



# OUR NEWS

> THE E-NEWSLETTER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS

**Thank you for supporting neighbours across England and Wales**

Dear supporters,

With a second lockdown and cases rising, the winter will be a challenging period for us all and even more so for vulnerable people. It is very important that we all take care and protect ourselves as well as safely carrying on the great work of Neighbourhood Watch to support and stay connected with our communities.

Thank you to everyone who nominated a neighbour for this year's Co-op and Neighbourhood Watch's Neighbour of the Year Award. Nominations are now closed. As you can imagine, the number and quality of nominations have been remarkable and the winner will be announced in December.

We will shortly be launching a campaign on protecting yourself online and staying 3 steps ahead of cybercrime by ensuring we all have secure passwords. We will be sharing 3 simple and quick steps you can take, and asking you to share this with 3 of your friends or neighbours.

Also, we are excited to be publishing our first ever Impact Report this month covering 2019/20, detailing the work and impact we have had across England and Wales.

As always, please continue to share with us the great work that you are doing, by emailing [enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk).

Yours sincerely,

**John Hayward-Cripps**  
CEO | Neighbourhood  
Watch Network



## Stay 3 steps ahead of cybercrime

We know there is a sea of information out there around how to best protect yourself online. We also all know the horror stories of hacking, online scams and identity theft. But what are the quickest, most important things for you to do today to ensure it doesn't happen to you?

1. **Create a different password for your email address(es)**
2. **Use 3 Random Words**
3. **Turn on two-factor authentication (2FA)**

## Now share this with 3 people

At Neighbourhood Watch, sharing what we know to help our community is key. Why don't you take an extra minute to share these simple, quick tips with family, friends and your community.

We believe in this message so strongly that we will shortly be launching a **national campaign** sharing these 3 simple, quick steps. Our campaign will target two groups of people: those that are overwhelmed by different advice and therefore take no action, and the traditionally younger age group who think it won't happen to them.

**If all of us shares this with at least 3 people we know, we will be 3 steps ahead of cybercrime.**

## Neighbourhood Watch Network AGM

Like the vast majority of charities and organisations we will be holding our AGM online this year with voting members joining the Board and staff for a Zoom event on the **24th November**.

We are delighted that Kit Malthouse, Minister of State for Crime and Policing at the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice, will be speaking at the event. We will also be discussing our new 5 Year Strategy, talking about the future of Neighbourhood Watch, as well as holding the formal AGM.

**INSIDE:** Exclusive member offer **pg 2**  
Protecting you through Covid-19 **pg 4**  
NW Crime Survey findings **pg 6**

Celebrating our volunteers **pg 3**  
Spotlight on Cumbria NW Association **pg 5**  
Winter is coming **pg 7**

## Operation Blue Instinct

During these unprecedented times the Offa and Esclusham Neighbourhood Team in North Wales have continued to serve their community and make it a safe place to live.

The team have recently launched Operation Blue Instinct to focus on protecting those most vulnerable in their community. The aim being to prevent burglaries, deter and disrupt those that cause the community most harm, reduce crime and build safer neighbourhoods.

Working with partner agencies they identify those in their area that need additional support and advice. With the collaboration of Offa Community Council they have launched a campaign to promote and encourage residents who want to make their area a safer place to consider **starting a Neighbourhood Watch scheme**.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team can often be seen out on foot patrol **engaging with the local community** and supporting existing Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

During the Autumn period where the nights are drawing in, there is an increase in acquisitive

*“Neighbourhood Watch is community-driven whereby active schemes play a vital role in detection and prevention of crime, significantly reducing crime, raising awareness, vigilance and creating a friendly community” PC David Smith*



Above: PC David Smith with Mark Evans, a resident who recently started a Neighbourhood Watch scheme

crime, in particular what is commonly referred to as Twilight burglaries.

The team are working with partnership agencies and stakeholders to identify those most vulnerable in the community to implement necessary and proportionate safeguarding measures.

The team have held crime prevention and Neighbourhood Watch awareness events, and shared crime prevention tips on social media.

*“We want to promote a sense of community where neighbours look out for one another, especially our most vulnerable residents and we encourage the public to report any suspicious activity” PC Lucia Pritchard*

## Exclusive member offer from ERA

**ERA**  
**PROTECT**

SERIOUS ABOUT SECURITY

Exclusive members offer

Floodlight Security Camera

£99.99  
(was £159.99)



SAVE  
£60

Use Voucher Code  
**NHWFLOOD**

Outdoor Security Camera

£69.99  
(was £129.99)



SAVE  
£60

Use Voucher Code  
**NHWOUTDOOR**



Shop now: [eraprotect.com](http://eraprotect.com)  
T&C's apply

Visit [www.responseelectronics.com/shop/safety-and-security/era-protect-cameras/](http://www.responseelectronics.com/shop/safety-and-security/era-protect-cameras/) to take advantage of this offer. See T&Cs [here](#).

### Derek Pratt awarded Member of the Order of the British Empire

We are delighted to announce that in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, 2020 Derek Pratt has been appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE), for services to Crime Prevention and Public Safety.

“Derek is my Neighbourhood Watch right hand. He has assisted me in bringing unity to so many partnerships across Sussex. He is resilient, hardworking and well respected by all who meet him. I am proud to call him my friend.”

John Wright, MBE

Derek is the Deputy Chair and Secretary of the Sussex Neighbourhood Watch Federation, Deputy Chair and Secretary of Crawley Neighbourhood Watch Association, and Chair of the Sussex Community Search Team, where he is also a Team Leader. Until recently he was also a Trustee of Neighbourhood Watch Network. Derek is also a Police Service Volunteer with Sussex Police as well as a Fellow of The Chartered Insurance Institute, the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, and the Australian & New Zealand Institute of Insurance and Finance.

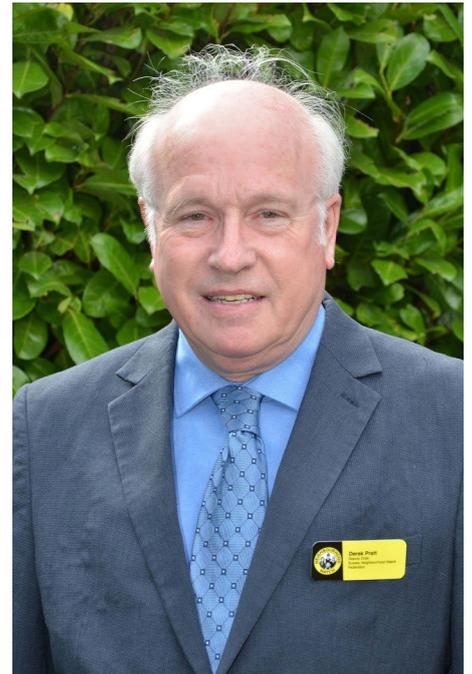
The Sussex Community Search Team was created

in 2015 to replace the three Sussex Neighbourhood Watch Search Teams. Search Team members have been specially trained and vetted to systematically search for missing persons and associated property to the very high standards expected of police forces. The Team can field up to 135 trained searchers to support the police as and when needed. In 2014 the Neighbourhood Watch Search Teams were honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. This year, in addition to its usual activities, the Team has carried out 14 safety sweeps of public places, to help ensure that these are safe places to visit.

Derek is also one of the Administrators of the Neighbourhood Alert software used by Neighbourhood Watch and 25 police forces across England and Wales. The small team he leads in Sussex looks after the data of well over 26,000 users locally, including nearly 4,000 Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators and 3,550 Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

Derek's award is richly deserved, and he is a great example of the value one person can make in their local and wider community.

**Congratulations Derek from all at Neighbourhood Watch!**



### Mike Fox receives letter of thanks from Lord Lieutenant of Surrey

We would like to send our utmost thanks and congratulations to Mike Fox, Chair of Surrey Neighbourhood Watch, who recently received a letter from the Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, acting in his capacity as the representative of HM The Queen, thanking Mike and his team for their 'wonderful contribution' made to the County and its communities during the Covid-19 pandemic.



## Supporting you through Covid-19

As Covid-19 rears its ugly head once again we want to remind you we are here for you.

### Keeping your loved ones safe

The most valuable thing we can all do is keep ourselves and our loved ones safe - physically and emotionally. We have a page on our website which signposts where you can get [accurate advice and support with your emotional wellbeing](#).

### Supporting your community

There are a variety of ways in which you can support your community depending on your individual situation.

A few ideas are:

- set up a [Calling Tree \(click here to find out more\)](#)
- sign up as a [NHS Volunteer Responder](#)
- join forces with a [COVID-19 Mutual Aid group](#)
- support [Operation WiFi](#)

- connect with your neighbours with this [Calling Card](#)
- connect with your neighbours with this [Kindness Card](#)
- If you are, or you know someone who is, facing loneliness have a look at our [Loneliness Toolkit](#).

### Beware of scams and crimes

Criminals are using the Covid-19 pandemic to scam the public. To help you avoid becoming a victim, we have highlighted on our website the wide variety of [Covid-19 scams and crimes](#) which have arisen, key protection advice and guidance on how to report these scams.

### Community response stories

For further inspiration on ways in which you can support your community, have a look at our [Community Response Stories](#). If you have a story you would like to share, please submit it using this [form](#).



## THE CALLING TREE

Call 3 people today to ask how they are doing. If they all call 3 people, the phone tree builds, and **we can all help reduce isolation and loneliness.**

## Are you or someone you know a domestic abuse survivor?

**Women's Aid Network:** Many survivors will be feeling unsafe isolating in a house with an abusive person, and isolated from their support networks. Women's Aid have put together some advice and information about support available. See [Women's Aid COVID-19 Resource Hub](#)

**Safe Lives:** They have put together some resources for people living with domestic abuse, and the professionals supporting them. They have also produced [guidance for friends and family](#).

**Refuge:** They are there for you if you, or someone you care about, is experiencing domestic abuse. Phone the National Domestic Abuse Helpline on **0808 2000 247**. They also have a range of digital resources available at [refuge.org.uk](#) and [nationaldahelpline.org.uk](#).

**Neighbourhood Watch:** We have a range of information on domestic abuse on our website including how to help, spotting the signs and more. See more in our [Domestic Abuse Toolkit](#).

## 'The Association is the face of Neighbourhood Watch in their area'

### What areas does your Association cover?

Cumbria is the most north western County in England. It is England's second largest, and most sparsely populated, county with a population of about 500K across the six Local Authorities.

November 2009 proved to be a terrible time for the County with major floods and thousands of people displaced from their homes, likewise, 2015 with more than 50K homes flooded or had severe impacts from the flooding.

### How do you support local Coordinators and members?

We recently conducted a survey of Coordinators to establish how effective they were. The results were that we have fewer Coordinators than previously because we have an older generation with fewer people coming forward to take on the role.

However, since Storm Desmond in 2015, Cumbria has seen an increase in Flood Action Groups and Community Emergency Planning Groups grow to the point that we now have groups in every town and village each of which has their own Coordinator.

We saw an opportunity and played a significant role in ensuring that volunteers working with these groups were covered by [Public Liability Insurance](#) (PLI), something we have worked long and hard with Neighbourhood Watch Network to bring about. We now have in place a process to ensure that such groups have a plan and risk assessments in place before qualifying for PLI and the impact is volunteers are keen to contribute their services more readily.

**As a result we have seen a great deal of growth in Community Groups registering as Neighbourhood Watch schemes along with their volunteers.**

### How have you been supporting your area through the Covid-19 crisis?

We used the Alert System, or as we know it, Cumbria Community Messaging, to identify those in need of support while at the same time keeping members informed and recruiting volunteers. The pandemic has seen our community groups, working in partnership,

to support those in need in their daily life during the lockdown period and beyond. They have been doing their shopping, collecting prescriptions, walking their dog and supporting with gardening whilst at all times taking into account Government restrictions and social distancing. The list is endless in what is being done by these groups who have recruited huge numbers of volunteers in the process.

### What initiative are you particularly proud of?

The Chief Constable has renewed our Partnership Agreement which enhances our working relationship with Cumbria Constabulary and created a closer relationship with each of the Neighbourhood Policing Teams linked to Local Focus Hub meetings.

The objectives of the Hubs are to promote partnership working to prevent anti-social behaviour, crime and disorder, engage with local communities to proactively identify problem areas and tackle issues having a detrimental effect on the quality of the community. This setting allows for a greater sense of community engagement where Neighbourhood Watch members have a voice.

We are also working with Victim Support, Crimestoppers and Ring.com to provide victims of crime and Domestic Abuse with video doorbells for reassurance and an element of safety.

### What are your goals for the future?

We would like to continue the partnership work throughout the pandemic, do some crime prevention work in the rural areas and adopt the Neighbourhood Watch Network revised 5 year Strategy.

**To get in touch contact Joe Murray, Chair of Cumbria Neighbourhood Watch Association on [cumbrianwa@aol.com](mailto:cumbrianwa@aol.com)**



## National Neighbourhood Watch Crime Survey findings

The national Neighbourhood Watch Crime Survey was conducted online using the Survey Monkey platform from 30th July to 21st August 2020.

The survey was shared with Neighbourhood Watch **members and non-members** via Neighbourhood Watch communication channels, Police force community messaging systems, and the Countryside Alliance and other partners' communication channels.

A total of **33,144** responses were received. All responses were kept anonymous and analysed in large groups to avoid any attempt at identifying individuals or group of people.

The below provides a snapshot of our findings from the survey. A more detailed report will be published in the coming weeks.

Survey findings indicate a **clear link between Neighbourhood Watch, perceived reduction in crime levels and increased satisfaction with personal safety.**

Neighbourhood Watch members are less likely than non-members to think that crime has increased and **more likely to be satisfied with their personal safety.**

Neighbourhood Watch is an effective means of distributing crime prevention advice and encouraging residents to take action to protect themselves.

The vast majority of members, and over half of non-members living in Neighbourhood Watch areas receive information from Neighbourhood Watch, with a **high proportion of both members and non-members likely to act on crime prevention advice they receive.**

Survey findings also show that members are consistently more likely than non-members to feel part of the neighbourhood, to feel they can trust people who live in the area, to perceive that there are people who would be there for them if they needed help and less likely to feel left out, isolated or lonely in their local area.

## Cyberhood Watch update

### University of Birmingham Report Events

At the beginning of November our Cyberhood Watch partner, Avast, will be hosting two virtual regional events in the **North East** and **North West** of England to discuss the findings of a new survey conducted in conjunction with the University of Birmingham.

This study looks at levels of **cybercrime** in the region, who is most affected, and how levels compare to the rest of the country. These events will be seeking insight and feedback from our members in these areas, with an aim to achieve a local-specific action plan for tackling cybercrime. We'll be looking to hold them in other regions and in Wales in the coming months.

### How users can protect themselves against adware

In recent months, Avast has spotted many instances of mobile adware on Google's Play Store, and reported them to Google. Currently, 19 of the apps are still available on the Play Store, but Google is investigating the reports.

These HiddenAds display intrusive ads, and lure users into downloading the adware by posing as gaming apps.

These scams are increasing in frequency so we would like to reiterate some key advice to Neighbourhood Watch members.

- **Carefully read reviews:** Adware and scam apps can be difficult to recognize, as they are often disguised as entertainment apps like gaming apps, for example. Signs that an app could be a scam include low app ratings, and negative reviews, citing excessive ads or low functionality of the alleged app features.
- **Question prices:** Users should consider what they are paying for and if the price tag for an app makes sense considering what the app is offering.
- **Check permissions:** Before downloading apps, you should check the permissions the app is requesting and consider if they make sense for the app to function properly.



## Thank you for volunteering

**Thank you to all who have volunteered, and continue to volunteer, to support your community through times of crisis.**

We launched our [Thank You Campaign](#) in October to thank all the individuals, groups and communities that have looked after us and continue to do so. Your support is needed and appreciated.

If you wish to support this campaign and spread the thanks amongst your community you can do so using our [Thank You Campaign Pack](#).

The pack has links to social media posts for you to download and share on Facebook and Twitter.

To all the wonderful people who are volunteering in their communities

THANK YOU!



[www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)



## Winter is coming, is your home ready?

**The nights are drawing in and the days are getting shorter. Yes, that's right winter is on its way.**

With colder weather arriving, we've pulled together our top tips to make sure your home is winter ready. It's important to understand the impact the weather, particularly in winter, can have on your home. It's not just frozen pipes that can have you in a cold sweat - understanding potential damage and their causes is step one in ensuring your home stays safe and warm during the colder months.

**Installation** It is key to ensure your home is well insulated, especially in the winter months. Getting your roof well insulated not only keeps essential heat in your home but can also help to keep your energy bills down.

**Get your boiler checked** One way to make sure you're not caught out by a boiler on the brink during the winter is to make sure you have it serviced regularly by a qualified engineer. Although some may believe paying out for a service is an unnecessary cost, it ensures your boiler is working safely and efficiently.

**Give your gutters a clean** Gutters cannot do their job effectively if they are clogged up with leaves and debris. Getting them cleaned also means any cracks are noticed and can be fixed.

**Protect your pipes** A burst water pipe can be a disaster. The best way to protect them during the colder months is to shield them with a foam layer (lagging), which will prevent them from freezing and bursting.

**Stop the draft** A lot of heat can escape from your home from something as simple as an uncovered window.

Covering windows with lined curtains or adding draft stoppers to your doors will help to stop any drafts and keep that essential warmth from escaping.

**Compare your energy** It pays to compare energy providers to make sure you're on the best tariff. Compare prices to see how much you could save.

**Get covered** Making sure your home is covered for any unexpected damage is important – especially during the winter months. [Co-ops Home Insurance](#) includes cover against loss or damage from flooding, storms and escape of water as standard.

*Applicants for insurance are subject to normal underwriting criteria. Co-op Insurance is a trading name of CIS General Insurance Limited; registered in England and Wales under company number 29999R. Registered office: CIS Building, Miller Street, Manchester M60 0AL.*

*CIS General Insurance Limited is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority under register number 435022.*



## We'd like to hear your thoughts on a central online NW shop

We are interested in hearing your thoughts around the setting up of a central Neighbourhood Watch online shop.

This [short survey](#) should only take a couple of minutes to complete and we really appreciate your input.



## This year Christmas will be a bit different

Whatever you are doing, don't give fraudsters a Christmas or Black Friday treat.

This year more of us than ever will be buying presents and other seasonal goods on the internet. But with the Covid-19 pandemic still very much with us, we have more on our minds than usual, making us easier targets for online fraudsters.

So before you start your Christmas shopping in earnest, please take a few minutes to read Get Safe Online's expert, easy-to-follow tips to help save you from giving a fraudster an early Christmas present.

Visit [www.getsafeonline.org/safechristmas](https://www.getsafeonline.org/safechristmas)

**This year, Christmas will be a bit different.**

**Whatever you're doing,  
don't give an online  
fraudster a  
Christmas treat.**

**#safexmas**



[www.getsafeonline.org/safechristmas](https://www.getsafeonline.org/safechristmas)



## CrimeStoppers COVID Fraud Hotline launched

**In an initiative between government and the independent charity Crimestoppers, the public can call the new Crimestoppers COVID Fraud Hotline anonymously and free of charge to report suspected fraudulent activity.**

Over 150 COVID support schemes have been introduced by the government to help those struggling financially, but a minority of individuals have been abusing these schemes by claiming loans and grants illegally.

Kate Johnston, Head of Partnerships at the charity Crimestoppers, said: "Fraud against the public purse denies access to vital funds that benefit us all.

It's crucial that anyone who has information or knows of someone who has fraudulently claimed Government grants or loans to contact our charity completely anonymously and tell us what you know."

The Crimestoppers COVID Fraud Hotline is open 24/7, 365 days a year on **0800 587 5030** or fill in the simple and secure anonymous form at [covidfraudhotline.org](https://www.covidfraudhotline.org).

**You'll be doing the right thing to help ensure the public purse is protected from fraudsters.**



**Don't let criminals  
profit from the  
COVID crisis.**

Know someone who has committed COVID Fraud? Tell us what you know.

**CrimeStoppers.**  
COVID Fraud Hotline  
**0800 587 5030**