



# OUR NEWS

the e-newsletter for Neighbourhood Watch supporters

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## Burglary, social media and managing a new scheme are focus of new online toolkits

The Neighbourhood Watch Network (NWN) has launched three new online toolkits for coordinators and members. Burglary prevention, enhancing your scheme by using social media and how to set up and manage a new Neighbourhood Watch scheme are covered in the new toolkits.

John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of the NWN, said: "The toolkits have proved enormously popular ever since their launch, so it was a natural progression for us to expand upon them.

"Our toolkits are no longer exclusively about crime prevention, they now include help, guidance and insight for coordinators and members as they manage their schemes.

"These really useful tools have been put together by experts and we hope will help our volunteers make their schemes the best they can be."

The burglary toolkit has been produced in partnership with NWN sponsors ERA Security and includes police approved advice for residents.

The toolkits have proved to be a successful innovation for Neighbourhood Watch since their launch last September having garnered tens of thousands of views.

The terrorism crime prevention toolkit was nominated for best Awareness Campaign at the 2019 Counter Terror Awards.

The new toolkits can be accessed on the national Neighbourhood Watch website via: [www.ourwatch.org.uk/crimes/](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/crimes/)



# Daily themes unveiled for Neighbourhood Watch Week

Neighbourhood Watch week is fast approaching. Under this year's theme of #MoreThanYouExpect, each day during the week will focus on an area of work that our volunteers are doing incredible work around.

The daily themes are not meant to be pre-scriptive. If your Watch is hosting an event during the week unrelated to the daily theme, we still want to hear about and promote it. But each day, we'll be asking our followers on social media to highlight what they do are doing around the day's theme.

To mark the start of the week, we'll be launching the Neighbourhood Watch Good Practice Database which will contain all of the learning our members have gathered in both traditional and new areas.

**Day 1: Good Practice.** What's your Neighbourhood Watch scheme doing well and others could learn from?

**Day 2: Serious violence.** What is your NW doing to tackle violence, knife crime and muggings?

**Day 3: Social isolation.** NW is more than crime prevention, we build communities too. What do you do to ensure people aren't lonely and isolated in your neighbourhood.

**Day 4: Burglary.** The bread and butter of NW. What innovative ways are there to ensure fewer people are burgled?

**Day 5: Intergenerational/young people.** Young people have much to gain out of NW, what are you doing to open up NW to them?

**Day 6: Scams and fraud.** Fraud can be devastating to victims, financially and emotionally. How are you making your area more scam-resilient?

**Day 7: Community cohesion.** At its fundamental level NW is neighbours talking with one another. How are you encouraging people to say hello?



## In Memorium: RIP Nick Parker

Tributes have been paid to Neighbourhood Watch stalwart Nick Parker who died suddenly in March.

The funeral of the former chair of the Westminster NW Association was held at the Central London Mosque and was attended by Roger Harding and Cheryl Prax from Westminster NW. He was laid to rest at Woodgrange park cemetery.

In his youth, Mr Parker had lived in the middle east for a number of years where he learned to speak fluent Arabic. He converted to Islam sometime after. Unfortunately, no family members could be located ahead of the funeral.

John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of NWN, attended the funeral and paid tribute to Mr Parker. "Nick was a strong advocate of Neighbourhood Watch and his home borough of Westminster. We will all miss him dearly."





# Fundraising and Social Media workshops

**Two training days to improve fundraising and social media skills across Neighbourhood Watch have taken place in Leeds and London.**

Split into a morning and afternoon session and delivered by the Head of Fundraising and the Communications and Digital Manager from the charity's Central Support Team, the workshops give members practical advice, insight and access to useful resources to help them in their NW duties.

Feedback has been positive with 100% of attendees rating the workshops as excellent or good and 90% rated them as extremely or very relevant to their role in NW. Attendees appreciated the content and delivery style as well as the chance to interact with other members.

"It was a really interesting day, I learned so much and experienced a better understanding and appreciation of the Neighbourhood Watch Network", said Tameside coordinator Tony Moran after attending the Leeds workshop.

"It was also a great opportunity to meet colleagues from across Yorkshire and Stockport sharing experiences and ideas. I would highly recommend it to others", he said.

Communications and Digital Manager Will Murphy said the workshops worked well when those attending made a commitment to put into

action what they had learned. "Social media isn't everybody's cup of tea and that's fine", he said. "But at the workshop level, we want to speak to people who will lead on social media for their association or group. If that's not you, then find a volunteer who is willing to run the group's social media and send them along. There's a lot they could get from the day."

**Spaces are still available for the next workshop in Birmingham on 10 May. To book your place or for more information email [enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk)**





Working in partnership



# Welcome packs now available thanks to Co-op Home Insurance and Neighbourhood Watch working together

**In a joint initiative with Co-op Home Insurance, the Neighbourhood Watch Network is now offering personalised welcome packs for new coordinators.**

The trial scheme will see up to 600 packs delivered across England and Wales which include leaflets, posters and window stickers to promote Neighbourhood Watch. It is hoped that the packs will enthuse and assist coordinators as they manage and develop their schemes. Early signs are positive.

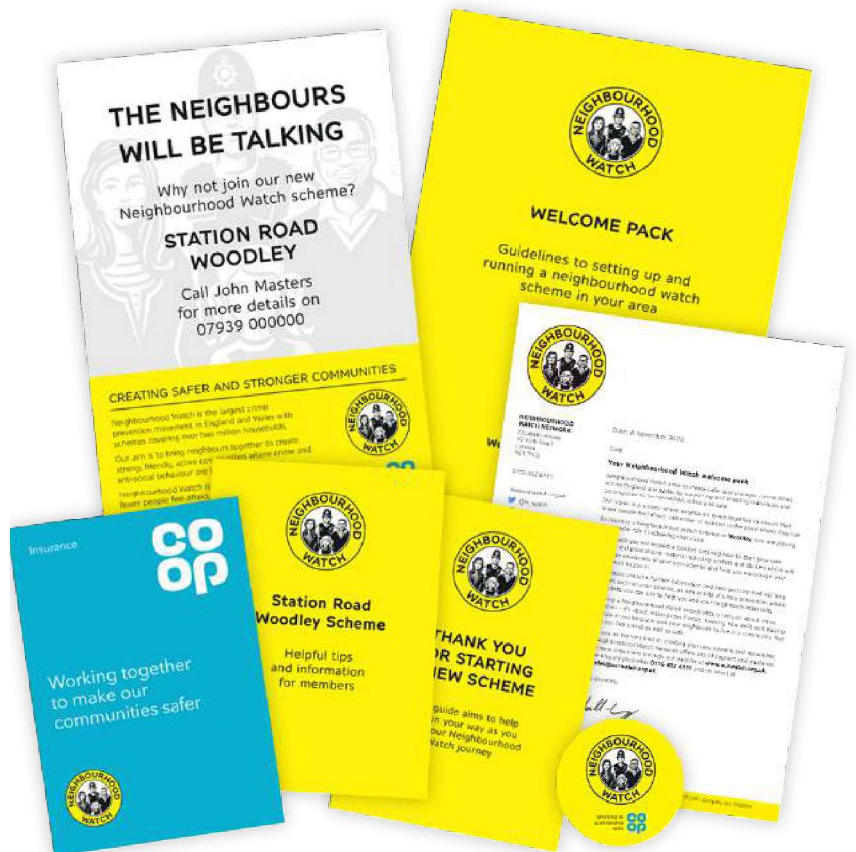
Les Astrella started a NW group in Chingford, east London after a spate of robberies. "The packs look great", he said. "It will help me spread the message out about our new scheme which I hope will tie this community together."

William Flanagan, who manages a scheme in Liverpool, said the resources in the pack were incredibly helpful for new members.

Caroline Hunter, Head of Home Insurance at Co-op, commented: "We care about wellbeing in our local communities and want to help people create stronger, happier, safer places to live. By working with Neighbourhood Watch, we're able to help bring neighbourhoods and communities together and make them safer for everyone."

John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of NWN, said: "We want more people to feel the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch where they live. In places where a scheme is in operation, we know there are fewer crimes and communities are stronger and more connected with one another. We hope the packs will inspire and help more people to join and start schemes.

The packs can be ordered at: [www.nwnewschemepack.co.uk](http://www.nwnewschemepack.co.uk)





# Building a better relationship with your bobby

*Taking shift patterns into account, and a little cake, can help cement your relationship with the Police, says Humberside coordinator Glyn Atkinson.*

So, you run a Neighbourhood Watch group but could do with more support from the Police. You want to enhance the information you give out at meetings such as local crime statistics, new scams operating in the area and changes to policing. Who do you turn to and how do you get them along to meetings? That person is the PC or PCSO allocated to your neighbourhood.

Firstly, visit the local police website to find contact details for the officer assigned to your area. They move around a lot if incidents require them to, so look for both a PC and PCSO name and contact information.

Find out what shift patterns the officers are on as this can change each month dependent

on criminal activities and ongoing operations. Do you plan your meetings in a regular pattern? In my NW group, we ask the officers for their schedule so we can book a meeting time which suits their rota, not ours. And we always make sure there's cake, scones and hot drinks which makes us even more popular with them. It works a treat.

In 11 years, we've only had a handful of dates where no officer was available. Considering we only have two main officers; this is an impressive accomplishment. Plan for them to be available and they will do their utmost to attend because your group and members are a vital source of intelligence. They want to know what occurs in your neighbourhood and if you



make it easy and productive for them they will be keen to make it work.

That is our secret, not hard to achieve and not hard to keep going if you properly involve them as an integral part of the group over time. For the past two years, the guest of honour at our Christmas meal has been our long term PCSO. We all consider him a great friend now.

## **Insurance**

### **We've got your back!**

**All registered Neighbourhood Watch members are covered by the Network's Public Liability Insurance (PLI) which has been updated for the new financial year.**

Access Insurance Services is a charity specialist-chartered broker who has been able to provide NWN with comprehensive cover with RSA Insurance Group plc at a competitive price recognising the important role volunteers undertake in the community.

The PLI will include cover for the activity of setting up and running of Neighbourhood Watch groups



in your area and personal accident cover for coordinators under the age of 80 while they are undertaking tasks on behalf of NW.

A helpful FAQs document can be found on the national Neighbourhood Watch website at the following link: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/knowledge/public-liability-insurance/>

# SECURING YOUR HOME

WITH **4**

## SIMPLE STEPS

When it comes to securing your home, your loved ones and your treasures, you would think it is at the top of everyone's priorities wouldn't you?

Actually, we discovered last year during a survey that not only do people give little thought to how good their locks are, but **40%** of people actually go out **without even locking their door!**

Assuming you are one of the people who do lock your door, making sure you are safe and secure doesn't have to be complex.

To the right are 4 simple steps you can think about to get you started...



Remember all of the ERA products have the Neighbourhood Watch Approved logo on them to show these are good security products you can rely on.




For all of your security needs, **ERA** has teamed up this month with one of their customers **safe**.


Visit [www.safe.co.uk](http://www.safe.co.uk)

and get \*10% off any of the **ERA** products.

## 1. Check out if your lock is a secure one or not

If it is a cylinder lock – the type of lock found in a UPVC door – you will see a British standard mark on the front. The best locks have three stars on the front by the BS Kite mark. This is an anti-snap lock and offers protection against all forms of attack. If it is a mortice lock, check it is a 5 lever with the British Standard Kitemark by reviewing the face plate on the inside of the door that closes against the frame. If you don't have good locks, it is important to ask an installer to quote you for new ones. You can find an installer here: 

## 2. Make sure you keep your windows shut when you aren't at home.


You would be surprised how easy it is for someone to gain entry to your home through an open window. Make sure too that the window locks work and if you have a window lock that doesn't work, why not get a quote for changing it out – it is less expensive than you think if you choose a trusted installer. All of the ERA Installers are fully DBS Checked and have Customer Liability so you can be sure to be getting a trusted installer. Check out one close to you here: 

## 3. Add a deterrent such as an alarm.

The ERA siren is an obvious deterrent and a burglar will often think twice as they prefer to break in un-noticed rather than risk an alarm raising attention. You can also get replica sirens which are much cheaper than a normal siren and whilst they don't actually make a noise, they do have comfort flashing lights so they look just like a normal siren. Often people will put these on the back of the house and a real siren on the front. If you have Wifi, you can have an alarm that works with your smartphone and would alert you in the event of an intruder. If you don't have Wifi, there are simpler options for you as well that work directly with a remote controller. You can select an ERA Smartware installer who will advise you on the best product for you. Visit: [www.erahomesecurity.com](http://www.erahomesecurity.com) and look out for the ERA Trained logo which shows they have completed Smartware training.

## 4. Intercom or a video doorbell

Thinking about doorstep safety, why not get an intercom or a video doorbell so that you never have to open your door again to a caller you don't know.

The E3000 simply plugs in and works directly with a handset. You can see the caller at the door and talk to them and then decide whether to open the door or not. If you have Wifi, you can have ERA DoorCam – a video doorbell which allows you to answer your door on your smartphone, either in your home or from wherever you are. These doorbells are wired systems so to ensure it is fitted correctly, you can find an ERA installer here: 



# Neighbourhood Watch wants YOU to become...

*With fraud accounting for more than half of the UK's reported crime, it's time for us all to take a stand.*

Scams come in many forms; uninvited contact is received by email, letter, telephone or in person, making false promises to con victims out of money. The most common scams include fake lotteries, deceptive prize draws or sweepstakes, clairvoyants, computer scams and romance scams. Postal, telephone and doorstep scams are often targeted specifically at disadvantaged consumers or those experiencing a period of vulnerability.

Criminals attempt to trick people with flashy, official looking documents or websites, or convincing telephone sales patter, with the aim of persuading them to send money, buy an overvalued or non-existent product, make a premium rate phone call or share their personal information. Doorstep scams are crimes carried out by bogus callers, rogue traders and unscrupulous sales people who call, often uninvited, at people's homes under the guise of a legitimate business or trade.

Friends Against Scams (FAS), an initiative run by the National Trading Standards (NTS) Scams Team, is empowering people to take a stand against fraudsters. The [FAS online training tool](#) takes around 20 minutes to complete and can be found on the website. People can also complete the training at a face-to-face session if preferred and these events are advertised on the [Friends Against Scams](#) website. The NTS Scams Team have already presented the session at two Neighbourhood Watch fraud awareness days in High Wycombe and Aylesbury and are due to do more.



Once someone has completed an awareness session, they become a Friend Against Scams and are asked to make a simple pledge (such as talk to family and friends about what they have learnt). The NTS Scams Team are looking to train one million friends by 2020.

Neighbourhood Watch can help the NTS Scams Team reach its goal and help to protect the most vulnerable people in our communities.

For those who would like to do more after becoming a Friend, there is a short training video (also on the website) to become a SCAMchampion. SCAMchampions are volunteers who want to spread the message and hold their own FAS awareness sessions. Once registered they gain access to all of the session resources, they can advertise their sessions on the website and also update the number of Friends they have trained.

Neighbourhood Watch would like to invite everyone to complete the online learning and help people in their community to avoid being scammed out of their hard earned money. Scams are fraud, fraud is a crime. For advice on where to report scams and to get extra help with these issues, please use the toolkit on the Neighbourhood Watch website or visit: [www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk](http://www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk). And to get in touch with the Friends Against Scams team, please email [FriendsAgainstScams@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:FriendsAgainstScams@surreycc.gov.uk)



## Policing minister praises NW at conference



*Policing Minister Nick Hurd MP (centre) with Chair David Huse and CEO John Hayward-Cripps.*

Policing minister Nick Hurd MP committed the Home Office to continuing support for Neighbourhood Watch and praised the work of volunteers at a strategy conference in London.

Mr Hurd took time out from fractious Brexit negotiations in Parliament to speak to the conference of NW representatives where he stressed the benefits of the partnership model of policing.

Hurd said he “enjoyed the conversation with chairs from up and down the country about the need to adapt to change; opportunity to increase reach and how we make partnership with the police more effective.”

Innovation within Neighbourhood Watch was another theme of the conference. Attendees heard how in Cumbria one of the most important things the local scheme does is prepare the community for flooding.

The implication was clear. Neighbourhood Watch is no longer an organisation focused solely on crime prevention.

## JHC goes to No. 10

The CEO of the Neighbourhood Watch Network, John Hayward-Cripps, joined ministers, community and faith groups at a Serious Youth Violence Summit to look at ways to tackle the rising tide of knife violence.

It comes after Home Office figures showed violent crime recorded by Police in England and Wales had risen by 19% with the number of homicides at its highest level since 2007.

Prime Minister Theresa May hosted the event at 10 Downing Street before ministers from across government chaired roundtable discussions covering best practice in law enforcement, the role of education and positive activities for young people.

Contributions from family members who had lost loved ones to knife violence were particularly impactful, said Mr Hayward-Cripps.





# Spotlight on...

A NW initiative to bring 21 different community groups together to tackle serious organised crime.

## Mexborough

For people in South Yorkshire, the town of Mexborough is synonymous with serious organised crime. A gang, known locally as the Pitsmoor Shotta Boyz (PSB), deal in drugs, firearms and fear. Although they operate out of just a handful of streets in the former mining town, the PSB have defiled the entire community's reputation. However, the fight back has begun with a project that brings together 21 different community groups to form the Mexborough Neighbour Network. The Network will lay the groundwork for an expansion in Neighbourhood Watch (NW) schemes throughout the town, of which there are currently just eight.

It is part of the Acceleration programme, a Neighbourhood Watch Network initiative to extend and diversify the number of schemes in communities that have not traditionally seen value in them. In this instance, Mexborough is an area which suffers from low quality housing, high numbers of transient renters and has higher levels of crime than surrounding areas.

The Mexborough Neighbour Network, set up by the Police but quickly handed over to residents to lead, is made up of people who are already volunteering in some capacity within the community. They are the people most likely to start their own NW scheme one day. As a group they prioritize the changes they want to see in the community and then set about doing it. The first event they organised was a community clean up. According to the local newspaper, the *Sheffield*

*Star*, cleaners had refused to work in some areas for fear of violence from gang members leaving entire streets unswept. It was a natural concern for the Network to home in on. In a single day of action, over 30 volunteers removed over 100 tonnes of waste. "They loved it", says South Yorkshire Chief Inspector Gwynfor Thomas of those who participated. "People taking pride where they live and work coupled with the crime prevention advice through Neighbourhood Watch is a sure fire way to reduce crime. People are more likely to report crime and have trust and confidence in the police. The volunteers all felt it was a brilliant project to be involved in."

By focusing on community organising the Network gives individuals who are not initially keen to join NW, but who are nonetheless passionate about improving their community, a soft introduction to its benefits. The idea was thought up partly in response to a public meeting South Yorkshire Police held to gauge interest in NW. Only three people turned up and they already managed schemes in the area. It was clear residents needed to be sold on the idea and so the Mexborough Neighbour Network was born.

Although still in its early days, the Network is helping to give Neighbourhood Watch in Mexborough a well-needed shot in the arm. We will follow their progress in future issues of *Our News*.

