

**NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH**



OUR NEWS

**Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network (England & Wales)
July 2014**



This edition is sponsored by Avocet Hardware and comparethemarket.com

Message from the Chair

There are times when I am really proud to be Chair of the Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network. One of those times was during the recent National Awards Ceremony, which was held at the Church House Conference Centre in Westminster on 20th June.

The day was a celebration of all that is great about Neighbourhood and Home Watch. All of the winners and runners-up were rightly acknowledged by their peers for their contribution to their local communities. The staff at the Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network went above and beyond to organise the day and they should be proud of their efforts too. Full details about the winners and runners-up are now up on our website.

I have also been attending a number of meetings at the Home Office regarding Crime Prevention and Serious Organised Crime and I am pleased to say that the Home Office continue to value the Neighbourhood & Home Watch movement and the work our volunteers can do to help tackle these issues.

Finally, I am delighted to announce a new sponsor of the Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network. comparethemarket.com have agreed a year sponsorship deal with us and I am sure you have all seen their adverts on the television involving some very well known meerkats.

More information about the sponsorship and the numerous campaigns we will be running with them is available in the newsletter and on our website. I hope this will provide us with a great platform to raise awareness of the movement and I look forward to working with them in the coming months.

It'd be fantastic if you could share your support for the campaign on social media by using the hashtag #StrongerNeighbourhoods too.

Jim Maddan, NHWN Chair

Neighbourhood Watch and comparethemarket.com reveal special edition logo as movement celebrates 50 year anniversary

- New research reveals 65% agree neighbourhoods would be stronger if people were encouraged to get to know each other better
- Yet one in 10 can't name a single neighbour
- Residents encouraged to join local neighbourhood and home watch scheme at to strengthen communities
- Iconic Neighbourhood Watch window sticker given new meerkat twist as the famous characters use their cheeky charm to help attract a wider audience

News research* reveals that one in ten UK residents can't name a single one of their fellow neighbours. Despite the apparent disconnect, 65% agreed their neighbourhood would be 'a stronger community if people were encouraged to get to know each other better' instilling a sense of togetherness and reducing crime levels. Almost a quarter (24%) would even be 'willing to socialise' with their neighbours if they had the opportunity to get to know them better.

In a bid to bring communities across the nation together, comparethemarket.com has today joined forces with Neighbourhood Watch as the movement marks its 50th Anniversary. Residents of an original Neighbourhood Watch area came together to reveal the first ever revamp to its logo in the charity's history. The visual has been updated to include meerkat favourites Aleksandr and Sergei with the writing updated to 'neighbourhoods watching,' as the meerkats use their cheeky charm to help Neighbourhood Watch attract a wider audience.

Becoming part of Neighbourhood or Home Watch not only helps to create a safer, more connected community but can also have a positive impact on each and every household. Members both new and old are able to obtain a special edition Neighbourhood Watch window sticker by visiting http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/resource_centre/document_library/new_window_sticker_process_2013_points_of_contact/.

Jim Maddan Chairman of the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network (England & Wales) said:

"We've seen a real change in the structure of neighbourhoods over the years with people moving further away from their extended families and an increase in short term rental contracts. This move can leave some people feeling lonely or unsupported, especially young families and the elderly, who hugely benefit from having a strong community and neighbours to rely on in times of need. This is why we're behind comparethemarket.com's campaign to rally more people to start by simply saying hello to their neighbours. We're also big fans of the addition of well-loved meerkats to the special edition logo."

Helen Phipps, Head of Home for comparethemarket.com adds:

"We've partnered with Neighbourhood Watch because, like them, we believe in better connected neighbourhoods and the benefits this can bring, both physically and emotionally. It's our belief that people still want to feel part of a strong community and we're working with Neighbourhood Watch to encourage small gestures that can have big impacts. It's the little things, such as greeting your neighbour with a simple 'hello,' that can make such a big difference to someone's environment and peace of mind at home."

For more information about the campaign, please visit:

www.comparethemarket.com/neighbourhoods

Summer Break-ins happen so fast

What's not to love about summer? There are the long light nights; the warm(ish) weather; even occasional glimpses of the sun. And then, of course, there's the summer holiday – the chance to get away from it all, somewhere where the sun always shine (unless, of course, you prefer the Lake District).

Summer though also sees a huge increase in the number of break-ins and burglaries across the country, so we've asked Derrick Purvis, marketing manager of our security products sponsor, Avocet Hardware to guide us through the key steps of making your home secure for the summer.

“Statistically, August has the highest number of break-ins of any month of the year and when you take a moment to consider this fact it's easy to understand why.

The weather's warmer, the nights are light, the kids are off school, you're spending more time thinking of your fast-approaching summer holiday and paying a lot less attention to home security – something that burglars across the country know all too well.”

So Derrick, tell us more, tell us more, what should people do to stop their summer dreams being ripped at the seams?

“The main advice we give to everyone about staying secure in the summer is simple – don't forget the basics.

“If you lock something up on a dark winter's afternoon, why leave it unlocked on a light summer's night?

“Similarly, if you strive to make your home look occupied when you go out for a Christmas party, then do exactly the same when you go to your neighbours for that August bank holiday barbecue.

“Thieves will take whatever opportunity they see – whether that means grabbing things out of a shed that's been left open; climbing up a ladder left leaning against a bedroom window; or even stealing bikes or valuable children's toys left outside while you've gone inside.

“On top of these basics, most security organisations and police forces will advise a host of other tactics like trimming hedges so they can't provide hiding places, ensuring post isn't left unsecured and that alarm systems are fitted and function, and even the installation of security glazing.

“We, as you'd expect, do urge everyone to consider their locks. The nature of the majority of locks fitted as standard in the UK is that most burglars can get past them in a matter of seconds.

“And on top of that there's the issue of sub-standard products being wrongly marketed as snap-proof or resistant solutions, meaning many people are under the impression their locks are secure, when in reality they aren't.

“Therefore, check what you've got fitted. If they've not got a British Kitemark with 3-stars underneath call your local locksmith and enquire about getting them changed so that at the very least they meet TS007 3-star standard. Although we would always advise people take one step more and buy the ABS TS007 3-star and Sold Secure SS312 Diamond accredited snap-secure lock – the safest retrofit cylinder lock on the market.

“A one-key system is also worth considering, especially in the summer when keys are left in doors and doors are left open. With just one key in your pocket that fits all doors you can lock behind you

as you go without needing to carry a whole bunch of keys with you. And what's more, our one-key system covers not only door and window locks, but padlocks and even gate locks."

To find out more, and get our latest leaflets and home security solutions information visit www.homesecurityandsafety.co.uk/nhw or call 01484 725601.

National Neighbourhood and Home Watch Winners Announced

After receiving numerous high quality nominations from across England and Wales, at the beginning of May our Board of Trustees shortlisted twenty hard-working and deserving schemes and coordinators for these awards. The winners were revealed at a prestigious ceremony in London on Friday 20 June and are:

- Partnership Working - CHP
- Outstanding Achievement (Scheme) sponsored by St James - Doe Lea Neighbourhood Watch
- Outstanding Achievement (Coordinator) - Peter Thomas
- Community Cohesion - Alan Pibworth
- National Database (Neighbourhood Alert) sponsored by VISAV Ltd - Doreen Carruthers
- Innovation - Gillian Atkinson
- Environmental Improvement - Owlthorpe Neighbourhood Watch
- Community Courage - Sandra White
- Inspiring Youth - Julie Bascombe
- Safer Neighbourhoods sponsored by ABS Locks / Avocet Hardware - Graham Halliwell

Mark Jastrzebski, a coordinator from Knightstone in the West Midlands, was also commended for his work by being selected for the Chairman's Award, specially awarded by Jim Maddan in recognition of his services.

Brian Aldred was honoured with a Photography Award in thanks for his photographic services covering these Awards and those in 2013.

You can read more about the winners on our site:

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

Details of the other highly commended finalists can be seen here:

http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/about_us/projects_campaigns/neighbourhood_home_watch_week/nhw_award_finalists_2014/

Attended by dignitaries from the Home Office, Cabinet Office and the Police Service, the awards were held as part of National Neighbourhood and Home Watch Week 2014 and included networking, exhibitions by sponsors and partner organisations, presentations and a workshop in addition to the formal awards presentation ceremony.

Jim Maddan, Chairman for the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network, said:

"It is always an honour to celebrate the work of our exceptional Neighbourhood and Home Watch volunteers who contribute and work tirelessly day in and day out to the collective monetary value of £1 billion per year fighting crime in their neighbourhoods. This year's Awards highlighted

exemplary individuals and schemes from across the movement who have made a huge impact on their community, above and beyond anyone's expectations."

DCC Michael Banks, the Association of Chief Police Officers lead for Citizens in Policing, who spoke at the Awards ceremony, voiced his support for the national winners, saying:

"Neighbourhood Watch volunteers play a vital part in keeping communities safe and reducing crime. Police colleagues up and down the country are delighted to work with residents to make their areas safe and nice places to live, and really appreciate the hard work that people put in."

Other speakers at the awards ceremony included Diana Luchford, Crime Director at the Home Office, Owen Rowland, Deputy Director and head of the Organised Crime Strategy Unit at the Home Office, and previous award winners Sussex Search Teams and Derby Homes who reflected on their activities since their success last year and shared their good practice with delegates.

The Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network would like to thank all the speakers and those who presented awards, and our sponsors VISAV Ltd, Avocet Hardware / ABS Locks, St James, Selectamark and NSP, without whom this event would not have been possible.

We would like to thank everyone who nominated someone for an award, and most of all we would like to thank those who were winners or Highly Commended for their great work in their communities. Their activity as part of the Neighbourhood and Home Watch movement makes such a difference to people's lives and helps keep crime down and create communities where everyone can feel safe and happy to live.

Cleveland gets connected

VISAV, the company behind the Neighbourhood Alert system are delighted to announce that Cleveland Police are the latest police force to sign up to use the Neighbourhood Alert Community Messaging System as their primary interface to engage with the public and Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers.

www.clevelandconnected.co.uk was officially launched last week, allowing Cleveland Police to engage with the public more effectively with regards to local crime updates, news and campaigns. A total of 11 police forces are now licence holders on the system and it is hoped this will help encourage others to come on board.

Over 12,000 users from Cleveland have been transferred to the Neighbourhood Alert database, taking the total amount of users on the database to a quarter of a million. Neighbourhood Watch volunteers in Cleveland are now being encouraged to come forward to be trained on the Neighbourhood Alert system so that they can manage scheme data in their area and send messages to local Neighbourhood Watch coordinators.

Mike Douglas, Product Director of VISAV Ltd, who build and supply the Neighbourhood Alert software said:

"I am thrilled that Cleveland Police have come on board with the Neighbourhood Alert system. There is no doubt that this is a positive step forward for both parties and I'm sure that they will see a huge improvement in their communication and engagement with the residents of Cleveland and their Neighbourhood Watch volunteers.

We look forward to working closely with Cleveland Police to ensure the system is developed further to suit their needs."

NFU Mutual Country Crime Fighters Awards 2014

NFU Mutual, the UK's leading rural insurer, has announced the return of its annual Country Crime Fighters Awards 2014.

With a cash fund of up to £6,500 available, the Awards will help to recognise and celebrate unsung rural heroes by providing them with financial and practical support to help fund anti-crime initiatives.

All people have to do is visit www.nfumutual.co.uk/crimefighters and tell the insurer in 300 words or less why they or their community group deserve to win an award and how they have helped to reduce crime in their local area.

The rural insurer has introduced new categories to attract an even more widespread audience of people who dedicate their time to reducing rural crime in their local communities.

The categories for 2014 are:

- Social Media Crime Prevention
- Equestrian Crime Prevention
- Farm Crime Prevention
- Local Community Crime Prevention
- Wildlife Crime Prevention
- Rural Business Crime Prevention
- Crime Prevention through Technology

The Country Crime Fighters Awards 2014 will engage with people from all over the country, as people nominate themselves or their community group for an award. Following successful nomination, regional winners will compete for a place in the final and be invited to attend the awards ceremony in London with the chance to be crowned national winner. The winner will also receive a trophy and a cheque for £1,500. Regional winners will receive a trophy and £500.

Nominations can be submitted online at the Country Crime Fighters webpage and closing on the 11th August 2014.

To enter online or to download a rural crime toolkit visit: www.nfumutual.co.uk/crimefighters

This section of the website will contain a handy guide on how people can go about setting up a crime reduction watch team in their community.

The 2014 winners will be selected by a new expert panel of judges featuring: Chief Constable of Dyfed Powys Police, Simon Prince leading on wildlife and rural crime; Chairman of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs, Claire Worden; Rural Services Network Officer, Nick Payne; features writer for the Daily Telegraph, Joe Shute; and NFU Mutual Chairman, Richard Percy.

All enquiries should be sent to pressoffice@nfumutual.co.uk for the attention of Alison Cox or call 01789 455211.



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