



HeathWatch



www.surreyheathnw.co.uk

The quarterly Neighbourhood Watch newsletter for Surrey Heath
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Message from the Chairman

This year may become a significant date in our history but that will not significantly alter the level of crime and hopefully not to our detriment in Surrey Heath and the surrounding areas.

Over the last few months we have seen reports of various types of crime locally. Of special note are distraction burglaries and theft and also the many different scams taking place. We must all be conscious of the likelihood being targeted and not be complacent that it will not happen to us. Although you may have numerous protection devices in and around your home, you can still be caught "off guard" by an unexpected caller or perhaps a person asking for help or pretending to be helpful or friendly, when you later discover your bank account has been emptied. Apart from the inconvenience of experiencing a loss, the trauma of such an experience can be devastating, especially to more senior individuals. There are now so many variations of both distraction crimes and scams it is important that we are extremely careful to be aware of anyone coming within our personal space or loitering.

It is becoming more common for groups operating to distract you and communicating together by mobile phone or prearranged signalling to make the distraction plausible and strike whilst you are engaged in conversation with another brigand.

No matter how many warnings we hear, it is still easy to be caught out. There is no fool proof way of being completely safe; we can only try to be conscious of the possible tricks being used to divert one's attention.

The most vulnerable are targeted as easy prey and often find themselves unable to decline the scammer's demands having listened to their convincing spiel. Typically, a pedlar (Nottingham Knocker) is not recognised legitimately in Surrey and their "Pedlars Permit" is not a valid credential as it would probably not have been issued by a bona fide source.

It cannot be emphasised enough that anyone suggesting you pay them cash or requesting your card details is about to rid you of funds as no bank employee, Police officer, council employee or genuine official will ask you to do so at your door, by telephone, text or internet and especially by bank transfer.

If you are approached in any of the above situations you should terminate the conversation and certainly not ring any number suggested or ring-back. Ideally notify Police on 101 to make them aware that fraudsters have been active in your area - preferably from a different phone if that was the initial way of contact.

Here's looking forward to Spring and Summer.

Martin Butcher

Surrey Heath Borough Commander

So here we are in 2019, and the frantic pace of the Christmas and New Year period has thankfully slowed down to allow my team to draw breath. Having just looked at the latest crime statistics, Surrey Heath remains the second lowest area in terms of crimes recorded in the county; when you add that to the fact that Surrey is one of the safest counties in the country, I hope that reassures you that, no matter what sensationalist headlines there are in the press, Surrey Heath remains a safe place to live and work. That said, crime does occur here; we will always need your help in identifying suspicious activity. Only last week I became aware of lots of information regarding suspicious persons and vehicles in the Frimley area, however this was on closed Facebook sites, and came to my attention by an indirect route. It's all well and good sharing information and in some cases actual visual evidence with your neighbours, but I would ask that you share with us too. A lot of work goes

on behind the scenes in our intelligence department, they analyse and assess all the intelligence that comes their way and although what you report may seem trivial, it could be the vital missing piece of the jigsaw to an investigation. The sooner we know about it, the better. This has highlighted the increase in domestic CCTV and as much as I know that it is an added expense, I cannot emphasise how valuable a tool it is in preventing and detecting crime (see P3).

February's *In the Know* (no 85) highlights the dangers of internet use for children and young people. I would encourage you to watch the short videos and have honest conversations with your children around the messages they promote. There is a worrying rise in youngsters making contact with people on line who they don't know and in some cases sharing images with them.

Bob Darkens



This newsletter is produced by the Neighbourhood Watch Support Group with funding gratefully received from Surrey County Council. We are thankful for the regular help we receive from Safer Surrey Heath Partnership and from Surrey Police in the promotion of Neighbourhood Watch and the distribution of HeathWatch. We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of Windlesham Parish Council in supporting us.



Surrey Police crime reduction advice from Mike Jones

I have been looking at some of the crimes inflicted on Surrey Heath over the past three months and it shows that criminals continue to use tried and tested methods:

Burglaries

- Almost all the burglaries have been during the day while people are out and the criminals continue to enter by forcing a rear door or smashing the glass in a patio door. I repeat the advice I gave in October to encourage you to secure the rear of your property:
- Have good 1.8 metre fences and 300mm trellis on top and similar gates with a good two way lock at a central point.
- Make sure there are no climbing aids for the fences/gates (chain up your wheelie bins, I have at long last got back into this habit myself).
- Keep trees and foliage cut back to stop climbing and giving cover for a burglar to attack your gates or doors at the front.
- Garden chairs have been used to smash windows, so keep them chained up as well.
- If replacing your windows or patio doors, consider laminated glass and install PAS 24 2016 standard. Consider anti shatter film on existing glazing. Upgrade your front and rear door locks to TS007 3 star standard.
- Consider an alarm; we have had one alarm reported set off at a burglary and no further entry was gained. More on this below.

Alarms

A good quality alarm remains a major deterrent to a criminal and well worth the investment. Check out a local company registered with these two organisations:

- National Security inspectorate (NSI) <http://www.nsi.org.uk/information-centre/business-security-options/intruder-alarms/>
- Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board (SSAIB) <https://ssaib.org/>

Sheds

These have been attacked a lot and on one occasion garden tools taken and used to break into the house.

We always forget sheds (that's is my next project at home), but if our tools are not in a solid shed (ideally with no windows), with a good quality lock fitted with security

screws or bolts, then the criminal has access to all they need to get in our homes.

Cars and vans

A spate of number plate thefts has occurred and tools stolen from vans.

You can fit your number plates with anti theft screws, available from any DIY outlet. Van theft can be combated by investing a security system. Here is an example - <https://uwatch.co.uk/>

Electric Gates

These have been damaged on several occasions. If you have electric gates, always keep them well maintained and consult with your installer for any more robust upgrades.

Stolen Property

Surrey Heath Police stopped some criminals with a large amount of stolen property on them recently. Please consider registering your property with **Immobilise.com** and or marking it with Selecta DNA (discount code available via the link below).

<https://surrey.police.uk/advice/protect-your-home-and-belongings/burglary/>

Then if the worst happens and you are broken into, we can identify your property quickly, to ensure the criminals are charged and you get it back. Also signs saying 'Our property is marked', will be a deterrent.

And Finally

As a chicken and a dog owner, I was saddened to read of some dogs that had attacked and killed a large number of chickens. Our dogs are our best friends, but we have a responsibility to train and secure them to ensure tragedies like this do not occur.



Home CCTV



For several years now, the Support Group has been promoting home CCTV as a valuable tool in our fight against crime. CCTV not only acts as a deterrent but can provide the essential video imagery to positively identify a criminal and enable the Police to bring an effective prosecution. We have a recent example where following a despicable distraction burglary on an elderly and disabled couple in Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch we installed a CCTV and were able to capture video imagery of the suspect on a second subsequent visit. The local Watch Coordinator was able to gather up additional corroborating CCTV footage from neighbouring properties in the Watch and pass all the imagery to Surrey Police who are now closing in on the suspect.

Please consider installing CCTV but seek advice before you make your final selection. It is important that the imagery is of sufficiently good quality for the Police to positively identify a suspect and that the cameras are installed in a way to capture the best view of a suspect. A considerable number of our members have already installed CCTV and I can call on them for their experience of specific systems. I am always happy to provide initial guidance and ad-

Crime Prevention Trailer Events for 2019

Please do visit our team, led by Mike Davis, who do so much good work disseminating information from the Neighbourhood Watch trailer at various public events in our towns and villages. The trailer is always very well attended and provides an excellent opportunity to publicise Neighbourhood Watch to a wider audience.

The trailer can be booked to attend local community events such as fun days and fetes and this is a volunteer based service which we do not charge for. It is manned by volunteers from your local Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group and is usually supported by the local Neighbourhood Police team.

The most popular function is the security marking of bicycles and baby buggies which is done free of charge.

vice as I have the benefit of everyone else's experience on their individual installations.

We can still get 30% discount on Y-Cam CCTV cameras and alarm systems so you may wish to consider them when you are looking at options. In any event you should be looking at 2 or 3 options and comparing the costs of both the equipment and the installation. We have some tried and tested tradesmen who have done installations for our members who we can recommend.

Ring Products

We currently have a £40 discount on Ring products. This offer runs until March 31st. If you want details please contact me by email.

Dash Cams



Our 30% discount is still available on Nextbase dash cams. If you need further details please email me.

Alan Dixon
Development Coordinator
Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group
alan_m_dixon@hotmail.com

In addition it is possible to purchase UV pens for marking property in the home and small UV torches on a key ring to read the markings. There are also personal attack alarms and cycle security locks for sale all with savings we've obtained through the power of Neighbourhood Watch.

The trailer can be booked by contacting Mike Davis on 01276 63846 or mdavis@surreyheathnw.co.uk.

Dates the trailer is currently booked for:

Monday 6th May

Chobham Carnival, 11am until 5 pm.

Saturday 11th May

Lightwater Fete, 12 noon until 4 pm.

Saturday 29th June

Lakeside school Summer Fayre.

Watch Updates

Upcoming Watch Coordinators' and Members' meetings on Mondays at 19.30:
25th March 2019, 3rd June 2019, 23rd September 2019 and 25th November 2019
at St Mary's Church, Park Road, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 2SR. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Can you help?

Your Watch Coordinator does a grand job in running your Neighbourhood Watch but he/she needs your support and assistance in distributing HeathWatch and sometimes deputising at the Watch Coordinators' meeting. These are not onerous tasks and your Watch will benefit. Please do contact your Coordinator if you are able to offer your services. Many thanks.

Your Neighbourhood Watch Support Group would be very grateful for any contribution towards its work, large or small. Should you wish to contribute, our bank account details are Lloyds Bank, account name Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group, Sort Code 30-91-53, A/C No. 00859924. Thank you for any support.

Watch News

New Watches	Coordinator	New Watch Coordinators	Coordinator
Cobbetts Walk, Bisley Mytchett Road 1, Mytchett	Melanie Beale Simon Roberts	Watch Name/Ward Chantry Road, Lightwater Diamond Ridge & Hill, Camberley Ivy Drive 1, Lightwater	Diane Sanderson Jas Chander Nolan Glue
Watch closures None			

Useful websites

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch: surreyheathnw.co.uk● In The Know: intheknow.community● Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network: ourwatch.org.uk● Surrey Heath Borough Council: surreyheath.gov.uk● Safer Surrey Heath Partnership: safersurreyheath.info	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Lost Property: virtualbumblebee.co.uk● Reporting minor crimes: police.uk● Property Register: immobilise.com● Most Wanted: crimestoppers-uk.org● National Fraud Intelligence Bureau: actionfraud.org.uk● Surrey Police: surrey.police.uk● Twitter @surreypolice
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Neighbourhood Watch Area Coordinators

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Camberley, St Pauls, Old Dean, Town, St Michaels & Watchetts: Alan Hitchcock, 01276 406911, ahitchcock@surreyheathnw.co.uk● Frimley, Parkside, Heatherside, Deepcut, Frimley Green & Mytchett: Martin Shorten, 01252 838639 mshorten@surreyheathnw.co.uk● Lightwater, Bagshot, Bisley, Chobham, West End & Windlesham:	<p>Mike Potter, 01276 474231, MPotter@surreyheathnw.co.uk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Surrey Heath Police Neighbourhood Team Coordinators: 01483 639880● Design Out Crime Officers (DOCO)● Stephen Cake, 01483 633272, 07967 988734, stephen.cake1@surrey.pnn.police.uk● Mike Jones, 01483 636626, 07967987908, mike.Jones2@surrey.pnn.police.uk
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