

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



The Queen's Diamond
Jubilee Volunteering
Award 2012

OUR NEWS

Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network (England & Wales)
July 2013



This edition is sponsored by Avocet Hardware

Message from the Chair

Is summer finally here? Wimbledon is over for another year, strawberries and cream are a thing of the past and we have a British Mens Singles Champion. Congratulations to Andy Murray.

Three quarters of all the homes in England and Wales had a television on watching the tennis and I suspect that they all had their windows and patio doors open, on what turned out to be the hottest day of the year so far.

We must all be alert to the possibility of opportunist burglars and sneaky thieves taking the chance to help themselves to the items of value in your homes.

Eighty per cent or four out of every five, of all those who pass through the custody suites of police stations throughout the length and breadth of England and Wales test positive for drugs or alcohol, or both.

We must do what we can to remove the opportunity to feed their habit from these criminals. Make sure that your windows can be secured in an open position, but not so wide that the passers-by can reach in. If your patio doors are out of sight resist the temptation to leave them open.

Please enjoy the summer. But don't become a victim of an opportunist thief.

James Maddan (NHWN Chair)

ABS lock the key to car security

More than one in three cars stolen in the UK are taken from the driveways or outside the homes of their owners – and what's more, most of them are started with keys that thieves have stolen while robbing the car owner's home. Avocet Hardware, our primary sponsor for security products, is urging the public to take steps to stop the thieves by protecting their homes and, as a result, their cars.

"Advice abounds about ensuring car keys are safely stored so that thieves can't just grab them during a break-in, but surely the emphasis should be on stopping them gaining access to the house in the first place?" said Derrick Purvis, Avocet's marketing manager.

"Lock-snapping," he added, "is increasingly being favoured by burglars as a form of forced entry due not only to the ease and speed with which it can be done, but the fact the lock that is fitted as standard in all uPVC and double glazed doors is the most easily snapped."

The lock in question is the Euro cylinder lock, which is a replaceable barrel that controls the entire locking mechanism of most uPVC and double glazed doors. Astonishingly, it is held in place with just one screw and can be snapped using standard DIY tools. Great strides have already been made in highlighting the scale of the issue and the ease and effectiveness of the solution, but despite all the hard work a lot still needs to be done.

"A number of bodies, including the Master Locksmiths Association, the Police's Secured by Design Initiative and Leeds City Council, have already taken measures to bring this problem to the public's attention, but there is so much more that can and needs to be done," continued Derrick.

Avocet itself is currently seeking to engage the UK insurance industry in a dialogue about lock-snapping and the benefit its widespread inclusion within home insurance policies would bring.

"Leeds City Council reported a 36 per cent reduction in burglaries during a year that saw it installing 10,000 of our ABS Snap Secure locks.

"This impressive statistic equated to 3,200 fewer victims during just 12-months, and occurred in just one area of one city. Our long-term aim is to get insurance companies to include a requirement for lock-snapping measures within home insurance policies; a move that we feel would result in significant savings for them as a result of a dramatic decrease in burglaries and therefore claims."

Avocet's ABS Snap Secure lock features a patented system that guarantees a total barrier against forced entry even if the lock is snapped. And what's more it also allows the door to still be opened and locked using the key from the inside.

It is one of the first locks of its type to be accredited to the new British Standard TSO07 (three stars), is the only retro-fit euro cylinder that has passed the new SS312 Sold Secure Diamond standard, and is approved by Secured by Design.

For further information on lock-snapping and the steps that can be taken to prevent it visit www.homesecurityandsafety.co.uk or call 01484 725725.

New window sticker ordering process 2013

The Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network is pleased to announce a new partnership with the Master Locksmiths Association for a fresh supply of Neighbourhood and Home Watch window stickers across England and Wales.

Since October 2011, the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network (NHWN) has successfully supported the membership, with the provision of free window stickers in partnership with Towergate insurance.

Almost all previous stock, consisting of 610,000 Neighbourhood Watch roundels in both English and Welsh language and Home Watch stickers, has now been used by new start up schemes across England and Wales.

With the support of the Master Locksmiths Association (MLA), a further 500,000 window stickers have been produced and distributed to county wide points of contact, supporting each and every police force area.

The new process, due to go live with immediate effect, will ensure that all new members are provided with stickers, quickly and efficiently, in line with local processes and protocols.

Jim Maddan, Chairman of the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network said of the new process;

“The new collaboration between NHWN and the MLA which has led to the production of half a million door and window stickers, widely acknowledged as a very valuable tool in the fight against domestic burglary, is another example of groups such as ours working together for the benefit of the common good.

“Stickers will be available through regional and force representatives, who will ensure that they are effectively used for the benefit of all watch members”.

Dr Steffan George, Director of Business Development at Master Locksmiths Association, said of the new partnership;

“We’re delighted to be able to promote our organisation through this partnership and provide easily accessible information to members of the public who may be concerned over the security of their home, or who may need to call a locksmith in an emergency.

“The stickers form an important part of our campaign to encourage the public to remember to secure their property when leaving and to use an MLA-approved locksmith, whilst also helping Neighbourhood and Home Watch reinforce its crime prevention message.”

As previously, the design retains the front facing logo for both the yellow roundel and Home Watch sticker, with additional Master Locksmiths Association contact details on the reverse of the sticker. Surplus backing paper has also been provided to ensure that stickers can be peeled back with ease.

To place an order for window stickers, please visit:

http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/resource_centre/document_library/new_window_sticker_process_2013_points_of_contact/

Please ensure you specify your name, the type of sticker required (Neighbourhood Watch, Home Watch or Welsh language roundel), quantity needed, and delivery address. Please allow up to 10 working days for your order to be processed.

In some areas, a collection service may be available for stickers to be picked up locally (please liaise with the force area point of contact to confirm whether this service is available).

In London, stickers are due to be issued to Borough wide points of contact, information for which will be made available in the next few weeks.

To ensure that you receive all future updates on how to order Neighbourhood and Home Watch promotional materials, please visit the below link to register for our e-newsletter:

http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/get_involved/get_our_newsletter/

To find out more about our sponsors, Master Locksmiths Association, please visit www.locksmiths.co.uk.

Are you going away this summer?

If you are going on holiday this summer, it is essential you take the relevant precautions to make sure your home is safe and secure from burglars. Burglars target houses that look empty, especially during the holiday period. Here is some advice on how to ensure your home is kept safe and secure so you don't come home to a nasty shock:

- Lock up – lock all windows and doors and any sheds, garages or outbuildings. Remember to set your alarm if you have one
- Make your home look like it is occupied, perhaps get a trusted neighbour to visit your house once a day to move the post, pull the curtains and turn any lights on/off. Alternatively, you could use timer switches for your lights and the Royal Mail 'Keepsafe' service as they can hold your post until you return
- Avoid discussing holiday plans in public places or on social networking sites
- Mow your lawn/s before leaving so it doesn't look overgrown and trim any plants/hedges
- Ensure any outdoor tools such as ladders are securely stored away as these could be used to force entry into your home
- Leave any valuable personal possessions or important documents with a relative or in a safe
- Cancel any deliveries (milk, newspaper etc.)

- If you have a driveway, ask your neighbour to park on it occasionally to give the impression your house is occupied
- If you are leaving the country, don't put your home address on your luggage on your outward journey to your holiday destination. If you are getting a taxi to the airport, use a trusted company and avoid talking about your holiday plans
- Don't leave a message on your answer phone saying that you are away

For further advice on Home Security, you can visit:

http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/safety_advice/safer_homes/

Get Safe Online 'Switched on' campaign

Children's safety is the Number One concern for all parents, and increasingly that includes keeping them safe in their digital world... In other words on the internet, texting and anything else they do online.

Many parents are finding out that their kids know more than they do when it comes to computers and mobile devices, and understandably, some find that hard to admit. Combine that with children's natural curiosity and the unregulated internet, and many parents feel less than adequately equipped to guide their children in the right direction.

That's why in September, Get Safe Online will be launching its 'Switched On' campaign, aimed at parents who feel they need to know more about the subject (and let's face it ... who doesn't?). The campaign will recommend the best approach to advising and guiding children about what's right and what's not, and suggest some of the technology steps parents can put in place to keep checks on their online activity. It's about being a 'switched on' parent equipped to engage effectively with children on online safety.

The expert advice is being put together and circulated with the help of Get Safe Online partners Neighbourhood Watch and Symantec.

For more information please visit: www.getsafeonline.org.

Australia Neighbourhood Watch visits NHWN

In May 2013, Gillian Metz from Neighbourhood Watch Victoria in Australia paid a visit to the NHWN headquarters. This was organised by Drew Rudland, from the office of the Australian High Commissioner in London.

Neighbourhood Watch in Victoria covers all communities from the City of Melbourne and its urban sprawl, to the regional cities of places like Ballarat and Geelong to the remote and very rural towns of the high country and the western plains. More information can be found on their website www.nhw.com.au.

Gillian first met with Jim Maddan, NHWN Chair in London and then she met with representatives from the Sussex Neighbourhood Watch Federation, Sussex NHW Search

Teams and was provided with a demonstration of our Neighbourhood Alert Community Messaging System. Gillian finished her trip off by visiting the NHWN headquarters.

After her visit, Gillian said:

“The things I found really useful was the way in which Neighbourhood and Home Watch had embraced the use of technology to support the organisation, especially the easy sign up and messaging of Neighbourhood Alert.

“It was also very useful to discuss how the movement had been refreshed, and how you were trying to measure the value of Neighbourhood and Home Watch within England and Wales. This is always a hard task and something the political masters always want to know. The other part that was very useful was discussing the support of the Police and the philosophy of providing information.”

After Gillian’s visit, NHWN Chair Jim Maddan said:

“The visit to the UK in May by Gillian Metz who is responsible for Neighbourhood Watch in Melbourne, Victoria was a great success. It was a fantastic opportunity to exchange ideas and we hope to introduce some of these in England & Wales in the months and years ahead.”

Make someone’s Christmas by showing you believe in the community

Community Christmas believes that no elderly person in the UK should be on their own on Christmas Day unless they want to be. This might sound like a simple and obvious statement? They would agree. However, research conducted by the WRVS suggested that just under a quarter of a million older people spent Christmas alone last year. This is a shocking statistic and one which highlights how many members of our communities have become invisible and how we need to come together to ensure things are different in the future.

On 25 June (6 months before Christmas) Community Christmas launched an initiative which aims to create the required change. As part of the planned activities Community Christmas is asking people to sign an online petition to show their support for the vision and help the campaign gather momentum.

Please follow this link to show your support:

<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/community-christmas.html>

Caroline Billington, Founder of Community Christmas said: “Everyone I speak to about this campaign agrees that it seems inconceivable that so many elderly and often vulnerable people are spending Christmas alone. Yet there are lonely people in every street in every town and village across the UK.”

To read the full article, please visit:

http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/news_and_events/news/make_someones_christmas_by_showing_you_believe_in_the_community/



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