



HEATHWATCH

THE QUARTERLY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER FOR SURREY HEATH
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surreyheathnw.co.uk

A message from our chairman, Alan Howell

First of all I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who took part in the Winter Burglary Campaigns that were held around the borough during December and January. We handed out a number of free patio door alarms along with the usual crime awareness and prevention materials.

Everyone who I spoke to during the walkabout were most appreciative of the work that we were doing, which was great to hear, considering how very cold it felt during that evening in January.

You will see in Inspector Gemma Taylor's article that their crime prevention focus has now moved towards cybercrime and fraud, which is very prevalent nowadays. We seem to hear of new scams appearing almost daily sometimes and so we have to be especially careful and on our guard when receiving phone calls, emails and messages, including social media.

Falling victim to a scam can be devastating, both financially and emotionally.

Unfortunately, these fraudsters are coming up with a growing number of ways to try to part us from our cash, as the cost of living soars, and these often appear totally credible. According to latest figures from UK Finance, there were 1.4m cases of fraud in the first half of 2023, with criminals stealing £580m from consumers. You may be worried about your personal information getting into the wrong hands following recent reports of data leaks. There are websites that you can check to see if your personal information may be at risk. If you are worried, then you should change your passwords for any services that have been flagged. If you have used the same password on several services or websites, change them all. It's important to have different passwords for different websites and ideally use a password manager (such as Google Password Manager) for them. If you use a website or service that has a 2-step verification feature to log in, then you should enable this.

The Neighbourhood Watch website, including our own Surrey Heath site, contains very useful information about home and online security. We all must make ourselves aware of what to look out for and how we can protect ourselves.

Useful resources:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware/home> - general advice on how to stay secure online from the UK's National Cyber Security Centre.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/phishing-scams> - spot and report scam emails, texts, websites and calls.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/cybersprinters> - activities for parents/carers to use with young people at home (see 'The Game' and 'Home Activities').

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/information/infographics-ncsc> - to print and keep on hand.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/information-for/individuals-families> - a very comprehensive guide that includes what is cybersecurity, dealing with common cyber problems, data breaches, buying and selling second-hand devices and more.

<https://haveibeenpwned.com/> - check if your email address has been compromised.

<https://www.avast.com/random-password-generator#pc> - automatically generate unique passwords for all of your online accounts.

<https://www.nomoreransom.org/en/index.html> - learn more about ransomware.

Please stay safe at home and online.

Warm regards,

Alan Howell,
Chairman, Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch
07919 320135 - alanhowell@surreyheathnw.co.uk



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Update from Inspector Gemma Taylor

Hello again and thank you for taking the time to read my update.

During the winter months we have focussed our prevention work on burglary and acquisitive crime, as its frequency naturally increases as the evenings draw in. The rate of residential burglary in the last three months has remained low at 0.7 burglaries per 1,000 people in the population of Surrey Heath. Whilst there has been a rise in the last 28 days, across the year we remain the Borough with the least offences of burglary in Surrey.

Across two evenings in December and January we worked alongside NHW, the Council, Accent Housing and Ward Councillors to deliver four hundred patio door sensor alarms to the areas shown by data to be the most vulnerable, as well as many more houses being visited and provided with prevention advice.



Moving into February and through to March, our prevention focus will shift towards cybercrime and fraud.

January and February are the busiest months for new and existing users of online dating apps. This means it is also a busy time for cyber criminals posing as potential suitors, to steal your money and identity. On Tuesday 6th February, Surrey Police and Buckinghamshire Trading Standards hosted a webinar advising how to spot and stop a scam and prevent romance fraud. If you would like some more advice or support visit: Trading Standards - Surrey County Council (surreycc.gov.uk)

Additionally, Daniel Sykes from the Surrey and Sussex Cyber Crime Unit offers free one hour training sessions to any small businesses, community groups, charities, education facilities or other group that would benefit.

Training can take place in the form of an online event via MS Teams for small audiences, but in-person events can be arranged for audiences larger than 25. If the audience is vulnerable or uncomfortable with using technology, then it can be in person, regardless of event size. For further information, or to book a place on the

training, please contact Daniel on his email at: daniel.sykes1@surrey.police.uk

Finally, we are continuing to work hard to resolve the issue of drug use and supply around the Bagshot Green area of Bagshot. We are working with partner agencies to address the root cause of the problem and are disrupting those responsible by preventing them from having guests to their homes, potentially putting tenancies at risk and arresting offenders. One male remains remanded to prison for possession with intent to supply class A drugs.

We will continue to post regular updates on the Surrey Heath Beat Facebook page, so please give it a follow.

We need your help!

Every year your Neighbourhood Watch Support Group organises attendance at a number of events across the Borough. We take along our colourful gazebo and meet and greet as many people as possible, offering security advice and encouraging more people to get involved in Neighbourhood Watch here in Surrey Heath.

This year we've been invited to attend the following events in May and June:

- Chobham Carnival – 6th May
- St Peter's Frimley Spring Fayre – 11th May
- Lightwater Village Fete – 11th May
- Windlesham Fete – 8th June
- West End Village Fete – 8th June
- Collectively Camberley Armed Forces Day – 15th June
- Bisley Strawberry Fayre – 23rd June

Your Support Group members aim to attend all of these; however, we really need more help from members willing to volunteer a little time to man the stand with us. If you can help, even for just an hour or two, please contact me at mpotter@surreyheathnw.co.uk

Mike Potter – Surrey Heath NHW Support Group



Fundraising

Although joining Neighbourhood Watch is free, some people like to help cover our costs by giving a donation towards things like meeting room hire, purchasing Neighbourhood Watch signs and the printing costs for this newsletter. When an individual donates a minimum of £25 annually, we recognise them as a "Friend of Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch". We have been running this scheme for 4 years now and I'm delighted to say that we broke the £1,000 donation mark at the end of last year and donations now total over £1,100. In particular I would like to mention Douglas Fish and an anonymous member who have made **5 donations each** and Shirley Powell and Christine/Barry Stevens who have made **4 donations each**! We also welcome new member Alan Howell this month. If you wish to, you can donate as follows:

- By card via our secure website: <https://www.surreyheathnw.co.uk/donate-to-surrey-heath-neighbourhood-watch/>
- Make a payment direct to our bank: Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group, sort code 30-91-53, account number 00859924
- Send a cheque payable to "Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group" to Tim Tostevin, Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group, c/o Police Office, Surrey Heath House, Knoll Road, Camberley, GU15 3HD



We also really appreciate those of you who support us by playing the Surrey Heath Lottery. The consistent revenue from our supporters' participation serves as our primary source of funding. Playing costs from just £1 each week, of which 50p is paid to us. Each week, a jackpot of £25,000 is offered and a lady from Camberley has already won the jackpot once. Nearly every week we get winners of one prize or another who are supporting us. Use this QR code if you would like to participate in the fun, or visit our website at <https://www.surreyheathlottery.co.uk/support/surrey-heath-neighbourhood-watch-support-group> to join and support us. Each ticket you have also gives you a free entry into the month-end super draw and the chance to win a prize worth at least £1,000!



Finally, you can now support us for free when you shop online as well. Just by shopping online at any of more than 7,000 stores, such as M&S, Amazon, Just Eat, Waitrose, Asda, Morrisons, TUI, Go Compare, Money Supermarket and Compare the Market, a donation will be made to us. You only need to sign up for Easyfundraising at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>. You 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, you'll automatically be asked if you want to support us. Just say "yes", and everything you buy will automatically generate a donation to us – at no extra cost to you. It only takes a few minutes to sign up and the more people who use the system to make donations, the more funds we raise! If you have any questions about this just email me – timtostevin@surreyheathnw.co.uk. We would really appreciate your support!

Telephone Scams Advice

Phishing is an attempt to get your personal information by email, text, phone or social media. On the telephone it is easy to take a call when you are busy and gradually get drawn into a scam by listening to plausible information – sometimes including some of your personal details obtained from elsewhere. The tell-tale signs of a scam are still an urgent request or something which sounds too good to be true, but any call you are not expecting could be a scam.

I know that some people try to have some fun by stringing these scammers along or by giving them a piece of their mind. Whilst this might make you feel better, it is no longer a good idea!

This is because Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming more common and it can be used by scammers to record your voice so that they can subsequently use it to fool another party – this maybe someone in your family or even your bank. Obtaining a long enough recording to replicate your voice can be done in a few seconds, so the advice now is to hang up immediately you get one

of these calls – there is no need to be polite to these people!

If you think that these people may still be on the line e.g. if you want to ring back on a safe number, ensure that the landline has disconnected by removing the plug from the wall first or ring back on a different phone e.g. a mobile phone.

Finally, to prevent your family from being scammed, it is a good idea to have a family 'safe word' – a word that only you and your family know that can be quoted whenever you are asked for help – for example your daughter phoning because she needs you to send her some money. These things are not something to worry about, but just things to be aware of in case you get an unexpected call - now you'll know what to do!



Dates For Your Diary

The 2024 Quarterly meetings will be located at St. Mary's Church Centre, Camberley and the dates are:

Monday 24th June 2024 - 7:30pm

Monday 30th September 2024 - 7:30pm

Monday 25th November 2024 - 7:30pm


A Warm Welcome To The Following New Watch Coordinators


Kevin Lloyd-Bisley	Updown Hill & Cooper Road, Windlesham
Linda Palmer	Upper Gordon Road, Camberley
Stephen Wates	Old Pasture Road & Connop Way, Parkside
Katie Langhorn	Oakway Drive, Frimley
Latha Janakiraman.....	Field Lane, Frimley
Frank Arico.....	Dundaff Close, Parkside
Elizabeth Mathews.....	Bramble Bank, Frimley Green

Neighbourhood Watch Key Contacts

Design Out Crime Officers (DOCO) - contact for advice on crime prevention.
 Stephen Cake, 01483 633272, 07967 988734, stephen.cake1@surrey.police.uk
 Mike Jones, 01483 636626, 07967987908, mike.Jones2@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, Bagshot, Bisley, Chobham, West End & Windlesham
 Mike Potter, 07985 506624, Mpotter@surreyheathnw.co.uk
Surrey Heath Police Neighbourhood Team Coordinators
 01483 639880

Social Media

 Surrey Heath
Neighbourhood Watch

 @heath_watch