

Bolton Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter



March 2026

Reporting Crime Through Crimestoppers: Why Your Voice Matters

If you've ever witnessed something suspicious but hesitated to speak up, you're not alone. Many people worry about getting involved, being identified, or facing repercussions. That's exactly why **Crimestoppers** exists — to give every member of the public a safe, anonymous way to share information that could prevent harm, protect communities, and bring offenders to justice.

What Is Crimestoppers?

Crimestoppers is an independent charity that allows people to report crime **100% anonymously**. They are not the police, and they never ask for your name, your contact details, or any identifying information. Their only goal is to pass useful intelligence to law enforcement so action can be taken.

This anonymity is more than a promise — it's a core principle. Crimestoppers has operated for over 35 years without ever revealing a caller's identity.

How You Can Report

You can share information in two ways:

- **Online:** Submit a secure, anonymous form at the [Crimestoppers website](#).
- **Phone:** Call 0800 555 111 to speak with a trained call handler who will listen without judgement.

Both methods strip away identifying details. Even your IP address isn't recorded.

What Kind of Information Helps?

Crimestoppers is interested in anything that could help prevent or solve crime, including:

- Drug dealing or production
- Violent crime or weapons
- Fraud and scams
- Human trafficking or exploitation
- Suspicious behaviour that doesn't feel right
- Information about wanted individuals

You don't need proof — just honest information. Even small details can complete a bigger picture.

Why Reporting Matters

Every tip has the potential to:

- Protect vulnerable people
- Prevent serious harm
- Support police investigations
- Reduce crime in your community
- Bring closure to victims and families

Many major cases have been solved because someone chose to speak up anonymously.

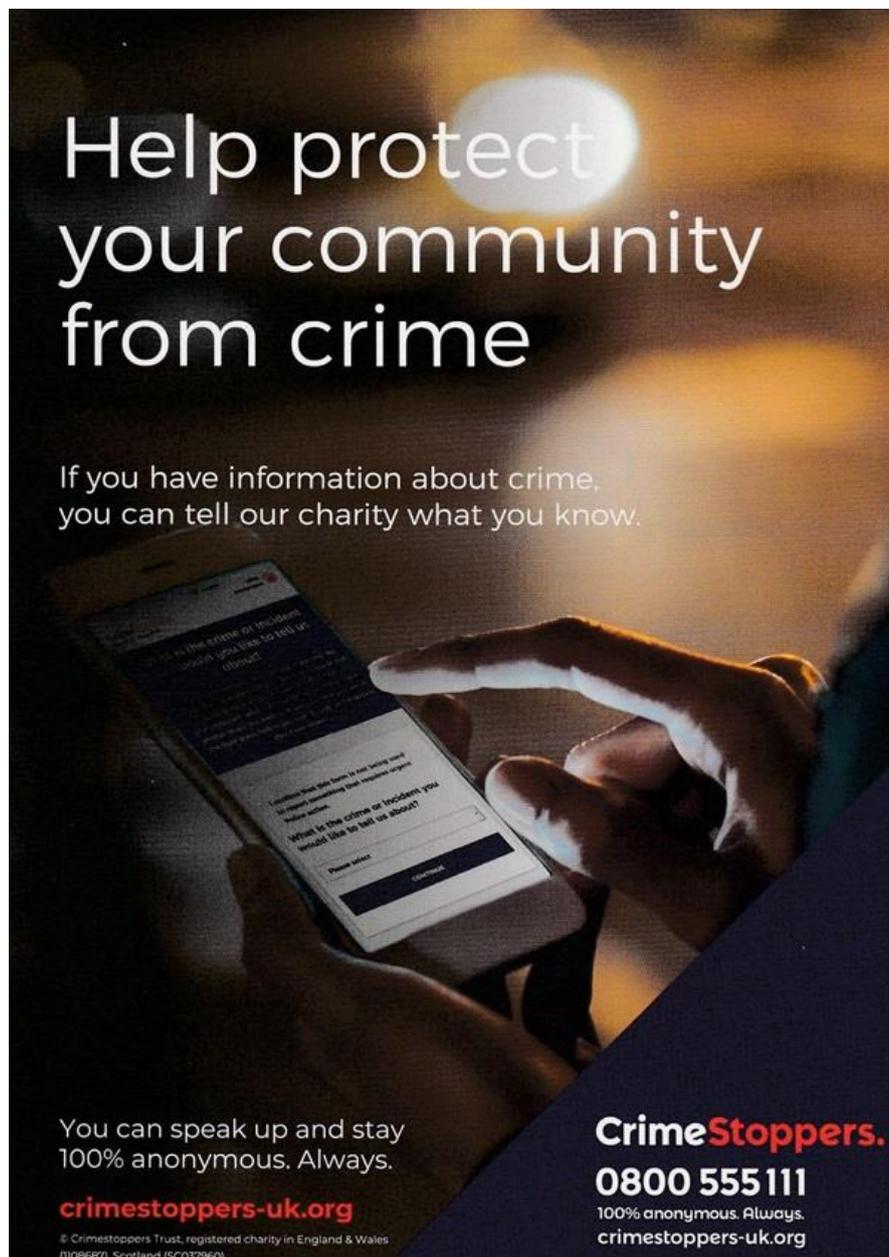
Your Community Needs You

Crime thrives in silence. When people feel unable to come forward, offenders operate unchecked. Crimestoppers breaks that cycle by giving everyone a safe, confidential way to act on their concerns.

If something doesn't feel right, trust your instincts. Your information could be the missing piece that keeps someone safe.

You don't have to give your name. You don't have to get involved. But you *can* make a difference.

If you know something about a crime, contact **Crimestoppers anonymously at 0800 555 111** or visit their [website](#). Your voice — even unheard — can help protect your community.



Help protect
your community
from crime

If you have information about crime,
you can tell our charity what you know.

You can speak up and stay
100% anonymous. Always.

crimestoppers-uk.org

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(1108687), Scotland (SC037960).

CrimeStoppers.
0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.
crimestoppers-uk.org

●●● **Join Neighbourhood Watch for FREE!** ●●●

Neighbourhood Watch is all about community, safety, and looking out for each other. By joining, you'll help reduce crime, share vital information, and make Bolton a safer, stronger place to live.

Together, we can protect our streets, support our neighbours, and build a communities we're proud of.

Sign up today and be the difference!

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/joinNW>



GREEN FINGERS OR LIGHT FINGERS WHO'S BUSIEST AROUND YOUR HOME?

- Ensure windows and doors are locked while in the garden
- Keep ladders & tools locked, secure and away from prying eyes
- Keep gates locked and fences in good repair
- Remove high value items from your shed
- Secure your wheelie bin

**1 IN 3 BURGLARIES ARE
THROUGH DOORS OR WINDOWS
LEFT OPEN OR UNLOCKED**

**GREATER MANCHESTER
POLICE**



Spring Into Safety: How to Prevent Burglaries as the Weather Warms

As the days get longer and the weather turns brighter, many of us throw open the windows, spend more time outdoors, and start planning holidays. Unfortunately, burglars know this too. Spring often brings a seasonal rise in opportunistic break-ins — not because crime is inevitable, but because homes are more likely to be left unsecured.

A few smart habits can make your home a far tougher target. Here's how to stay one step ahead this spring.

Why Spring Can Increase Burglary Risks

Spring creates the perfect storm of opportunity for would-be intruders:

- Windows left open for fresh air
- Garden tools and ladders left outside
- More people away from home on day trips
- Longer daylight hours revealing routines
- Home improvement projects that leave garages or sheds unlocked

Being aware of these patterns is the first step to preventing them.

Strengthen Your Home's First Line of Defence

A burglar will always choose the easiest target. Make sure that isn't your home.

- Check all locks on doors and windows — especially those rarely used.
- Install window restrictors so you can ventilate safely without leaving a full opening.
- Use deadbolts or multi-point locking systems on external doors.
- Secure sheds and garages, which often contain tools that can be used to break in.
- Upgrade weak points, such as old patio doors or flimsy locks.

A secure home is a less appealing home.

Tidy Up Your Outdoor Space

Your garden can either protect you or expose you.

- Trim hedges and bushes to remove hiding spots.
- Lock away ladders, tools, and equipment after gardening sessions.
- Use gravel on paths — it's noisy and discourages stealth.
- Install motion-activated lighting to illuminate dark corners.

Burglars prefer shadows. Good lighting and tidy sightlines make them think twice.

Make Smart Tech Work for You

You don't need a high-tech fortress — just a few clever additions.

- Video doorbells deter doorstep snooping.
- Smart plugs can turn lights on and off to mimic occupancy.
- Outdoor cameras provide visibility and evidence if needed.
- Alarm systems remain one of the strongest deterrents.

Even simple tech can create the impression that someone is always home.

Be Mindful When You're Out and About

Spring means more time away from home — but burglars watch for patterns.

- Avoid posting holiday plans or day trips online until you're back.
- Ask a neighbour to keep an eye out, collect parcels, or move bins.
- Keep valuables out of sight, especially laptops, jewellery, and car keys.
- Close windows and lock doors, even if you're only popping out briefly.

Small habits make a big difference.

Build a Community of Awareness

Neighbourhoods that look out for each other are safer.

- Share tips with neighbours.
- Report suspicious behaviour promptly.
- Join or start a neighbourhood watch group.
- Encourage others to secure their homes too.

A connected community is a resilient community.

Spring should be a season of renewal, not worry. By taking a few proactive steps, you can enjoy the sunshine knowing your home is protected. Burglary prevention isn't about fear — it's about confidence, awareness, and simple, consistent habits.

One Community - One Messaging System



**Neighbourhood
Watch**

