



OUR NEWS

the e-newsletter for Neighbourhood Watch supporters

AUGUST 2017 EDITION

Call to stay vigilant as crime rises by 10%

Police-recorded crime has risen by 10% across England and Wales – the largest annual rise for ten years - according to the very latest Office for National Statistics figures.

The figures show almost 5 million crimes in England and Wales were recorded by the police for the 12 months to March this year – up 10% on the same period in 2015/16.

Police recorded 458,021 more offences compared with the previous year, which the ONS said was driven by an increase in violence – police recorded an 18% rise in violent crime, including a 20% surge in gun and knife crime.

Jayne Pascoe, Strategic Partnerships Director for Neighbourhood Watch, said: “We have also seen a rise in burglary and robbery but we do need to be

mindful that these recent increases should be seen in the context of substantial falls in such crimes over the last 20 years.

“However it’s timely to remind supporters of the importance of staying vigilant and looking out for each other and being aware of what’s happening in our neighbourhoods – and shows that Neighbourhood Watch is needed now just as much as ever.”

Jayne added that modern menaces are also behind the crime increase.

“What the figures do show is the widespread prevalence of cybercrime – see Page 6 on how you can protect yourself from this

now all too common, crime. That’s why we’re working hard on helping our supporter help themselves and their neighbours to protect themselves from cybercrime.”

The official figures also show a 26% rise to 723 in the homicide rate, which includes the 96 cases of manslaughter at Hillsborough in 1989.

Interestingly, the statisticians say the rise in crime is accelerating, with a 3% increase recorded in the year to March 2015, followed by an 8% rise in the following year, and now a 10% increase in the 12 months to this March.

To read more [click here](#)

“NW volunteers more important than ever” says Home Office Minister



Neighbourhood Watch volunteers still have an “incredibly important” role to play in tackling crime, says Home Office minister Sarah Newton MP.

The Minister for Vulnerability, Safeguarding and Countering Extremism opened our Neighbourhood Watch Connect2Protect conference in London last month. (Read more on page 10)

She paid tribute to the impressive reach of the Neighbourhood Watch movement and called on supporters to find new ways of reaching out to tackle not only traditional crimes and also new, hidden crimes that cause so much misery and harm in our communities.

She thanked volunteers for their help in reducing traditional crimes such as burglary and car crime over the last three decades and asked them to now turn their attention to raising awareness of cybercrime, domestic violence, child sexual abuse, human trafficking and extremism.

To read her full speech [click here](#)



Working with Dogs Trust to prevent the heartbreak of a stolen pet

Dog theft is on the rise, and as such, Neighbourhood Watch and Dogs Trust are urging the public to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

In 2016 alone, nearly 1,800 instances of dog theft were reported to police forces across England and Wales. Information obtained by Dogs Trust through a



Photo credit: Martin Phelps

Freedom of Information request also reveals that gardens, closely followed by the home, are the most common areas from which dogs were reported stolen.

Lee Paris, Campaigns Officer at Dogs Trust, told *Our News* : "It is a sad day when we have to issue these types of warnings, but with instances of dog theft becoming more prevalent, we want to ensure that dog owners are aware of the dangers so that they can help keep their beloved pets safe. Theft of any item is distressing, but when a dog is stolen, who many consider a part of the family; the experience can be even more distressing."

The most common breed of dog reported as stolen was the Staffordshire Bull-terrier, followed then by the Jack Russell,

Chihuahua and the Bulldog. But Dogs Trust warns that any dog, whatever the breed, is at risk of theft if left unsupervised.

Lee continues: "By making small changes to the garden and the home, and by registering to a local Neighbourhood Watch scheme, we hope we can help reduce the number of dog theft instances. The message we want to get across when it comes to garden security is that we want to keep the dog in, but keep thieves out!"

As such, Dogs Trust advises never to leaving your dog unattended, and has put together the following [advice](#) on how to help protect your dog from the risk of theft and what to do should the worst happen.

Whether you own a dog or not, intruders should not be able to access your garden or property.

Holidaymakers urged to watch new counter terrorism safety video

Counter Terrorism police - in association with the Foreign Office and ABTA – The Travel Association - have launched a new four minute film outlining what to do if caught up in an attack.

Whilst the chances of being involved in a terror attack abroad remain low, holidaymakers travelling abroad are being urged to watch the video designed to help keep them safe in the event of an incident.

The key advice is:

Run – to a place of safety. This is better than trying to surrender or negotiate.

Hide – it is better to hide than confront. Barricade yourself in, turn your phone to silent and use only when it is safe to do so.

Tell – Make sure you know the local emergency numbers in the country

you're travelling to. For all EU countries the number to call is 112.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, FCO Minister for National Security and Counter Terrorism says, "We want people to be safe so they can enjoy their holidays. As well as reading and taking note of our travel advice and taking out appropriate insurance, I encourage people to watch this film before they go away." Watch the video [here](#)



Read Jacqui's Blog

Our valued sponsor ERA Home Security has 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 has some worthwhile tips and advice to share. Jacqui was a police detective for 30 years and a BBC Crimewatch presenter for 16.

Read Jacqui's blog [here](#)



Tackling Disability Hate Crime – it's up to all of us!

Neighbourhood Watch is working to highlight the issue of Disability Hate Crime within our communities.

We've teamed up with the Disability Hate Crime Network (DHCN) to provide our supporters with information and resources to help people better understand the impact and extent of this issue in our neighbourhoods.

NHWN's Strategic Partnerships Director Jayne Pascoe explains why we're so passionate about this issue.

She said: "From bullying at school, harassment and name calling on the street, to abuse and exploitation in their own homes, there is a significant amount of disabled people affected by disability hate crime and some for whom it is an almost daily occurrence and happening so often that they do not even think to report it to the police. In a caring society it is unacceptable that this abuse is allowed to continue.

"In the Neighbourhood Watch network we have a movement of people who care about the

safety of their communities and who, by acting together, can have a significant impact on reducing crime in their neighbourhoods. It is right and timely that this caring is extended to the reducing the victimisation and public abuse of disabled people."

We're prepared some resources to give NW supporters more information on this issue. Read it [here](#)



Join us in taking the #shareacuppa pledge

Neighbourhood Watch has teamed up with social network Nextdoor and youth charity [The Challenge](#) to promote a great new initiative - the #shareacuppa pledge.

Research shows that 60% of people don't know their neighbours well or at all. Nearly two thirds never borrow things or exchange favours with their neighbours, and three quarters of people would not feel confident about letting a neighbour feed their pet while on holiday.

So this August, please join us and take just a little bit of time out of your month to sit down and have a cuppa with a neighbour.

We are asking all of our local volunteers to sign up for our pledge [here](#) - and stay tuned for more announcements about how our organisations plan to work together to deliver the pledge, and together build stronger and more cohesive communities.



National awards honours those who stand up against hate

The charity Faith Matters will host its national **No2H8 Crime Awards 2017** in central London in October and nominations are open until August 26.

Our News readers are being urged to nominate a person or organisation that stands up against hate in our communities.

Faith Matters has been working for the last 12 years on bringing together faith and non-faith communities to explore and build on a sense of shared values. This work has been utilised to counter hatred and intolerance and extremism in the UK.

This year's awards build on the success of the charity's *National Awards for Upstanders Against Hatred and Intolerance* held last year. The awards ceremony brought together various organisations that work on tackling hatred and intolerance and it was the first time that all agencies had come together to be part of such an event and to celebrate those tackling such issues in communities.

This year there are 13 awards in total and you can find out more [here](#) and you can use the form [here](#) to nominate.



Thanks for a great week!

This year's National Neighbourhood Watch Week ran in late June and we were delighted to receive lots of attention for our annual week of campaigning.

This year we teamed up with the National Trading Standards Scams Team to encourage our supporters to become *A Friend Against Scams*.

Hundreds of you did just that and NTS now have 25,000 Friends Against Scams trained to spot these common crimes.

It's not too late to become a Friend Against Scams – click [here](#) to find out more.



Neighbourhood Watch features on *Crimewatch Roadshow*

The BBC1 *Crimewatch Roadshow* invited our chair Lynn Farrar and dedicated supporter Gill Faulkner onto a live broadcast in National Neighbourhood Watch Week.

This year we're also celebrating 35 years as a movement in the UK and Lynn was invited to tell presenter Rav Wilding and viewers at home how we've changed over the years.

Gill was a perfect choice to show how effective Neighbourhood Watch can be in a community challenged by crime.

Gill & Eric – a truly inspiring couple



Gill and Eric Faulkner enjoyed our visit to the BBC studios in Cardiff to take part in *Crimewatch Roadshow*.

The couple – who have been married for 51 years - help run Neighbourhood Watch in their home town of Connah's Quay, Flintshire, North Wales.

"We were fed up with crime in our area and I wanted to move house to get away from it," said Eric. "We were approached by Neighbourhood Watch to get involved and I was sceptical whether it could make any difference."

Gill added: "But we went to a meeting in the local pub with Neighbourhood Watch and the police and they promised us that we would all work together to make it better. And it has – 100% - it's made a huge difference."

Gill has won a prestigious Respect Award – for her "outstanding dedication to promoting respect" in her community and is no stranger to tackling crime head-on.

She said: "We were going to bed one night at about midnight and saw three people go into my neighbour's garden. She's a single mum and I knew she was at home alone with her children. Eric rang the police and I rang her to tell her what was happening.

"The three people were dismantling a hammock in the garden and taking parts of it away but the police came straight away and arrested them – that's what it's about – looking out for your neighbours."

And Neighbourhood Watch is just one of the many community programmes Gill and Eric are involved in. They have to be some of the busiest volunteers we know!

The couple are both town councillors - Gill is a former chair of Connah's Quay Town Council. Gill is chair of Friends of Flintshire Citizens Advice Bureau, vice-chair of Flintshire Neighbourhood Watch OWL Eastern, a school governor and secretary to a local residents' association.

Gill and Eric are both on the local Sea Cadets committee and help run a memory café!

They also find time for their three grown-up children, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and their many beloved pets!

Thanks Gill and Eric for all that you do!

CLOSING THE DOOR is as easy as PUTTING DOWN THE PHONE!



With latest statistics showing crime is on the increase, door step crime is sadly no exception, with over 200,000 reported cases of doorstep crime in the UK in 2016.

Whilst everyone is a target, this often affects the more vulnerable people who open their doors to strangers. These doorstep thieves thrive on the good manners of homeowners who often struggle to say no and use numerous tactics to try and obtain money or goods fraudulently. Some examples of tricks doorstep thieves employ are:

- Collecting for a bogus charity
- Insisting a home repair is imperative and charging extortionate rates (often never carrying out the work)
- Pretending to be someone official to gain entry to your home (e.g. A Policeman or meter reader)
- Distracting you whilst someone else enters your property via another entry point, perhaps at the rear of your home.

Doorstep thieves often win on personality and are good actors. They can appear credible and their story is quickly believable, but even when the householder does note something isn't right, they are often intimidated into continuing the conversation, making it very difficult for them to say no and close the door.

How an intercom can help you?

The ERA Video Door Intercom is a video door intercom perfect for your home. It has a portable handset for easy carrying around the home or you can choose to add additional bases in different rooms of the home.

When someone rings your doorbell, you can see them on the video screen and choose if you want to speak to them; **you can simply ignore if the caller isn't known to you.** If you do choose to speak to them, you can do so with the knowledge that it is much easier to put down the phone on a nuisance door caller, than it is to close the door; **you don't have to open the door.** Finally if you do wish to open the door, you can do so in person, or press the door unlock button; **you can open the door without getting up.** (this feature only works if you have had an electronic door lock fitted by a professional)

As an added feature, the E3000 will take a photo of everyone who rings your doorbell and maintains a log you can view later, which shows their image along with the time and date - great if you are out or need to look back on a caller for some reason later.

It also has an anti-tamper alarm, so if someone tries to remove the doorbell or batteries in an attempt to force you to come to the door, an alarm goes off on your handset to alert you.

Get the E3000 fitted by an MLA Locksmith or a local tradesman and get peace of mind.

To win an E3000 intercom

To enter a prize draw to win the ERA E3000 intercom:

Like our Facebook page or follow us on twitter and private message us completing the following sentence:

I am a NHW Member and I think the ERA Intercoms are great because

Competition ends: 30th September 2017



Like us on
Facebook:
@ERA1838



Follow us on
Twitter:
@ERASecurity

STAYING SECURE ONLINE



SIMPLE ADVICE FROM OUR PARTNER CYBER AWARE

Staying secure online can often seem complicated, but it doesn't have to be. The Government's Cyber Aware campaign, which follows advice and technical expertise from the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), a part of GCHQ, offers the following simple advice to help you to improve your online security.

The key behaviours to help you improve your online security are:

Install the latest software and app updates

- They contain vital security updates which help protect your device from viruses and hackers
- Security updates are designed to fix weaknesses in software and apps which could be used by hackers to attack your device. Installing them as soon as possible helps to keep your device secure
- You can choose to install updates at night when you are asleep and your device is plugged in or set your mobile or tablet to automatically update your apps when you are connected to Wi-Fi and an update is available
- You can also set laptops and desktops to automatically install software updates when an update is available

Use a strong, separate password for your email account (you can use three random words or numbers to create a strong password).

- Hackers can use your email to access many of your personal accounts, by asking for your password to be reset, and find out personal information, such as your bank details, address or date of birth, leaving you vulnerable to identity theft or fraud
- Having strong, separate passwords for your most important accounts means that if hackers steal your password for one of your less important accounts, they can't use it to access your most important ones
- Make sure your password is easy for you to remember, but not easy for others to guess e.g. Pa55word may follow the rules of using letters and symbols but is well known amongst hackers as a common password
- Don't use words which would be easy to discover from your social media accounts, such as your child's name or favourite sports team

Other behaviours which can help keep you secure online include:

Secure your tablet or smartphone with a screen lock

- Give your device an extra layer of security by setting it to lock when you aren't using it
- Screen locks provide an extra layer of security to your device, as each time you want to unlock it or turn it on, you will need to enter a PIN, pattern, password or fingerprint
- This means if someone gets hold of your device they can't access the data on your device without entering your password, pattern, PIN or fingerprint

Always back-up your most important data

- Safeguard your most important data such as your photos and key documents by backing them up to an external hard drive or a cloud-based storage system
- If your device is infected by a virus or accessed by a hacker, your data may be damaged or deleted, which means you won't be able to access it. Backing up your data means you have another copy of it, which you can access

Final tips:

- Remember that spammers could also gain access to a friend's account, so if you get an uncharacteristic email containing a link from a friend, do not click on it but find another way of contacting them to check that the message is genuine.
- Leave a website if you feel suspicious – if the site doesn't look or 'feel' right, if there is text that doesn't appear to have any purpose or doesn't tie in with the rest of the site, or if you feel uneasy for any reason.
- Regularly check your social media privacy settings to control exactly what you're sharing with whom.
- If you're going away on holiday, don't advertise it on social media!
- If you use a wireless network at home, password-protect it.

These simple steps can go a long way to helping you to stay secure online. For more information visit <https://www.cyberaware.gov.uk>

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Exclusive offer on Co-op Home Insurance

10% off

home policies for
Neighbourhood
Watch members

Call us 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**. Ts+Cs apply*

Visit our website for additional offers – coop.co.uk/insurance

*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. Calls may be monitored or recorded for security and training purposes. Home insurance lines are open from 8am- 8pm weekdays, 8am-5pm Saturdays and 9am-4pm Sundays. Applicants for insurance are subject to normal underwriting criteria. Promoter: Co-op Insurance. Co-op Insurance is a trading name of CIS General Insurance Limited; registered in England and Wales under company number 29999R. Registered Office: CIS Building, Miller Street, Manchester M60 0AL.

CARDIFF

Bill's busy again!

Busy Bill Farnham MBE organised an incredible eight events for NNWW17.

Bill is Chairman of Cardiff West Neighbourhood Watch Association, told *Our News*: "The week went very well and all eight events that I organised went very well with lots of people taking away information in booklet form and also in words of advice that I was able to give them. We could very well end up with a new watch in the Grangetown area of Cardiff as a result of this which will be excellent as I am trying very hard to set up new watches in that area."

Well done Bill!



WEST MIDLANDS - COVENTRY

The Cotes and Trees Neighbourhood Watch Group (which includes schemes in the Lime Tree Park area of Tile Hill, Coventry) decided to join forces with members of St. James Fletchamstead Church and organise a 'bring and share' lunch for residents in the grounds of the church.

Nicki Evans, Chair, Cotes and Trees Neighbourhood Watch Group said: "We had a fantastic day with glorious sunshine, we couldn't have wished for better weather! We had a bouncy castle, garden games, drawing table and balloon modelling for the kids. For the adults we had a NHW stall, local quiz, 'get to know you' bingo, local historian and craft stall- all helped to get residents talking to one another. The event definitely brought the local community together - residents are already asking us whether this will be an annual event!"

Photo- Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators, members of St James Fletchamstead Church, Peter Sturgeon (Engagement and Consultation Officer) and Hayley Hardiman PCSO.



DERBYSHIRE



Lottery win for Derbyshire!

Derbyshire Neighbourhood Watch Association has secured an impressive grant of £9,000 after a successful bid to the Big Lottery Fund.

Tony Grace, chairman of Derbyshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, said a team of committee members played their part in the application to the Awards for All fund.

"It was a team effort," said Tony. "We had been successful with a bid in 2015 and we're delighted to have achieved this too. We work closely and effectively with our PCC and the police and this money will help strengthen our presence in the county."

The money has been earmarked for Derbyshire South and will be used to continue to grow the movement in that part of the county.

SUFFOLK

John and Lynda May, coordinators of the Westerwatch NHW scheme, hosted a coffee morning in the garden of their home during NNWW17 which was enjoyed by all and raised £56 for Marie Curie.



LONDON

Metropolitan Police Choir

Saturday 21st October

Doors 6.45pm

Performance 7pm

Thanksgiving Concert

Classic Songs

Popular Favourites

Venue

All Saints Church

Kingston

Tickets: Email Kingstonnhw@gmail.com

Everyone Welcome

Admission Free but Booking Essential



CLEVELAND

Cleaning up crime in Cleveland!

No they're not cakes – they're bars of soap!

More than 400 people came through the doors of the Loftus Wool Fayre, where Neighbourhood Watch hosted a crime prevention table which included selling fantastic soaps to raise funds for Neighbourhood Watch.

Sam Millward-Gibbons of Cleveland Neighbourhood Watch shows of the stall's wares!



A message from our chair

I'm delighted to announce that we have been granted approval by the Charities Commission to convert from a charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

The new CIO will be known as the Neighbourhood Watch Network and its new board of Trustees has already been appointed ready for its launch later in the year.

I'm also delighted to welcome four new trustees to our CIO board - Joe Pearce, Jessica Taplin, Rachel Griffin and Kirsty McHugh.

Neighbourhood Watch is changing and adapting to the shifting challenges of crime prevention and these new appointments will strengthen our board at this very exciting time. More on that in the next issue!

I'm also pleased to announce that David Huse, OBE (pictured left), who is an existing Trustee of NHWN, has been selected as



our CIO's new chair and will take up his position later this year.



David started his career at Procter and Gamble as Sales and Marketing Director. He moved to Heinz as Sales Director before running the 2012 Olympic Games volunteer programme for the Mayor. In 2015 he was CEO of the Charity set up to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. He currently works with UNICEF and Deloitte on various projects so will be a safe pair of hands going forward!

In other news – it's been a busy time for Neighbourhood Watch. We were delighted to be invited to *Crimewatch Roadshow* in June and as we build up our profile we've also been asked for lots of media interviews to showcase our movement. The ONS Crime figures for England and Wales were a timely reminder to us all that we cannot be complacent about crime in our community!

With my best wishes and thanks to all our supporters.

Lynn Farrar, chair of the
Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network

Connect2Protect conference welcomes new challenges

Last month NHWN hosted our Connect2Protect event attended by members, partners and key stakeholders from across England and Wales.

The successful event kicked off with an inspirational speech from Sarah Newton MP, Minister for Vulnerability, Safeguarding and Countering Extremism detailing Government priorities contained within the *Modern Crime Prevention Strategy* and how Neighbourhood Watch can help with those priorities.

This message was reiterated by NHWN Chair Lynn Farrar, who highlighted the way forward for the movement in light of these new and emerging threats.



Attendees also heard first-hand examples of work undertaken by volunteers from across the movement including support for vulnerable elderly people suffering from dementia in Kingston-upon-Thames, innovative partnership working undertaken in Lancashire and the growing problem of fraud and cybercrime taken on by Sussex Neighbourhood Watch.

Following a morning of presentations, the event then enabled attendees to network, exchange ideas and best practice, directed by expert partners from various fields, including youth engagement, hate crime and diversity, to name but a few.

Photos, videos and presentations from the day are available for download [here](#)

We wish to thank all of those attending and involved in supporting the event.

We'll now be working on an action plan on how we can rise to the challenges of the changing crime landscape outlined at Connect2Protect.