elect to only participate in one.

Both the NHW and NASH are capable "Stand alone" schemes and truly and honestly both should be investigated before deciding which if not both to go for.....you owe it to your community.

### Foot note from the editor:

*It is important to remember however, even with the abundance of mobile phones in everyday use there is a response delay from emergency services...where does the victim go in the mean time if it is not safe to remain ?*

## The "Kids Safe" Internet message from N.A.S.H

As parents do we really know who our children are talking to on the net?

In this day and age it is impossible to avoid contact with computers, kids especially are drawn to them be it PS2,XBOX or the home P.C. it just cannot be avoided. So what can we do to keep them safe?

**Well, firstly** we can encourage them to tell us parents their password so that we can check up on what they have been doing "on-line". Have them show you how to work it, if you don't know there is nothing they like more than showing us oldies up! But we must also at the risk of contradiction encourage them not to tell their pass word to any other person no matter who they are.

### **Secondly, Cyber friends should stay in cyber space.**

Children must be discouraged from arranging meetings with people they meet on-line. Take a few minutes with your child and watch them if they are in a chat room, ask to speak to the person on the other end and type a short message like;" how are you I am little (screen names) Mother. Generally if this person is not genuine they will not respond or go off-line. This is not a universal safe guard however and should not be used as one. Simple actions such as looking at the grammar, spelling and phraseology of the other person could start alarms ringing in your head.

**Thirdly,** do not allow children to download from sites you have not approved; or, open unknown attachments sent by e-mails from people not known to you or them, as these may carry computer destroying virus's.

**Lastly,** there are some good publications on the market as well as web sites giving you first class information on internet safety for children and we suggest you visit these at your leisure:

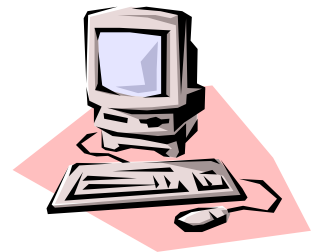
**[Www.kidsmart.org.uk](http://www.kidsmart.org.uk)**

**[Www.there4me.com](http://www.there4me.com)**

**[Www.chatdanger.com](http://www.chatdanger.com)**

**[Www.thinkyounknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkyounknow.co.uk)**

**[Www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)**



## Community page

### Articles for sale/Wanted

If you want to sell, buy or advertise on this page then contact the N.A.S.H offices; buy and sell ads attract a donation of £3:00 for 20 words or less £4:50 for 21 words and more up to a maximum of 35 words.. Cheques made payable to N.A.S.H.

*The Phoenix Services*

*Antrim Road*

*Ballymena*

*For all your needs*

**Post office**

**fuels**

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**And much more so call in today**

## HAVE YOU A STORY TO TELL?

*“Caller had been attacked  
by magpies”*

Do you have an interesting story to tell or anecdote we would like to hear from you. Take the example were an Australian safety Home owner opened her front door to discover a caller who had been attacked by a flock of Magpies. THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE! Perhaps your group is having a car boot sale or fun day let us know and we will publish details but remember we are quarterly unless the demand for more issues is such that it becomes bi monthly.

## RADIO ULSTER VISITS N.A.S.H

Jim Kelso of the BBC Radio Ulster program, “Your Place and Mine” dropped into a N.A.S.H presentation back in April this year to discover the guest speakers were two Australian exchange teachers Brian and Julie Murray. Both teachers had experience of the



*Jim Kelso talks to Brian and Julie Murray accompanied by councillor Hubert Nichol*

Australian Safety House program and were able to give a first hand talk about its’ development, way down yonder. Julie who also teaches the safety house education lessons to primary children was particularly impressed with the additional safe guards we here in Northern

Ireland have built in to our scheme. *“in Australia there are no registration numbers on our signs identifying the address to which it was initially issued. What you have done here is so simple yet plays such a key part in maintaining the integrity of the project and enhancing the safety of a caller, that I will take this idea back to Australia when I return at Christmas.”* said Julie. Councillor Nichol who picked up on the topic of grants commented that, “any new money coming into an area had to be good.”


Northern Ireland  
**Victim Support**

Helping people cope with crime

028 9024 4039

Victim Support NI, Annsgate House,  
0-74 Ann Street, Belfast, BT1 4EH

**Local Branches**

Ballymena, Belfast N & W, Belfast  
S & E, Derry / L'Derry, Lisburn,  
Lurgan,

Newry, Omagh

**Court Witness Service**

028 9023 2523

**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](mailto:mmapsley@aol.com)**

**Visit: [www.nicommunitysafetyhomes.com/](http://www.nicommunitysafetyhomes.com/)**



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\*\*\*\*\*

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