



OUR NEWS

> THE E-NEWSLETTER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS

CELEBRATING NEIGHBOURS ACROSS ENGLAND AND WALES

Dear supporters,

As we begin the new year I think we are all hoping for a speedy end to the Covid-19 crisis and a return to a more predictable, safe and ordinary way of life. Although we are not through the crisis we are planning a positive approach to 2021 at Neighbourhood Watch with more campaigns and new projects to help prevent crime and increase community resilience and cohesion. We are pleased to have developed new partnerships that will support our work and develop the message of Neighbourhood Watch with new and different communities.

We finalised our new 5-Year Strategy at the end of 2020 and we are really looking forward to sharing this and working with you all over the next year to achieve all our goals. Enjoy the newsletter and as always, please continue to share with us the great work that you are doing, by emailing enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

John Hayward-Cripps
CEO - Neighbourhood Watch Network



Community grants programme

We have now been running our pilot Community Grants Programme for 3 months and we are delighted to have been able to fund a number of local projects.

We have received 26 applications and granted £2,433 to 7 Neighbourhood Watch groups so far. Keep an eye on our website as we will publish case studies on the difference the grants and the local volunteers using them have made in their communities.

If your group or Association would like to apply, please go to ourwatch.org.uk/communitygrants.

Please read all the guidelines before applying to ensure your project is eligible.

Volunteer Development Manager

We are recruiting for a new post at Neighbourhood Watch Network.

We are looking for an experienced and self-motivated Volunteer Development Manager, to be employed on a full-time basis for an initial 6-month contract, with the potential for extension dependent on funding.

Visit ourwatch.org.uk/about-us/our-organisation/vacancies to find out more. The deadline for applications is 18th January 2021 but we will interview on a rolling basis and close earlier if we find the right candidate.



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Demonstrating our impact within communities

IMPACT REPORT 2019/20

We are delighted to publish our very first **Neighbourhood Watch Impact Report 2019/20**. The report highlights all the incredible achievements across the organisation.

The huge array of impacts and benefits Neighbourhood Watch has in so many communities is inspiring to read and a real spur to spread good practice and reach more supporters. A link to the report can be found ourwatch.org.uk/impact.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CRIME AND COMMUNITY SURVEY 2020 FINDINGS

The survey, which was conducted last year, had over 30,000 respondents across England and Wales.

The purpose of the survey was to better understand the impact of Neighbourhood Watch on:

- levels of crime victimisation
- fear of crime and feelings of safety
- neighbourliness
- community cohesion and isolation
- and to better understand the current reach and diversity of Neighbourhood Watch

The results show some **great benefits of being a member of Neighbourhood Watch and living in a Neighbourhood Watch area**. We will be sending out regional reports to local leads that illustrate differences in local responses compared to the wider report. Overall findings and all local reports can be found at ourwatch.org.uk/impact.



New linguistics of **romance fraud** booklet launched

Romance fraud happens when the victim thinks they've met the perfect partner through an online dating website or app, but the other person is using a fake profile to form a relationship with them. They're using the site to gain the victim's trust and ask them for money or enough personal information to steal their identity.

Romance fraudsters are masters of manipulation and will go to great lengths to create a false reality in which an individual feels that they are making reasonable and rational decisions. The challenge for family and friends of those affected by romance fraud is being able to disrupt the false reality created to enable them to see the situation for what it really is – a fraud.

A new booklet, developed by Thames Valley Police's Economic Crime Unit alongside Dr Elisabeth Carter, Senior Lecturer in Criminology and Forensic Linguist at the University of Roehampton, has been designed to demonstrate the clever tactics used by romance fraudsters with a view to improving the knowledge of our

communities. It dispels the myths of shame and embarrassment often associated with this crime by highlighting the link to coercive control.

Detective Inspector Duncan Wynn of Thames Valley Police's Economic Crime Unit said: *"Romance fraud can have a catastrophic impact, from the emotional devastation to the financial losses. It's so important that if you feel you have fallen victim to a romance fraudster that you seek help by reaching out to Action Fraud or Victim Support."*

Dr Elisabeth Carter, Senior Lecturer in Criminology and Forensic Linguist at the University of Roehampton said: *"Romance fraudsters are masters of disguise and deception, and this publication shines a light on the tactics they can use, so you can keep yourself and your loved ones safe."*

You can access the booklet by visiting the [Thames Valley Police website](#) or direct link [here](#).

New year, new cybercrime prevention



We can all be at the mercy of enormous events that are never completely up to us. A natural disaster, the Covid-19 outbreak, a cyberattack. However, we are in control of the ways we can respond to them - we can lower our carbon footprint, we can stay at home, and we can learn how to protect ourselves from the risks online.

The purpose of the Cyberhood Watch initiative we run in partnership with Avast is not to end all cybercrime - an impossible feat at the speed criminals evolve - but to put people in the best possible position to stay protected online, and help others to do so, through education and access to important tools and services, no matter where they are or how they connect to the internet.

Last year, we held several events with Neighbourhood Watch members and Cyberhood Watch Ambassadors in which we listened to, and gathered feedback on, the most important cybersecurity and privacy topics in their local communities. The responses helped us to prioritise the development and distribution of content toolkits, which are aligned with

government advice thanks to the support from Neighbourhood Watch partners NCSC.

You can find these guides at www.avast.com/uk-cyberhood and download them to share with family, friends and your local community. Examples of topics covered include:

- What are password managers?
- Popular threats on iOS and Android and how to avoid them
- What is the Internet of Things?
- What is Two-Factor Authentication?
- How to Fight Phishing
- Cyber Security Terms & Metaphors

We will be regularly adding to our toolkits and resources throughout 2021. Upcoming guides include advice on how to manage Cookies, how to become a cyber-savvy parent, and how to deal with cyber-enabled crime. We'd love to hear from you on other topics that are of interest and concern. To get in touch, email amy.mawby@ourwatch.org.uk.

Could you be a Cyberhood Watch Ambassador?

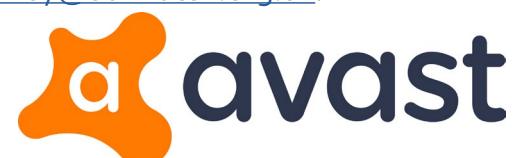
We are looking to recruit more Cyberhood Watch Ambassadors this year, and will be running a full training session at the end of January (more on this to come). Ambassadors will be trained by Avast and will receive Cyberhood Watch accreditation. The role of the Cyberhood Watch Ambassadors includes:

- Early access to Avast Toolkit materials and taking an active role in sharing them with local Neighbourhood Watch groups
- Becoming a designated point of contact for cybersecurity concerns within the local community
- Acting as a local media spokesperson for the initiative where appropriate
- Sharing feedback on local cybersecurity concerns
- Taking an active role in promoting local Cyberhood Watch events, where appropriate
- Helping shape the way that Neighbourhood Watch responds to cyber protection
- Input into future cybersecurity resources and content
- Support with other publicity activation, including press releases and research

Cyberhood Watch Ambassadors will also be provided with:

- A Cyberhood Watch accreditation to help you speak with confidence on cybersecurity and privacy topics
- Regular training on how to effectively deliver preventative cybersecurity advice to community members
- Regular advice to help communities stay protected from new and emerging cyber threats
- Early access to cybercrime prevention toolkit content and invitations to local events
- Connections/get-togethers with fellow Cyberhood Watch Ambassadors, to share best practice and challenges

All we ask is that you are IT literate, have a basic understanding of online security, and are willing to be a vocal point of contact for your community. If you are interested in becoming an Ambassador and wish to find out more please contact amy.mawby@ourwatch.org.uk.



'The Association is the face of Neighbourhood Watch in their area'

What area does your Association cover?

Royal Borough of Greenwich in London

How do you support local Coordinators and members?

We are very active in supporting our membership and developing new schemes, adapting ways of engaging with hard-to-reach communities and forging strong partnerships with local groups, police and local authorities.

We provide workshops for our Coordinators, highlighting various types of crimes to enable them to spread the word. Given how popular these are we recently decided to open these sessions to the whole community. Since then we have held 18 workshops for our members, to raise awareness of crime and how we as a community can work together to reduce the opportunities for crime.

What initiative are you particularly proud of?

We are very proud of our various initiatives because its not one size fits all, its more of everyone fits Neighbourhood Watch. We adapt our projects to work within different communities. This enables us to reach more people.

We ran various projects targeting the barriers that are obvious in our community today, such as a project which challenged the label of young people not being model citizens. We also demonstrated that Neighbourhood Watch has a vital role in helping our communities to look out for each other.

Our targeted burglary campaign at the tail-end of last year saw results of a **30% reduction in burglary across the Borough.**

We were approached by our local Safer Neighbourhood Team to help them with bike theft occurring in new developments. In response we designed an information poster and image to be distributed in the communal areas of the developments and on social media. As a result, the thefts were **reduced by 24% within a month!**

This is a great example of how effective working with partners can achieve positive results.



How have you been supporting your community through the Covid-19 crisis?

We supported our area by running online workshops, and by encouraging community members, our membership and our partners to support the various groups and the combined community effort which had a huge response.

We promoted [The Calling Tree](#) campaign and ensured that support was there for our communities.

We were contacted by our local authority street population team to make an appeal to the public for DVDs and books for our homeless community that had been rehoused to keep them off the streets and thus not being a potential victim of ASB or indeed, not causing the ASB. This had a huge response and we had to ask people to stop donating!

What are your goals for the future?

2020 was an abysmal year for our communities and we have agreed an action plan to continue to develop Neighbourhood Watch with our diverse community here in Greenwich.

We are running a crime prevention initiative with our Sikh and Muslim communities, where we have received funding to produce a range of materials to reach more residents than before - making Neighbourhood Watch more accessible for all.

Cheryl Spruce is Chair of Greenwich Neighbourhood Watch Association and Head of Membership and Community Engagement at Neighbourhood Watch Network. For more information on Greenwich Association get in touch with Cheryl on greenwichnhwnetwork@gmail.com or www.greenwichnhwconnect.org.

Community projects we are running



COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

In late 2020 we launched our new **Community Champions** project. The project involves recruiting members of the community to become Community Champions and promote positive crime prevention messaging across many platforms and networks.

The Community Champions receive a training package to help them carry out their role and promote community cohesion, encourage crime prevention behaviour and encourage community wellbeing.

This is an exciting project which enables us to engage with community members and volunteers in more flexible ways and about the issues which matter to them and their area.

Find out more here: ourwatch.org.uk/community-champions



COMMUNITIES THAT CARE

We are delighted to say our **Communities that Care** project, which involves listening to older people to help tackle fraud in their community, has been picked up in several areas following our successful pilot in Thames Valley.

More than 53% of over 65s have been targeted by fraudsters, though it is estimated that only 5% of offences are actually reported. When older people are affected by fraud, their losses are more significant, and they have a greater risk of being targeted repeatedly. The consequences for physical and mental health can be severe and long-lasting.

We are currently running, or are soon to run, projects in West Yorkshire, Ruabon in Wrexham, Barnet, Newham and in Dyfed Powys.

Find out more here: ourwatch.org.uk/communities-that-care

We know that young people are the future of Neighbourhood Watch. During the pandemic we created an initiative enabling them to take an active role in safety and crime prevention in their community. This month we hear from Mair and Jacey who have created an anti-drug campaign for their peers.

#Drugsknowmore is the slogan to an anti-drug campaign that I am running in February 2021 called Let's Talk Drugs.



My name is Mair Williams and I'm a 16 year old girl from Anglesey, North Wales. I am working in partnership with Neighborhood Watch Network and another young person, Jacey Parker, to create an anti-drug campaign to run throughout the UK in February.

Some parts of this campaign process have been quite tricky due to the fact that we have to work on everything online. Despite these challenges we managed to pull through and have started creating some **amazing resources**.

We want our campaign to reach every young person in your community, but to achieve this **we need your help**. You could support our campaign by downloading and spreading the campaign resources, such as the template for starting a conversation with someone about drugs and sharing the campaign on your social media. **All the resources will be on ourwatch.org.uk in February.**

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) shows that around 1 in 11 adults aged 16 to 59 years had taken a drug in the last year (9.4%; 3.2 million individuals) and among adults aged 16 to 59 years Class A drug use in the last year has increased compared with the year ending December 1995 (from 2.6%). These facts are incredibly shocking.

This campaign is very important to me because drug misuse is a bad problem in my area of North Wales and in many areas in England. Drug misuse in young people is something that has deeply affected people in my school, and I don't feel like young people

take the topic of drug misuse as seriously as they should. Due to the state of the world right now figures of drug misuse in young people is increasing a lot, and that worries me.

This topic is also very important to Jacey because drug misuse in young people is a bad issue in her area too, and because the campaign has a focus on how the criminal justice system deals with drug misuse in young people, and she is studying a topic about the criminal justice system in university.

Did you know..

- Drug use among 15 year old's has risen over the past 5 years. In 2018, 38% of 15 year old's in England, and 21% of 15 year old's in Scotland, said that they had ever used drugs (gov.uk).
- Across England and Wales, there were 234,101 people in treatment at any time during 2018 (gov.uk).
- 13% of pupils agreed it was okay for someone their own age to take cannabis to see what it was like; compared to 10% for sniffing glue, and 3% for taking cocaine (gov.uk).

Our campaign aims to help young people take the issue more seriously.

If you know anybody, or a family member of someone, who has had an experience with drug use in the past who would be willing to share their story on a podcast episode as part of the campaign; or if you would like to get involved with the campaign in any way please email us at youngpeople@ourwatch.org.uk.

Be sure to look out for the campaign in February on ourwatch.org.uk.

Neighbour of the Year 2020 regional winners are local heroes

The Neighbour of the Year award celebrates neighbours who look out for others, are sociable and friendly, offer practical help and are kind, caring and respectful. In its third year, the number of entries increased by a staggering 100 percent from 2019.

Alongside the well-deserving [UK Neighbour of the Year 2020 winner, Shaun Blagdon](#), and the [Young Neighbour of the Year winner, Taylor O'Connor](#), each region across the UK celebrates their very own regional winner. Click on the name of the links below to find out more about the winners in each of the regions.

		
South East: Hilary Haslam	South West: Jo and Chris Hickling	West Midlands: Russel Smith and Victoria Mosedale
		
Scotland: Nicky Jenkins	East of England: Gary Newton	East Midlands: Mark Barber
		
North West: Stephen Wilson Heywood	North East: Liz Mather	London: Alice Taylor-Rugman

This year's winners are announced as new data from Co-op Insurance and Neighbourhood Watch warns that the surge in neighbourliness seen in the spring hasn't been sustained, as pandemic fatigue sets in across the UK. During the peak of the first national lockdown in April, data from Co-op showed a spike in neighbourliness, with almost three quarters (73%) of adults in the West Midlands saying they knew which of their neighbours was classed as high risk.

After seven months of pandemic restrictions, this figure has seen a dramatic fall, with only a quarter (22%) of adults in the West Midlands revealing they know which of their neighbours are at risk. Co-op and Neighbourhood Watch are calling on people throughout the UK to reconnect with neighbours this winter as together we are stronger.

Ellis German, Home Insurance Executive at Co-op Insurance, said: "Our latest research is cause for concern as we start to see neighbourliness plateau. The length of time of the pandemic, the personal impact on everyday lives and the shorter days and colder weather are all key reasons for why we're seeing this. We're urging people to band together and keep up neighbourly spirits this winter, especially with neighbours who are vulnerable or alone, whether that's by having a friendly chat over the garden fence, checking in to see if they need food or medicine dropping off or by keeping in touch online."

Loan fee fraud



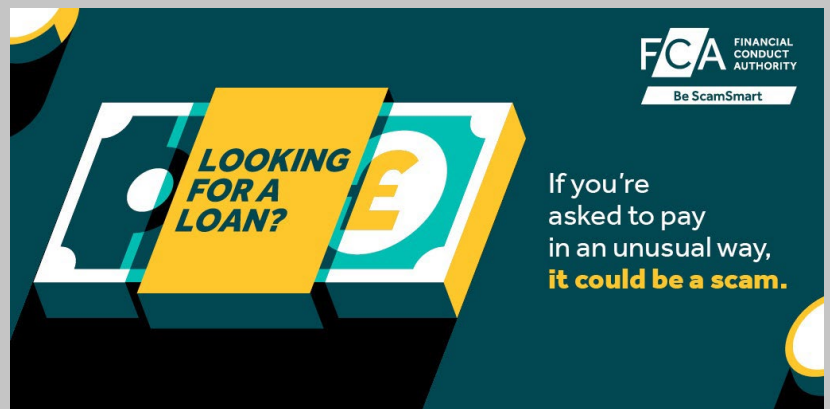
2020 was a hard year. However, there are scammers out there looking to make it even harder.

Loan fee fraud occurs when people pay an upfront or advance fee for a loan they never receive. It's an increasingly common scam which is reported to the Financial Conduct Authority, with people losing £220 on average.

The good news is that you can protect yourself with this quick three-step check:

- If you're asked to pay an upfront fee, it could be a scam
- If you're asked to pay quickly, it could be a scam
- If you're asked to pay in an unusual way, such as vouchers or money transfer, it could be a scam

Always check that the provider is authorised by the FCA before you borrow. Visit the [FCA's Financial Services Register](#).



To order a Patlock at the Neighbourhood Watch discounted rate of £42.50 go to patlock.co.uk/neighbourhood-watch





ENGLAND LOCKDOWN

STAY AT HOME

**THE NEW VARIANT OF CORONAVIRUS IS SPREADING FAST.
WE ALL NEED TO PLAY OUR PART TO STOP THE SPREAD.**

▶ LEAVING HOME

You must not leave, or be outside of your home or garden, except for a very limited set of exemptions e.g. to shop for basic necessities, exercise, go to work if you cannot do so from home, or to escape risk of harm.

▶ MEETING OTHERS

You cannot leave your home to meet socially with anyone, except with your household or support bubble (if eligible to form one). Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

▶ EXERCISE

You may exercise on your own, with your household or support bubble, or with one person from another household (when on your own). Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

▶ BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS

Hospitality closed aside from sales by takeaway (until 11pm), click-and-collect, drive-through or delivery. Alcohol cannot be purchased through takeaway or click-and-collect from hospitality venues.

▶ RETAIL

Essential shops can open. Non-essential retail must close and can only run click-and-collect and delivery.

▶ WORK AND BUSINESS

Everyone must work from home unless they are unable to do so.

▶ EDUCATION

Early years settings open. Primary and secondary schools and colleges move to remote provision except for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Most university students to move to remote learning.

▶ LEISURE AND SPORTING FACILITIES

Closed, with limited exceptions.

▶ ACCOMMODATION

Closed, with limited exceptions.

▶ PERSONAL CARE

Closed.

▶ ENTERTAINMENT

Closed.

▶ OVERNIGHT STAYS

You must not stay overnight away from home. Limited exceptions apply e.g. to stay with your support bubble.

▶ WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

Funerals of up to 30 people permitted. Weddings up to 6 people permitted in exceptional circumstances. Wakes and other linked ceremonial events of up to 6 permitted.

▶ PLACES OF WORSHIP

Places of worship can remain open and communal worship is permitted, but you must not mix with those outside your household or support bubble.

▶ TRAVELLING

You must stay at home. If you do leave home for a very limited set of exemptions, you should stay local in the village, town, or part of the city where you live where possible. Do not travel abroad unless an exemption applies.

▶ CLINICALLY EXTREMELY VULNERABLE

Shielding reintroduced across England. You should not travel to work, school, college or university and should limit the time you spend outside the home. You should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential.

▶ CARE HOME VISITS

Visits can take place with arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, or behind windows. Close-contact indoor visits are not allowed. No visits will be permitted in the event of an outbreak but end of life visits are permitted in all circumstances.

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

For more information go to:
[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)