



HeathWatch



The quarterly Neighbourhood Watch newsletter for Surrey Heath
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surreyheathnw.co.uk

Message from our Chairman, Revd Larry Bain

It has been an honour and a privilege to take on the role of Chair of the Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Group recently but I am somewhat surprised to be handing it over quite so quickly to Jan Warwick following an unexpected "career" move to Tipton in the Black Country. It has been a privilege to work with an immensely talented group of fellow Support Group members and a large number of Watch Coordinators and an even greater number of dedicated Watch members (nearly 9000) who together make our organisation such a strong significant force for good in Surrey Heath.

Following meetings with our Borough Commander Alick James, there have been a number of excellent opportunities for members to team up with the

neighbourhood police staff in proactive operations to "spot" burglars and catalytic converter thieves who have targeted our homes and vehicles. COVID has of course affected crime patterns in our area so our close partnership with our local policing teams has been important to enable us to use our resources to address new trends.

I anticipate that under our first lady Chairman, Jan Warwick's leadership, there will be many more such operations and initiatives. See her article on Page 2 for details of our catalytic converter operation. Our social media reach through Facebook continues to grow allowing us a quick and increasingly important method of communication with over 5000 users - both members of our watches and others. Can I encourage you to continue with the good work in your streets to keep our Borough safe and crime-free.

Message from the Police Borough Commander, Alick James

When we look at the last year compared against the same period the year before we see that total offences are down. Of particular note is residential burglary which is 39% lower and Anti-Social Behaviour which is 25% down. We have also seen reductions in commercial burglary, criminal damage and domestic abuse with injury.

There have unfortunately been increases in certain crime types, one of which I wish to write about further; theft of motor vehicles which has seen a rise of 14%.

The current predominant method of theft of motor vehicle appears to be **relay attack**. This method targets vehicles with keyless entry/start systems. This type of key (unless it has the new 'sleep' function when no motion is detected) constantly emits the authorisation signal. Thieves exploit this by using a device to capture the signal by the house which then sends it to another device by the vehicle. The most effective way to prevent this happening is to block the

signal by placing the keys in a bag or box which stops the signal from escaping. These are sometimes called faraday or RFID blocking bags. Please double check these work by attempting to open the vehicle whilst the keys are with you but in their bag or box. You can also consider using steering wheel locks and similar devices which provide a physical/mechanical deterrent. There is a video on YouTube which demonstrates the attack method.

If you search 'Relay attack Solihull' this will bring up the footage uploaded by West Midlands Police.



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From the Police Borough Commander

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There have been national increases in relay attacks and our intelligence and investigation teams are working across borders to bring offenders to justice.

There is also a trend emerging of garage breaks where offenders are exploiting unattended and open garages or exploiting weaknesses in the roof material. It is a timely reminder that we are about to enter the winter period when historically we see an increase in burglaries across the borough. I remind readers of the advice to make your properties look occupied, make them a difficult target and make them a risky prospect.

Our Design Out Crime Officer (DOCO) has provided some advice on keeping your garages safe.

- Consider replacing the old roof sheets with modern material and dispose of the old sheets via an authorised handler. If this is not possible consideration should be given to lining the underside of the roof with boarding, ideally marine ply to give an additional barrier and also to cope with any water ingress.
- The main door should be secured using gold standard sold secure products.
- If there is a pedestrian door again this should be secured ideally with a PAS24-2016 doorset or have BS3621 or Euro Lock TS007 3 lock fitted.
- Consideration for an alarm should also be given, in many cases this would be a door magnet type as a PIR will probably be set off by spiders etc.
- Secondary devices to secure the cycle or any other equipment should be used such as Ground Anchors or shed shackle.

Thank you for your continued support, your engagement with the Neighbourhood Watch and partnership with Surrey Police is critical to keeping our communities safe and feeling safe.

From our new Chairman, Jan Warwick

Focus on catalytic converter thefts



On 21st April 2021, Surrey Heath local Safer Neighbourhood Watch Team took part in a proactive operation throughout the day in relation to the rising

number of Catalytic Converter thefts in the Borough.

There were both marked and unmarked Police vehicles patrolling the borough all day, with a focus on identified spots, as well as 16 volunteers from Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch, who acted as 'spotters' and let the officers know of any suspicious activity they observed so that officers could attend and take appropriate action.

Rob Freeman, Community Engagement Volunteer (Surrey Heath) and Member of Neighbourhood Watch, thanked the Neighbourhood Watch volunteers and said "The help and time you gave up to assist us is invaluable".

Cat Con Roadshow



On Monday 28th June 2021, Surrey Neighbourhood Watch Support Group members joined Surrey Police and Crimestoppers in the Longacres Garden Centre Car

Park in Bagshot as part of the 'Cat Con Roadshow'.

The purpose of the roadshow was to increase awareness amongst the general public on how quick it is to steal a Catalytic Converter and to advise owners how to 'mark' their converter. Surrey Police promoted the signs to watch out for and had a Toyota vehicle to demonstrate on.

The following cars are most at risk from Catalytic Converter Theft:

1. Toyota Prius
2. Honda Jazz
3. Toyota Auris
4. Lexus RX
5. Toyota Yaris

If you have information on Catalytic Converter Thefts, please call 999, or you can 'Speak Up and Stay Safe' by reporting to Crimestoppers crimestoppers-uk.org or 020 8835 3700.

Message from the Police

Western Designing Out Crime Officer, Stephen Cake advises:

As we are approaching the onset of the darker nights, here is a useful security checklist for your home.

Most domestic burglaries are committed by opportunist thieves looking for the easiest way of getting in to your home without being seen or disturbed.

Look at your home through the eyes of a burglar. Are there places where a burglar could break into your home without being seen? How would you get in if you had forgotten your keys? If you could get inside, so could a burglar.

Follow the advice on this page to help secure your home.

During the winter

- As the nights get darker earlier, leave a light on inside your home. Remember to choose low energy lamps.
- Use a timer switch to operate the lights as it starts to get dark. Change the times that the lights come on to simulate an occupied home.
- Make sure your front door is well lit. Use dusk to dawn lighting that automatically comes on as it gets dark.
- Make sure you keep your doors and windows locked at all times.
- Windows and doors security
- When you go out, always close and lock external doors and windows, even if you are just going out for a short time.
- Fit a five lever mortice lock (British Standard 3621) to all exterior wooden doors. If you are having new windows or doors installed, ensure they are certified to PAS 24:2016 standard for Enhanced security performance requirements for doorsets and windows in the UK.
- UPVC or composite doors have multipoint-locking systems, but it is strongly recommended they are fitted with an anti-snap lock cylinder (TS007) of 3* standard as a minimum
- Window locks can be seen from outside and could deter a burglar from forcing the window
- If you have deadlocks, use them. They make it more difficult for a thief to get out again. But

don't leave the key near the door or in an obvious place nearby

- If you have a flat roof extension the windows above it should always be locked

Keeping keys safe

- Ensure your keys are kept in a safe place out of sight and well away from your letterbox
- Don't label keys so they can be easily identified
- Keep all spare keys in a safe place
- Don't leave spare keys outside or in a garage or shed
- Consider buying a safe for personal papers, passports and small items of jewellery. This must be secured to the floor or a wall

Security outside your home

- Never leave garages or sheds unlocked, especially if they connect to your property
- Visible burglar alarms and carefully directed security lighting can deter burglars. Make sure alarms stop sounding after 20 minutes and lights don't disturb your neighbours
- Living in a flat or shared housing
- Consider having a phone entry system fitted to the main door of your building
- Never buzz open the door for strangers, or hold open the door for someone you don't know
- Get home contents insurance

Going on holiday

- Suspend any deliveries, such as milk and newspapers
- Ask a friend or neighbour to keep an eye on your property
- Try to make your home look occupied while you are not there Use timer switches on lamps or your radio.

Be a good neighbour

- If you see anyone acting suspiciously in your neighbourhood, call the police on 101 or, in an emergency, 999.
- There is further information available at surrey.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention

From our Treasurer, Tim Tostevin

Keeping In Touch with us

Whilst we are hoping to restart our quarterly meetings at St Mary's Church in Camberley soon, we have held some very well attended meetings via Zoom during the lockdowns. Our website, surreyheathnw.co.uk has lots of information including our attendance at events, the latest on our meetings and all recent *HeathWatch* publications. We are continuing to post relevant and timely messages on our Facebook page, so please do join our group and the discussion. We have a Twitter page where you can see up-to-date guidance on home and online security, as well as warnings about frauds and scams: twitter.com/heath_watch. If you have access to Twitter please do "follow us", but even if you don't, you can still see all of the posted information as there is a live feed on every page of our website!

Donating to Neighbourhood Watch

Whilst being a member of Neighbourhood Watch is free, sometimes people wish to support us by making a donation to our running costs - for example we have over 900 road signs to maintain and we can resurface 5 with a £25 donation. We recognise these people as "Friends of Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch" when they donate a minimum of £25 per year as individuals

or £50 per year as a business. We are delighted to give grateful thanks to all of our 'Friends', particularly Douglas Fish, Shirley Powell and Christine & Barry Stevens who have all renewed their membership for another year! If you would like to become a "Friend of Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch" you can:

- Donate by card via our secure website: surreyheathnw.co.uk/donate-to-surrey-heath-neighbourhood-watch
- Make a payment to our bank: Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group, Sort code 30-91-53, A/C 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.

Our main source of funding is the regular income from our supporters playing the Surrey Heath Lottery. It costs a minimum of £1 a week to play; of this 50p comes to us. There is a jackpot of £25,000 each week and we have already had one winner – a lady from Camberley. A big thank you to those of you who already support us! If you would like to join in the fun please use this QR code or visit our website:

surreyheathlottery.co.uk/support/surrey-heath-neighbourhood-watch-support-



A big welcome to our new Watch Coordinators

Barnett Lane, Lightwater (existing Watch)

Golf Drive, Parkside (existing Watch)

Cumberland Road, Heatherside (existing Watch)

Coleford Paddocks & Potteries Lane (new Watch)

Summer Gardens, Heatherside (new Watch)

Steve Carrodus

Nigel Hall

John Alves

Jennifer Hall

John Emmerton

Neighbourhood Watch key contacts

Design Out Crime Officers (DOCO) - contact for advice on crime prevention.

Stephen Cake, 01483 633272, 07967 988734, stephen.cake1@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Mike Jones, 01483 636626, 07967987908, mike.jones2@surrey.pnn.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

