



HeathWatch

The quarterly Neighbourhood Watch newsletter for Surrey Heath



Issue 93 | Autumn 2026

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surreyheathnw.co.uk

A message from our chairman, Alan Howell

Welcome to the Autumn HeathWatch Newsletter and please do remember to let us know if you have any suggestions or want to request any future topics that you would like to see.

As you read through this edition you will see that our Support Group is once again asking for your help with fund raising and the programme of various community events across the Borough. There have

been a few personnel changes in the Support Group which is another reason why we are looking for volunteers.

In the update from our temporary Police Inspector Ryan Scott, you will read that they are also looking for our support again in sharing crime prevention advice with friends, family, neighbours, and local residents. Later in the year we may also be asked to walk with local police officers and councillors again, around a few local hotspots in order to remind everyone how to keep themselves and their property safe during the darker winter months. Ryan has also provided some tips on this too.

It was also good to read that Surrey Heath had the lowest recorded burglary rates across the force over the past year, but this should not make us complacent and we need to keep up the great work that we have been doing.

I do hope that you enjoy reading this edition and please also remember to stay safe at home and online.

Warm regards,

Alan Howell - Chairman
Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch

alanhowell@surreyheathnw.co.uk

Dates for your diary

The upcoming Watch Coordinator & Members meetings will be held at St. Mary's Church Centre, Park Road, Camberley, GU15 2SR, at 7.30pm:

Monday 28th September 2026

Monday 30th November 2026

Monday 29th March 2027

Monday 28th June 2027

These are open to all Watch Coordinators and all members of the Watches.

We usually have a local Police spokesperson to provide an update and take any questions, as well as a guest speaker.

Help Secure Our Community

Every year we aim to attend events across the Borough to offer practical security advice to residents and encourage more local families to join Neighbourhood Watch in Surrey Heath, helping to make our community safer and more connected.

So far this year we have attended many local events including the Bisley

Strawberry Fayre, The Frimley Green Carnival and the Mytchett Family Fun Day.

We're always looking for people to help on the Neighbourhood Watch stand for an hour or more - just chatting to people helps promote Neighbourhood Watch, while being a source of information about home security and products.

Join the Support Group

The Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group coordinates Neighbourhood Watch across the Borough. The Support Group meets every two months, and we are seeking new volunteers to join the Group. We still need: a Meetings Secretary (to keep a record of our meetings); a Community Events Organiser (to coordinate our attendance at local community fetes,

fayres and fun days), a Membership Secretary (to keep our membership records up to date); and a Social Media Coordinator to help us improve our Social Media presence.

If you are interested in any of the roles or helping us generally then please contact Alan Howell -

alanhowell@surreyheathnw.co.uk



This newsletter is produced by the Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group with the support of Surrey Heath Police and funding from Surrey County Council and Windlesham Parish Council. We gratefully acknowledge their generosity in supporting us.

| Working together to prevent burglary this Autumn

As we approach autumn and the darker evenings that come with it, we traditionally see an increase in burglary offences. Criminals often take advantage of longer hours of darkness, making it easier to target homes that appear unoccupied or insecure.

Neighbourhood Watch members play a vital role in helping keep our communities safe, and we are asking for your support in sharing crime prevention advice with friends, family, neighbours, and local residents.

What to Look Out For

Please remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity, including:

- Unknown individuals repeatedly walking or driving around residential areas.
- People looking into windows, gates, sheds, or parked vehicles.
- Unexpected callers asking unusual questions about occupants or their routines.
- Vehicles parked suspiciously for prolonged periods.

- Individuals carrying tools or items in circumstances that appear unusual.

Remember, whilst any of these behaviours may have a legitimate explanation, reporting concerns allows police to build intelligence and respond appropriately.

Crime Prevention Advice for Residents

Simple steps can significantly reduce the risk of burglary:

- Lock all doors and windows, even when at home.
- Use timer switches on lights to create the impression that someone is in.
- Keep valuable items, vehicle keys, and handbags out of sight.
- Install and maintain good quality door and window locks.
- Ensure sheds, garages, and outbuildings are secure.
- Consider security lighting and CCTV where appropriate.
- Avoid advertising holidays or periods away from home on social media.
- Mark and register valuable property where possible.

If neighbours are away, consider helping by moving bins, collecting post, or parking on their driveway to make the property appear occupied.

If you see a crime in progress or someone is in immediate danger, call 999. For non-emergency information or to report suspicious activity, contact police via 101 or the appropriate online reporting service.

Surrey Heath has actually had the lowest recorded burglaries across the Force for the past year, this does not mean we should be complacent by any means and will still look to actively target offenders and provide advice and reassurance where possible.

Ryan Scott

Temporary Police Inspector 40400
Surrey Heath Safer Neighbourhood Team
07720044284
101 ext 36746
ryan.scott@surrey.police.uk

| Village Stories

In line with the new national Neighbourhood Watch Strategy (2026-2030), SHNW will be working hard to promote how we support and engage our communities, and to share stories of our impact.

At its core, Neighbourhood Watch is about much more than just reporting crime; it is about bringing neighbours together to build a safer, more connected community for everyone. By actively engaging with one another, we create a vital network of daily support that benefits every single resident on the street. These regular, everyday interactions foster a profound collective impact, ensuring no one has to face unexpected challenges or worries alone.

The following story from a Watch Coordinator beautifully illustrates how this shared culture of neighbourly care can shield any member of our community from distress.

Surrey Fire and Rescue: A Most Valuable Neighbour

At a SHNW coordinators meeting Surrey Fire and Rescue made a presentation highlighting fire safety. Part of this suggested making fire escape plans in case of emergency. The fire service also volunteered to visit any SHNW members who were vulnerable and advise accordingly.

One of the watch coordinators has a disabled partner who is completely immobile, following the meeting they decided to contact Surrey fire and rescue. Much to the coordinators delight a

few days later a fire tender with a full complement of firefighters called in, took a look at the dwelling and made suggestions not only for an escape route but also additional fire safety precautions concerning door locks.

The coordinator was delighted the brigade had visited commenting that they would not have contacted Surrey Fire and Rescue if they had not attended the coordinators meeting.

If you have a story to share and want us to celebrate the positive impact that Neighbourhood Watch has had for you or your community, let us know! Email the Editor to share your story: **lez.rayman-bacchus@surreyheathnw.co.uk**

Download the full new NW Strategy here: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/about-us/who-we-are/our-values>

| Neighbourhood Watch Strategy (2026-2030)

At Neighbourhood Watch we revisit our strategy every 5 years and make adjustments to meet changing circumstances. Here is a summary of our strategy for the next 5 years.

Working Together for Safer, Friendlier Communities

What We're All About

Neighbourhood Watch wants every street to feel safe, connected and welcoming. Our mission is simple: help people feel safer, support each other, and take pride in where we live.

This strategy is shaped by over 11,000 voices from across the UK - neighbours, volunteers, partners and supporters.

Why This Matters

Neighbourhoods thrive when people feel safe and supported. A simple hello, a shared conversation, or a small act of kindness can spark real change. Together, we can build communities where everyone feels they belong.

Our Three Big Focus Areas

1. Watch - Keeping Each Other Safe

We share trusted information to help prevent crime, including modern threats like scams and cybercrime. Small actions — like staying informed and looking out for one another — make a big difference.

2. Connect - Bringing People Together

Loneliness is rising, but friendly communities can change that. We help neighbours meet, chat and build real connections.

3. Act - Making Our Neighbourhoods Better

From litter picks to local projects, we support simple actions that improve our shared spaces.

What We Aim to Achieve by 2030

1. Bring Neighbours Together

We want more people to feel part of their community. We're launching:

- A Flexible Volunteering Programme so anyone can help in small, easy ways.
- Communi Tea Spaces - friendly meet ups over a cuppa.
- A Buddy Scheme to support new coordinators.
- Stronger partnerships with local services and charities.

2. Show Our Impact

We'll share stories, evidence and real examples of how communities are becoming safer and more connected.

3. Be Trusted and Innovative

We're modernising Neighbourhood Watch with new tools, training and digital resources. Cyberhood Watch will grow to help people stay safe online.

| Engagement

This was an event at the Camberley shopping centre on 17th August 2026, called Machinize Community Engagement, attended by the Police, Trading Standards, Crimestoppers and members of the Neighbourhood Watch Support Group.

Operation Machinize 2 is led by the National Crime Agency (NCA) and conducted in cooperation with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), ran throughout October 2025 and involved every UK police force and Regional Organised Crime Unit, Home Office Immigration Enforcement, Trading Standards, HM Revenue & Customs and Companies House.

Thousands of premises have been targeted in the second iteration of Operation Machinize. During the operation, the partnership delivered:

- 2734 premises visited and raided
- 924 individuals arrested
- Over £10.7m of suspected criminal proceeds seized
- Over £2.7m worth of illicit commodities destroyed

What is Operation Machinize?

It is a coordinated national law enforcement campaign led by the National Crime Agency (NCA) targeting organised crime networks that exploit cash-intensive high-street businesses, used as fronts for money laundering, drug trafficking, and illegal immigration. Such businesses masquerade as barbershops, car washes, nail salons, and mini-marts. In Surrey Heath and across Surrey, local police and partner agencies collaborate under this framework to inspect premises and disrupt the grey economy.





Supporting your Neighbourhood Watch

Surrey Heath Lottery

- This is our main source of funding and we are so grateful to all that play and support us.
- For each £1 ticket purchased we receive 50p and this has enabled us to raise nearly £19,000 in the last 7 years!
- Weekly jackpot is £25,000 and there are smaller prizes for matching fewer numbers. We get winners who support us nearly every week!
- Join the fun at www.surreyheathlottery.co.uk/support/surrey-heath-neighbourhood-watch-support-group

Friends of SHNW

- Some people prefer not to play the lottery but still want to support us by donating to help cover our running costs.
- If you can donate £25 or more in a year then we'll recognise you as a 'Friend of Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch'. Many thanks to 'Friends' who have renewed their 'Friends Membership' since the last newsletter including Dennis Vance (5th year!) and a special welcome to new members Angela Mitchell and Cedric Platts.
- Donations can be made on our website (www.surreyheathnw.co.uk), by bank transfer (Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group, Sort code 30-91-53, A/C 00859924) or by sending us a cheque (C/O Police Office, Surrey Heath House, Knoll Road, Camberley, GU15 3HD).

Easyfundraising

- For those of you that buy things online, you can raise money for us without it costing you a penny - the retailers will pay us!
- Sign up at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> and say that you wish to donate to the "Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group" and add the "Donation Reminder" to your browser. When you shop at a participating retailer you will be asked if you would like a donation to come to us.
- So far we have raised £295 from this scheme so please join us if you buy things online and if you have already signed up then please don't forget to agree to donate when you buy things online.

Neighbourhood Watch key contacts

Design Out Crime Officers (DOCO) - contact for advice on crime prevention.

Stephen Cake & Nick Street,
crimereduction@surrey.police.uk

Camberley, St Pauls, Old Dean, Town, St Michaels & Watchetts

Alan Hitchcock, 078300 69150, ahitchcock@surreyheathnw.co.uk

Frimley, Parkside, Heatherside, Deepcut, Frimley Green & Mytchett

Jackie Davies, 01276 506215, jdavies@surreyheathnw.co.uk

Lightwater, Chobham & Windlesham

Mike Potter, 07985 506624, mpotter@surreyheathnw.co.uk

Bisley & West End

Wendy Evans, 07733 444046, wendyevans@surreyheathnw.co.uk

Bagshot

Chris Seaton, 07544 553367, chriseaton@surreyheathnw.co.uk

Surrey Heath Police Neighbourhood Team Coordinators

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