



OUR NEWS

the e-newsletter for Neighbourhood Watch supporters

DECEMBER 2017 EDITION

Thank you for all you have done in 2017



Picture South London Press

Thank you to all our members and supporters for all you have done this year to be neighbourly and help keep your communities safe.

This year we've been focused on how we can protect our communities from a wider range of issues affecting modern Britain.

From highlighting the issue of elder abuse, to issuing advice about disability hate crime and the new threats of cybercrime and fraud and we really do appreciate your help.

At its heart Neighbourhood Watch is all about looking out for the people around you and this Christmas we hope our members will spare a little time to check on their elderly and vulnerable neighbours.

We know that loneliness and isolation can be extra risk factors in making older people more vulnerable to crimes such as telephone, doorstep and postal fraud.

You - our fantastic Neighbourhood Watch members are in a unique position to help – in a small but meaningful way. Will you help us with our New Year's resolution to actively support neighbours who might benefit from the varied advice we offer.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to you all and thank you again for all you do.

Welcome to our new Trustees



We're delighted to welcome our new Chair and four new Trustees to the Neighbourhood Watch Network.

David Huse, OBE, is our new chair of Trustees. David, who headed the London Ambassador Volunteer Programme for the 2012 Olympic Games and is a former Sales Director for Heinz and Procter and Gamble, took the reins of NWN earlier this month. "I'm delighted to become chair of this incredible movement of volunteers who do so much to keep their communities safe," said David. "I want to build on the proven success Neighbourhood Watch has had in lowering crime and develop a wider new vision that reflects the changing face of crime and communities today."

Meet our new Trustees on page 10!

Crime rises to highest level since 2007

More than five million crimes were reported to police last year, latest figures from the ONS show.

Police forces across England and Wales recorded 5.2 million offences in the year to the end of June, which was up by 13% on the previous 12 months and returning to levels not seen since 2007.

There was an 19% increase in the number of sexual offences recorded in England and Wales, up to 129,700. There was a similar rise in the number of violent crimes, which rose from 1,033,719 cases the previous year to 1,229,260 cases this year.



There has been a rise in crimes of many kinds as the number of offences reported to police rose past 5 million over the last year. Sexual offences and violence are up 19%, burglary 6%.

Office for National Statistics (ONS) data reveals the rise in violence was driven by increases in the violence without injury (21%) and stalking and harassment (36%) sub-categories.

There was also a 10% rise in the violence with injury category, which was mainly down to a jump in recorded assaults.

The ONS report said: 'Most of this volume increase was thought to result from improved recording practices but it is likely that rises in the most serious categories reflect

genuine rises in violent crime. These lower volume but serious offences are thought to be generally well-recorded by the police.'

Police recorded an 11% rise in the number of thefts, with the crime continuing to rise over last two years.

Forces also logged 664 homicides in the 12 months from July 2016, which was a 2% fall compared with the previous year.

However, the ONS said recent trends have been affected by recording of incidents where there were multiple victims, such as 96 cases of manslaughter from the Hillsborough disaster and the recent terrorist attacks in London and Manchester.

If cases related to Hillsborough and the terror attacks are excluded, the homicide tally went up by 46, following a 'general upward trend' seen in recent years.

However according to the separate ***Crime Survey of England and Wales***, there was no significant change in the estimated number of incidents of violence experienced by adults aged 16 or over.

The statistics also revealed that in the year to June 2017 police recorded 36,998 involving a knife or sharp instrument.

Violence of all kinds has also risen, with the total number of violent offences now at 1.2 million.

This was the highest number since comparable data records started seven years ago, with 38 out of 44 forces seeing a rise. The Metropolitan Police had the sharpest jump, accounting for nearly half of the rise across England and Wales.

The number of knife crimes recorded in England and Wales last year was the highest since 2011.

Counting crime

Police-recorded offences are one of two official sources used to analyse trends in crime. The other is the ***Crime Survey for England and Wales***, which gave an estimated total of 10.8 million incidents of crime in the year to the end of June.

This figure includes experimental data on fraud and computer misuse offences, and annual comparisons will not be available until January.

John Flatley, crime specialist for the ONS, said: 'The figures suggest that the police are dealing with a growing volume of crime. While improvements made by police forces in recording crime are still a factor in the increase, we judge that there have been genuine increases in crime – particularly in some of the low incidence but more harmful categories.

'Police figures cannot provide a good measure of all crime in society, since we know that a large volume of it never comes to their attention.

'The recent increases in recorded crime need to be seen in the context of the overall decline in crime indicated by the ***Crime Survey for England and Wales***. The ***Survey*** remains our best guide to long-term trends for crime as experienced by the population in general.'

To see the figures [click here](#).



Modern slavery – how to spot the signs

Our partner Crimestoppers has launched a new campaign to raise awareness of the issue of modern slavery.

Modern Slavery is an international crime that affects an estimated 29.8 million slaves around the world.

Crimestoppers estimates there are 13,000 people held in slavery in the UK today. In 2015 there were 3,266 potential victims identified and referred to the National Crime Agency.

The campaign shares some useful posters that Neighbourhood Watch groups can use to raise awareness of this important issue.

Modern Slavery takes a number of forms including sexual exploitation and forced labour. Often the person is forced or compelled to work and they are often controlled by an 'employer', usually through mental or physical abuse or the threat of abuse. Signs that someone might be a victim of modern slavery include:

- Show signs of injury, abuse and malnourishment
- Look unkempt, often in the same clothing and have poor hygiene
- Be under the control and influence of others
- Live in cramped, dirty, overcrowded accommodation
- Have no access or control of their passport or identity documents
- Appear scared, avoid eye contact, and be untrusting
- Be collected very early and/or returned late at night on a regular basis
- May have inappropriate clothing for the work they are performing, and/or a lack of safety equipment
- May be isolated from the local community and their family.

To learn more about the campaign and to access the resources click [here](#)



Thanks for your help

Thank you to the tens of thousands of people who took part in our recent, anonymous Domestic Violence Survey.

An incredible 27,127 people from across England and Wales filled in the survey that was featured in October's edition of *Our News*.

Jayne Pascoe, Strategic Partnerships Director, at Neighbourhood Watch, said: "This was an incredible response and the results have given us a rich source of information. We're now looking at the results with our partner Crimestoppers to see how we can work together - and with other key partners - to help our members have the information and resources they need to support victims and help us to signpost people to the right place to report their concerns."

Tackling domestic abuse is a national priority for the Home Office, Police, Neighbourhood Watch and Crimestoppers.

Neighbourhood Watch is working with Crimestoppers to raise awareness about domestic abuse and what our supporters and volunteers can do to help prevent and report it.

Read Jacqui's Blog

Earlier this year our valued sponsor ERA Home Security recruited home security expert Jacqui Hames to write an entertaining and informative blog for their website.

Jacqui – who is also a great friend of Neighbourhood Watch - is a great writer and her December blog about what being neighbourly means at this time of year is a must read this Christmas!

Jacqui, who was a police detective for 30 years and a BBC Crimewatch presenter for 16, always shares worthwhile tips and advice.

Read it [here](#)



Free nuisance call blockers for those with dementia

The National Trading Standards Scam Team – our trusted Neighbourhood Watch partner – has secured Government funding to provide free call blocking technology to protect those in the most vulnerable circumstances from nuisance and scam calls.

Free call blockers will be available to any person living with dementia that is currently receiving scam or nuisance calls.

We all receive unwanted phone calls. They are a nuisance, but they also put us at risk of being scammed and this risk is even more acute for those who are living with dementia.

If you are eligible for a free call blocker, it will be installed and set up by a qualified engineer who will show you how to manage the unit's settings.

Once you receive a unit, it will become yours to keep and the NTS Scams Team will not be asking for it to be returned at any point. There is no cost to the user for the unit; however, we recommend that the "caller display" service is activated on the user's phone line for the unit to perform at its best.

One month after installation you will be contacted by a member of the NTS Scams Team and asked to complete a short survey to assess how effective the unit has been at blocking nuisance calls and how you feel about nuisance calls since receiving the unit. The NTS Scams Team will contact you again, three months after installation, to carry out another survey.

Please note there is a LIMITED number of units and they will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Click [here](#) to apply.



Co-op launches online hazard hotspot map for drivers

Co-op Insurance has launched a new interactive map enabling drivers to spot England's incident hotspots, so that they can best plan their driving routes.

The tool called **Hazard Hotspots** allows motorists to input the postcode that they're travelling from and that of their final destination to understand the distance, time it will take and the number of reported collisions which have taken place on that route, so that they can take extra care whilst driving.

Within the tool, routes are colour-coded from yellow to orange to red based on the number of collisions reported to police forces across England in the last 12 months.

The tool uses the Department for Transport's data relating to road traffic collisions, of which 123,353 were reported across England in the last 12 months.

Of these, 25,157 occurred in London, 22,179 took place in the South East and 13,497 were reported in the East of England.

The **Hazard Hotspot** tool follows Co-op's previous interactive map for drivers, Park Smart. The tool was created to allow motorists to see where most vehicle break-ins occur, enabling them to make safer choices when parking.

Nick Ansley, Head of Motor Insurance at the Co-op, commented: "The new online tool will allow drivers to plan and make informed choices about their driving routes, where possible avoiding areas where most incidents occur."

Co-op's Hazard Hotspot tool can be found [here](#)

Co-op Insurance reveals fascinating statistics

Homeowners who have been a victim of a break-in are two and a half times as likely to be targeted again, according to Co-op Insurance's latest claims data.

Furthermore, for those homeowners who are unfortunately targeted a second time, Co-op's claims data reveals this is approximately 16 months after the first break in took place.

Highlighting a need to make homeowners feel more safe and secure at home, research among a panel of homeowners conducted by the Co-op shows that two fifths (38%) feel nervous at the thought of someone unexpected approaching their door.

Over a tenth (13%) said they wouldn't answer the door if this was the case and a further tenth (12%) said they only answer their door to friends and family.

Co-op's claims data also highlights that home break-ins are 43% more likely to occur in November and December, in comparison to the summer months.

ERA

Dear Santa



I always ask for the latest gadget for Christmas and a myriad of clothing; something casual, something for work, a new 'going out' top. However, as I was writing my list, I spotted one of my neighbours struggling with their bin and I've decided to do a Neighbourhood Wish List instead:

For No 2 – please send a, ERA Video Intercom. He is an older gentleman and callers are always at his door despite him having a sticker in his window. With a video intercom he can still talk to the person at the door but can choose whether to open it or not.

For No 4, 6,10 and 12 – when delivering leaflets, I spotted they had cylinder locks with no stars. Please send them ERA 3* Cylinder locks to guard against snapping and some simple 'how to replace' instructions. They take seconds to change and involve removing 1 screw. You can find out how to measure their locks for the right size cylinder on www.erahomesecurity.com

For No 15 – I noticed their alarm box no longer flashes and looks old and worn. Their house needs a lot of work, so a new alarm box will be last on their list. Please send an ERA Valiant Alarm – A Solar Siren with sensors – its wireless, so it's simple to fit and doesn't need batteries changing.

For No 16 – please send a new ERA British Standard Nightlatch. When I called last week, Nora struggled to open the door as the catch was sticking and I can't imagine how she would open the door in an emergency. This is the only lock on her door and she relies on the Nightlatch as her only line of defence, so it must be British Standard Kitemarked, not like the fragile one fitted now.

For No 21 – Their younger kids give me a heart attack hanging out of the window at all times of year! Please send the ERA Cable Restrictor – an easy to fit window restrictor that passes all required BS EN standards including Grade 3 impact. It means the window can be open with no risk of the kids falling.

And finally for No 25 – please can you give them an I.O.U for the new TouchKey lock coming out next year? I heard it is a keyless Nightlatch for Timber or Composite doors that works with a smart phone. I worry that because she finds walking difficult, she hands out spare keys to lots of people and that's not very safe. With TouchKey, she can allocate E-Keys to visitors or let them in remotely with her phone.

I know all of these things can seem quite complicated Santa, so should you want further advice, please don't hesitate to look at the ERA website which has lots of information www.erahomesecurity.com or email your questions to eraexpert@erahomesecurity.com and they will be able to help you quickly. Please make sure you say **SANTA ADVICE** in the subject line of your email so they know to help you quickly as I wouldn't want you to be late delivering presents for Christmas.

One last thing, in case you were wondering, I recommend ERA instead of your elves making 'own brand' security gifts, as ERA work in partnership with the Neighbourhood Watch, believe in good quality security products and are the tradesman's choice, therefore they must be good.

Many thanks for helping me look after my neighbours

Holly Smith

Even tech savvy teens are still at risk online



Get Safe Online
Free expert advice

Tech savvy teens who live their lives online are now more than TWICE as likely to fall victim to internet conmen than over 55's, a surprising new study from our partner Get Safe Online shows.

Worryingly more than one in ten of the youngsters polled (11%), who are aged 18 to 24, have fallen victim to 'phishing' scams – where fraudsters access personal details through online communication – compared to just one in 20 (5%) of over 55s.

Get Safe Online is the UK's leading source of information on online safety.

Despite claiming to be very digitally aware, millennials and Gen Z cybercrime victims also lose far more money in the attacks, averaging £613.22 compared to £214.70 for the older generation.

In the survey most people (38%) believed that hackers were likely to be young. The same number believed they were targeted by a large international hacking organisation and almost a quarter (23%) thought that advanced technical skills are needed to carry out a phishing attack.

This could be why over one in ten (11%) millennials don't believe that the older generation has the skills to phish, and almost the same number (9%) believe it's 'only old people' who fall for phishing scams.

To prove that anyone can get phished – and equally that anyone could be behind phishing – Get Safe Online trained a group of grandmas, dubbed the 'Scammer Nanas', to phish their grandkids and dispel the convictions of a quarter of young people (27%) who believe they are too smart to fall for scams.

Five nanas were recruited from across the UK to learn how to perpetrate a phishing email. Their schooling included faking their email address, creating false links, inventing a fake 'company' and writing a convincing fake email. They then put their knowledge to the test and phished their grandkids with emails with fraudulent links – proving that young people aren't as savvy as they think.

Cyber experts are blaming the rise in teenage and 20-something victims on being more trusting of online communication than older generations.

The report showed the most common phishing con is a fake email claiming to be from a bank or other financial organisation, asking for consumers to change or verify their login details. Over half (51%) received this type of email, followed by 33% who were sent an email from a company asking them to update logins or provide account details.

Sue Parker-Nuttley, one of the Scammer Nanas added: "The internet is a wonderful thing – it's helped me to stay in touch with friends and family. However, it's astounding how easy it can be for online fraudsters to succeed in their efforts – if I can do it, then anyone can."

"However, there are some really simple things that you can do to protect yourself – like turning on your spam filter or never clicking on links or attachments if you're suspicious. It's not difficult and it could save you a heap of trouble down the line."

To find out more, please head to www.getsafeonline.org/scammernanas or search #ScammerNana on social media.



Home insurance that offsets



1  10%

of your home's carbon emissions
in the first year of your policy
at no extra cost to you.*

Plus an exclusive 10% discount off home policies for
Neighbourhood Watch members

Call us for a quote on 0800 781 1390

Offer may be withdrawn at any time. It is available to new customers who purchase home insurance over the phone and quote NHW10.
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- *Home 10% carbon emission figure calculated from the average UK home emitting 4.4 tonnes of CO2 through energy use, based on 2017-published typical household energy consumption from Ofgem and 2016 DEFRA conversion factors.
- ^**Neighbourhood Watch 10% discount offer - General Terms.** All new Co-op Insurance customers who are active members of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and purchase a home insurance policy directly from Co-op Insurance over the phone will receive a 10% discount for the first year of their policy. In order to claim this offer you will need to telephone our customer contact centre for a quote, and give the advisor the unique code. An active member of a valid Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is someone who is designated as such by Neighbourhood Watch. The terms and conditions of this promotion do not alter or vary the terms and conditions of any Co-op Insurance home policy which may be purchased. We reserve the right to decline any application for any insurance policy in our absolute discretion and we are not obliged to disclose any reason for rejection. The Promoter reserves the right to withdraw, modify or terminate this offer in whole or in part in the event that it is necessary to do so. Please visit www.ourwatch.org.uk/exclusions-and-limitations/ for Exclusions and Limitations for this offer.
- A new customer is someone who has not had an Insurance policy of the same type with Co-op Insurance in the last 12 months.
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CARDIFF

Busy Bill is at it again!

Bill Farnham, chair of Cardiff Neighbourhood Watch Association has had another busy couple of months!

Ella Rabiaotti, pictured centre, Crimestoppers' Area Manager for Wales, was the guest speaker at Cardiff NW Association's recent AGM where Bill was re-elected again as Chairman.

Ella gave a presentation on the work of Crimestoppers which was well received by the audience which included NW coordinators as well as South Wales Police officers.



Bill took his trusty Neighbourhood Watch display table to Radyr Comprehensive School for the recent Children in Need appeal. Bill raised £53 by selling flashing dog lights and credit card protection sleeves.

Bill joined PCSO Gary Dunning at a sponsored exercise bike ride to raise money for Bobath Children's Therapy Centre, Wales for children who suffer from Cerebral Palsy. The magnificent sum of £572.27p was raised and participants cycled 290 miles between them!



The Grangetown, Cardiff "Safety Week" saw Bill and other NW volunteers and members of the Cardiff Council Road Safety Team offering a free safety check to cyclists. More than 50 cyclists were stopped and most accepted the offer of the safety check.

LONDON – WESTMINSTER



Ripped off, conned or scammed by a cowboy trader or rogue builder at home?

Plimsoll Productions is making a new TV series warning people about the traders and scammers who overcharge and rip people off.

If you, or someone you know, has been the target of a doorstep conman, get in touch.

Please email:
traders@plimsollproductions.com
or call us on
07739 990 539

 **PLIMSOLL PRODUCTIONS**

ANY PERSONAL DETAILS SENT TO US WILL BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, AND HELD SECURELY IN COMPLIANCE WITH DATA PROTECTION REGULATION. IF YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCES MIGHT BE USED IN THE PROGRAMME WE WILL CONTACT YOU TO DISCUSS FURTHER.

After eighteen months of constant effort by a small team of Westminster NW volunteers the **City of Westminster Neighbourhood Watch Association** was formally established in August to represent the interests of watches across the London Borough of Westminster.

Nick Parker, Chairman of the City of Westminster Neighbourhood Watch Association, has worked tirelessly with the Metropolitan Police and local coordinators to establish the Association. An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held at **6.30pm on 31st January, 2018 at Belgravia Police Station** to discuss matters of general interest and consider candidates for the Committee. Nominations of those with legal or journalistic qualifications would be particularly welcome.

For organisational and security purposes, co-ordinators wishing to attend must respond by 15th January, 2018. An agenda will be circulated and suggestions of items to be included are welcome. Please contact parker@middleeastadvice.com

KINGSTON UPON THAMES

EMERGENCY FIRST AID TALK

Saturday 20th January 2018

9.45am for 10am at St Mark's Church Hall

**St. Mark's Church, St. Mark's Hill,
Surbiton, Surrey KT6 4LS**



Have you ever thought about learning how to save someone's life?

Would you know what to do if someone suffered a cardiac arrest, heart attack or was choking?

Do join us for this life-saving talk which will be delivered by a paramedic, lasts two hours and teaches basic life-support skills to enable you to give life-saving support until ambulance staff arrive.

St Mark's Church is a 5 minute walk from Surbiton town centre and mainline railway station (turn right out of the station front entrance and walk up the hill; the Church is on your left and the hall is behind it.

Attendance is free but booking is essential. Please email kingstonnhw@gmail.com to book your place

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David was an existing Trustee of NWN, and was selected as the new Chair earlier this year following an open trustee recruitment process.

He started his career at Procter and Gamble as Sales and Marketing Director. He moved to Heinz as Sales Director before leading the London Ambassador Volunteer Programme for the Mayor. In 2015 he was CEO of Waterloo200 – the charity set up to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. He also currently works with UNICEF and Deloitte on various projects. In 2014, he was awarded an OBE for services to the voluntary and community sector in the UK.

NWN is the strategic voice for the movement and is supported by the Home Office and sponsors ERA Home Security and the Co-op Insurance. Formerly known as the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network (NHNW), NWN has now converted to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and changes its name to the Neighbourhood Watch Network.

Following David's appointment our outgoing chair **Lynn Farrar** (pictured below), who has headed the movement since 2016, is looking forward to a well-earned rest but will resume her place as a Trustee on the Board.



Welcome to our new trustees

A warm welcome to our four new trustees who took their place on the NWN Board of Trustees earlier this month.

The new trustees bring a wide range of experience to help support the Board and we are delighted they have chosen to help us take the movement forward.



Joe Pearce – NWN Treasurer – Joe has spent the last eight years at Royal Bank of Canada in London, prior to which he held positions at the Financial Services Authority and for KPMG working in both Audit & Advisory roles. He has a BSc in Economics from University College London (UCL) and is a Chartered Accountant with the ICAEW.



Jessica Taplin – Jessica is currently CEO at v•inspired, the nation's leading youth social action charity. Previously Jessica was CEO at Get Connected, the UK telephone helpline for under 25s, successfully leading its merger with Youth Net to create The Mix. Jessica also headed up Partnerships and Public Engagement at The Big Lottery Fund. In 2014 she won an ACEVO Judge's Recognition Award for her people centred leadership.



Rachel Griffin – Rachel is CEO of Suzy Lamplugh Trust. She joined Suzy Lamplugh Trust from Victim Support where she managed projects and policy relating to domestic violence, police and crime commissioners and partnership working. Previously she was at Voice for the Child in Care, where she established the Alliance for Child-centred Care. Before going into policy and development, Rachel was a fundraiser for five years, first at the National Deaf Children's Society and then at The Prince's Trust.



Kirsty McHugh – Kirsty has been chief executive of ERSA since 2010, the membership body for providers of employment support, during which time she has overseen a fivefold increase in membership and a major expansion of services. Prior to ERSA, Kirsty spent nine years at Business in the Community (BITC) – the national charity dedicated to responsible business.