



OUR NEWS

> THE E-NEWSLETTER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS

CELEBRATING NEIGHBOURS ACROSS ENGLAND AND WALES

Dear supporters,

As we approach the end of what has been a hugely challenging year with the prospect of restricted Christmas and New Year celebrations, we would like to deeply thank all our supporters and volunteers. The work you and so many others have done has been immensely beneficial to thousands of people and will continue to be of huge value into next year.

We are delighted to be celebrating the winners of the **Neighbour of the Year Award** and to be publishing our new 5-Year Strategy. The strategy will strengthen, develop and champion Neighbourhood Watch over the next 5 years to be the **authoritative voice on community based crime prevention**, the **most popular gateway for citizens to engage in their locality** and to be a **recognised contributor to community health and wellbeing**.

We are looking forward to working with you all over the next year.

Yours sincerely,

John Hayward-Cripps
CEO | Neighbourhood Watch Network



Shaun from Hull is Neighbour of the Year 2020!



[Find out more on page 2](#)

THANK YOU FOR SHARING 2020 WITH US.

Merry Christmas!

Best wishes,
CENTRAL SUPPORT TEAM, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NETWORK

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SHAUN FROM HULL IS NEIGHBOUR OF THE YEAR!

Shaun from Hull is crowned winner of the Co-op Insurance and Neighbourhood Watch 2020 Neighbour of the Year competition.

A well deserving winner, Shaun Blagdon is a beacon of hope for his neighbours on Ella Street, where he was born, and his wider community in Hull. Shaun has done so many things for his neighbours, but really stepped up during the difficulties of this year.

As the nation went into lockdown in March, Shaun rallied his neighbours together to form a network of community volunteers who helped support vulnerable and shielding neighbours. The scheme was so successful that it became part of the City of Hull's official response, while many of the 400 volunteers in the group have become firm friends as well as good neighbours.

Shaun has long been a great neighbour to his friends in Hull. He runs a Facebook page called "Only on Ella Street" as a friendly forum for residents to swap stories, tips, ideas and safety information.

As if that wasn't enough, Shaun also helps to organise the Ella Street Festival. With parades, fair rides, stalls and live music, the event is always a great community get-together. This year, due to the pandemic, Shaun had to think on his feet to make sure the festival still went ahead with Covid guidelines in place.

Shaun's neighbour, Elizabeth Heywood, who nominated him for the award, said: "As we went into lockdown, and before the city council's response was up and running, Shaun got in touch with friends and distributed hundreds of leaflets across this area of Hull, seeking people to help as well as those who needed assistance.

"Shaun is very much part of the reason Ella Street is seen as one of Hull's most desirable places to live and he has long been a community champion."

Shaun said: "It's such an honour to have won this award - 2020 has been such a strange year for everyone and it's been a pleasure to spread a little bit of joy to my neighbours.

"I really believe that being a good neighbour is about looking out for each other, and I hope I've encouraged people to actively get out and support their community - even virtually."



TAYLOR FROM EDINBURGH IS CROWNED FIRST EVER YOUNG NEIGHBOUR OF THE YEAR

Coop Insurance and Neighbourhood Watch are proud to announce the winner of the first ever Young Neighbour of the Year.

9-year-old Taylor O'Connor, from Edinburgh, was nominated by her neighbour, Yvonne Cuthill, for supporting her while she went through cancer treatment during lockdown. Taylor has helped Yvonne by taking her dogs out when she has been unwell, baking cakes, hanging the washing out and making flasks of tea.

Taylor was also recognised for supporting her wider community during lockdown where she regularly collected rubbish on the street, put out her neighbours' bins and took in their parcels.

The pandemic hasn't prevented Taylor keeping in touch with her neighbours either. She has turned to technology to spread a little joy for others during lockdown restrictions video calling some of her neighbours every day – just to make sure they had someone to speak to.

Taylor's neighbour, Yvonne, said: "She is a loving, caring young lady and very respectful to her elders and neighbours. Taylor uses FaceTime to message us every day, to check we are ok – that is unheard of from a girl her age and that's why I think she is fully deserving of the Young Neighbour of the Year award."



Taylor said "It's very important to have neighbours. I can still see them even if I can't go close. I just want to help local people."

The Neighbour of the Year award celebrates neighbours who look out for others, are sociable and friendly, offer practical help and are kind, caring and respectful. In its third year, the number of entries increased by a staggering 100 percent from 2019.

A word from our sponsor, ERA

Merry Christmas

From everyone at

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SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH COVID-19

Below are a few examples of the big and small ways in which our members are supporting their communities. See more examples on our [COVID-19 Community Response Stories page on our website](#).

Milton Keynes Coronavirus Community Support in Thames Valley

The Milton Keynes Coronavirus Community Support was set up initially to support just a few estates, however this group very quickly grew to support 80 out of 86 estates so that no one in the community has to be left isolated, lonely or struggling.

The group has 47 Area Coordinators and over 1,200 volunteers supporting residents who live in the same estate as them.

They have been crucial in supporting with shopping, collecting prescriptions, cooking hot meals, making puddings, gardening, walking dogs and even herding a mummy duck and ducklings that nested in someone's garden back to the nearby lake!

The biggest challenge the group feels they've had to overcome has been ensuring volunteers are aware of all the in-depth safeguarding measures to prevent allegations being made by a resident or volunteer.

The silver lining in the crisis has been seeing all the amazing residents wanting to help. Initiatives within the group have included 'Tummy Love' (cooking 60+ meals a day), the 'Pudding Club' (making desserts to go with the Tummy Love meals), 'Over the fence' (giving residents a volunteer to natter to, aiming to prevent loneliness or mental wellbeing issues).

The group has seen massive uptake of people wanting to volunteer which has lifted the community spirit. Residents now know neighbours they may not have ever met if this pandemic had not have happened.

The initiative reached altogether at least 250,000 residents! For more information visit www.mk19cv.org.

Stockwood Community Response Team in Avon and Somerset

Roughly a week before the first lockdown in March 2020, this group were rallying volunteers together to support residents. At that time volunteers were handing out the Viral Kindness postcards, offering support in the form of essential shopping, prescription collection, and telephone befriending. Before long the group formed a relationship with Bristol City Council and distributed a leaflet to all their local households. The group also launched a local helpline with a contact phone number and email for those needing support.

The main challenge was ensuring the residents who were being helped understood that the service the group was offering was voluntary and only for essential items.

The group engaged over 100 volunteers, each of whom could offer several hours each week of support. They had a lot of support from local organisations, and the recognition they received from Bristol City Council showed that they were able to maintain a degree of independence. They are particularly proud of the fact that this group was set up and run by members of their community and they have responded to over 250 requests for help.

Lending library in Wareham, Dorset

During the first lockdown a Neighbourhood Watch member was asked by elderly members of Wareham for books to read as the library had closed.

The member gathered books, delivered them to vulnerable people and then collected them afterwards.

The initiative now also runs from their local Parish Hall where books are left out for people to borrow three mornings a week.

Books are cleaned after use and hand sanitiser is available for when people are selecting books. The lending library has shared nearly 30 books just during their first week and expect the numbers to increase as more hear about the initiative.

#MissOutToHelpOut

We are proud have joined forces with **The National Lottery UK**, **ITV** and **STV** to be a part of the National Lottery's **#MissOutToHelpOut** campaign which encourages people to miss their favourite TV shows, and use that time to help out in their community instead.

No matter how little time you have or where you live, there's always something you can do to help your community. You can even help out online or over the phone, from the comfort of your sofa.

Find out ways to volunteer here: missouttohelpout.com/help-out/volunteer

Celebrating our volunteers

Thank you, **Ray Woodyear**, (photo to the right) for **35** years of volunteering with Neighbourhood Watch in Thames Valley. Ray became involved with Thames Valley NW Association (TVNHWA) in it's early days and enjoyed becoming a "roving ambassador" recruiting wherever he could find interested people - including more than 30 Coordinators!

In 2013 Ray was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Theresa May. Ray recently retired from active participation. Thank you Ray for your incredible contribution to Neighbourhood Watch.



Also thanks to **Chris Cade** who has made a huge contribution over **10** years to Neighbourhood Watch, both locally in Rugby and Warwickshire and also nationally. Chris began as the Vice Chair for Rugby in 2011 before becoming the Vice Chair, later Chair, for Warwickshire. Chris was also a Regional Representative for the West Midlands and a national Trustee in 2015. Chris has always been a great advocate for Neighbourhood Watch and its benefits for communities and individuals. Chris is stepping down as the Chair of Warwickshire and leaves a strong Association which we hope can be further built on.

Our online AGM 2020 was a resounding success

Our Neighbourhood Watch Network 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Tuesday 24th November 2020 as a fully virtual meeting.

The meeting began with a welcome from **Ian Bretman**, Neighbourhood Watch Network Chair, followed by an address from **Kit Malthouse**, Minister of State for Crime, Policing and the Fire Service and MP for North West Hampshire.

Kit was eager to praise Neighbourhood Watch as he remembered the advent of the organisation 38 years ago and reflected on how it is now embedded as a key feature in the crime prevention architecture of communities. He went on to praise Neighbourhood Watch volunteers on their ability to be adaptable during the crisis and support communities as the needs arose. He said, **'prevention we think is much better than cure'** and expressed Neighbourhood Watch members and volunteers have a key role to play in helping to prevent community-based crimes.

Kit Malthouse declared our new revised 5-year strategy as **music to his ears** and something to be welcomed. Following a presentation from John Hayward-Cripps on the 5-year strategy which had been formed in collaboration with stakeholders, including Association Leads, the voting members unanimously agreed that they welcomed the new strategy as an ambitions and positive plan for the movement over the next five years.

Jayne Pascoe, Head of Partnerships and Projects presented some early findings from Neighbourhood Watch Network's recent Crime and Community Survey conducted in August 2020. With over 33,000 respondents the survey provides Neighbourhood Watch with a benchmark for future surveys. National and regional reports will be produced and shared via their website.

The formal AGM went smoothly with an overview of the past year from Ian Bretman and the Financial Statement overview presented by Kardaya Rooprai.

All co-opted trustees were required to formally retire and be voted back onto the Board as were the longest serving trustees. All the trustees namely Ian Bretman (Chair of the Board), Sue Pillar-Lee (Vice Chair), Kardaya Rooprai (Treasurer), Rebecca Bryant, Mohamed Hamed, Kirsty McHugh and Peter Buchanan received unanimous votes onto the Board and into their respective positions.

All trustees were delighted to be formally elected and Ian Bretman said 'Thank you everyone. We really appreciate the trust and confidence you have shown in electing and re-electing us. We will do our best to take the organisation forward.'

For further details please read our full [AGM article on our website](#).

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

What areas does your Association cover?

There are ten towns/cities which comprise Greater Manchester. Each has its own town/city council and police Division. Some have a recognisable sports team.

The areas covered are Bury, Bolton, Rochdale, Oldham, Tameside, Trafford, Manchester, Salford, Wigan and Stockport. We have a very active and supportive Metro Mayor in Andy Burnham.

How do you support local Coordinators and members?

Each of our ten local areas has a representative sitting on the Greater Manchester NW Association. Our Chair, Andrew Taylor (pictured right), forwards any enquiries or information to those reps, various police officers and police support staff. They then forward relevant emails to their own members and assist or advise accordingly.

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

During the COVID-19 crisis our Chair has been attending weekly Zoom meetings with Council officials and local residents as part of a newly-formed Community Action Group in Bury.

The group discusses how to improve their locality, track and trace and abiding by the changing rules and advice.

Neighbourhood Watch representatives have been circulating the information and advice to their many members and the local police, as well as sharing information and advice with each other.



What initiative are you particularly proud of?

It has taken our Association almost 20 years to get where we are today and we couldn't have done it without the dedication of supportive and enthusiastic people within Greater Manchester, and, indeed, throughout the county. Our Chair, Andrew Taylor, has been a driving force in helping to form the Greater Manchester Neighbourhood Watch Association.

What are your goals for the future?

Our goals for the future include developing an Association website, increasing our membership and its effectiveness, and strengthening our links with the police.

To get in touch contact Andrew Taylor, Chairman of Greater Manchester Neighbourhood Watch Association, on jat999@tinyworld.co.uk.

Listening to communities

With funding support from NESTA, Neighbourhood Watch Network engaged The Social Change Agency to undertake a listening project in a rural community of Gwent in Wales and an inner city community in Lewisham.

The aim was to uncover insights directly from people living in these areas about any barriers to their engagement with Neighbourhood Watch and what Neighbourhood Watch might need to do to adapt to meet the needs of these different communities and

add value for the volunteers who are already offering local support.

This blog, written by Jayne Pascoe - Head of Partnerships and Projects, outlines some of the key learning points from this project and how we will be taking forward the recommendations made as a result.

[Read it here](#)

A central Neighbourhood Watch online shop trial

We recently conducted a survey with members to find out opinions on us hosting an online shop, containing useful items for scheme promotion as well as Neighbourhood Watch branded merchandise. Thank you to all those that took part!

Our findings show there is huge support for this idea, with 81% of respondents fully behind it and a further 18% saying they may be supportive.

“Great idea! Hope it can be done.”

“Getting hold of any items has been a great problem recently, a centralised source would be a real bonus and avoid each scheme/area having to make their own arrangements.”

“Hope this idea launches soon.”

“An online shop would be a very good idea. It is especially good for raising funds to be used for different projects.”

“A central source for NHW related services would save a lot of individual work, great idea.”

We were also pleased to see that 82% of people taking the survey positively endorsed us using profits from the shop to assist local schemes and associations, such as through joint project work or to add funds to the Community Grants Programme.

A further 16% said they maybe would support this, with caveats such as requesting clarity as to how funds would be distributed and ensuring profits were inline with our position as a charity.

We received great feedback on the list of items we were suggesting, and many respondents added additional ideas for items to have available on the shop which is so helpful.

As a result of this very positive response, we plan to launch a trial online shop in the new year, ensuring we offer a basic range of promotional resources for groups to raise awareness of their Neighbourhood Watch, as well as fun, useful branded items, such as tote bags and notebooks.

We hope our members will enjoy this new element of our website offering and that we are able to add additional items as we go.

Rest assured we will be running this venture in accordance with all charity regulations and laws, as a registered member of the Fundraising Regulator, and will update you as soon as it is launched.

National Lottery Community Covid-19 Fund bid a success

We are delighted to announce that we have been successful in our application to the National Lottery Community Covid-19 Fund.

We have been awarded £40,000 to spend over the next six months on developing a more engaging and user-focused Volunteer Programme.

76% of current members and **70%** of new members have previously said this is something they would like us to invest in.

To kick-start the programme, we will be seeking a full-time **Volunteer Manager** to work

alongside the Central Support Team and the membership. This will be on an initial six months basis, with the intention to extend to two years if we can successfully source additional funding.

We are very pleased that the dedication of local Neighbourhood Watch volunteers and the significant role Neighbourhood Watch has to play during crises, such as the recent pandemic, has been recognised, and that we are able to better meet the needs of the communities we work in by adding this capacity.

Keep an eye out on our website www.ourwatch.org.uk and social channels for more details on the new role.

What our newest members are saying

Since the first lockdown in March, we have been issuing a survey to our new members every two months.

We have wanted to find out more about their motivations for joining Neighbourhood Watch and what they are wanting as part of their membership.

We have had nearly 12,000 responses to date. Nearly half (46%) were between 45 - 64 years old, 30% were over 65 years old, 22% between 25 - 44 years old and 2% between 18 - 24 years old.

Top 5 Reasons new members joined:

- Concerned about community safety (66%)
- To actively help make my community a better place to live (44%)
- Rise in crime in my area (33%)
- I wanted to join my local scheme (31%)
- To belong to a community led organisation (29%)

Top 5 things new members want from membership:

- Crime prevention tips for my community (68%)
- Crime prevention tips for myself/ my family (67%)
- Links to my local Neighbourhood Watch contact and/or scheme (47%)
- Ways to connect and improve my community (43%)
- Neighbourhood Watch national newsletter (28%)

We have learnt that 1,776 respondents joined Neighbourhood Watch primarily to help with responding to COVID-19 community issues, and a quarter of respondents want ongoing Covid-19 updates from Neighbourhood Watch.

If you know someone who would benefit from becoming a member, joining is easy through our website. Visit www.ourwatch.org.uk/join

PROTECT YOUR Pa\$\$WorD

As we spend more time at home and on our online devices, over one third (34%) of people say that they're more concerned about cybercrime than physical crime and a startling 1 in 5 people are a victim of cybercrime! You could be more at risk than you might think.

If strengthening your passwords is something you keep putting off, or you feel overwhelmed by the sea of online security information, you're not alone.

As part of our Cyberhood Watch initiative, launched in partnership with Avast, we launched our PROTECT YOUR Pa\$\$WorD campaign in November that targets both the overwhelmed and complacent, providing everyone with 3 easy steps to be more secure online.

PROTECT YOUR Pa\$\$WorD in 3 easy steps

1. Create a separate password for your email account
2. Use 3 random words
3. Turn on two-factor authentication (2FA)

Then **share those 3 steps with 3 friends.**

To find out more about how to do each step visit our [Password Protection](#) page on our website .

**Pa\$\$WorD
CONFU5#0N?
WE CAN HELP
IN 3 EASY STEPS**