



# HeathWatch

The quarterly Neighbourhood Watch newsletter for Surrey Heath



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[surreyheathnw.co.uk](https://surreyheathnw.co.uk)

## A message from our chairman, Alan Howell

Welcome everyone to the Winter HeathWatch newsletter. I do hope that you enjoy reading it. I can't believe that it has now been 12 months since we started using the new condensed format - please do let us know if you have any suggestions or want to request any topics for future editions.

In this edition you will see that the police focus for the winter period is burglary, drugs, violence and VAWG (Violence Against Women & Girls).

By the time you read this edition, SHNW will most likely have already supported Surrey Heath Police again with their first Winter Burglary Campaign. These target specific locations around the borough. Information about burglary prevention is handed out, as well as giving out free patio door alarms. We may again be asking for volunteers to support follow-on campaigns, once we have specific locations and dates confirmed, so please keep an eye out for further information.

The annual Neighbourhood Watch Conference took place online back in September. If you were not able to join that, you will be able to download some very good information, including the following topics:

- Neighbourhood Policing
- Stop Loan Sharks
- Direction and Strategy for Neighbourhood Watch 2025-2030

Visit <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/news/neighbourhood-watch-conference-2025> for this and more.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone and their families a very Merry Christmas as we approach the festive season. Please remember to stay safe at home and online.

Warm regards,  
Alan Howell - Chairman  
Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch  
07919320135  
[alanhowell@surreyheathnw.co.uk](mailto:alanhowell@surreyheathnw.co.uk)

## Keys tips for safely using Christmas lights

As we approach Christmas again, the following advice is a timely reminder to ensure that Christmas fairy lights are used safely for a joyful and hazard-free festive season

### Inspect Your Lights:

Check for any damage such as frayed wires, broken bulbs, or loose connections. Damaged lights can pose a serious fire risk.

### Follow Manufacturer Instructions:

Always read and adhere to the manufacturer's guidelines for safe use.

### Use LED Lights:

Choose LED lights over traditional filament bulbs. LEDs operate at a lower voltage, generate less heat and are more energy-efficient, reducing the risk of fire and electric shock.

### Avoid Overloading Sockets:

Do not overload electrical sockets or use multiple extension leads. This can cause overheating and increase the risk of fire.

### Keep Cables Tidy:

Avoid placing cables under carpets or rugs where they can wear out unnoticed. Ensure they are not a trip hazard.

### Keep Away from Flammable Materials:

Ensure lights are not in contact with flammable decorations or materials that can easily catch fire.

### Turn Off When Unattended:

Always switch off and unplug your lights when you go to bed or leave the house.

### Outdoor Lights:

Only use lights designed specifically for outdoor use. Indoor lights are not built to withstand weather conditions and can become hazardous. Ensure all outdoor connections are weatherproof and protected from moisture.

By following these safety tips, you can enjoy a beautifully lit and safe Christmas season!



# Update from Acting Inspector Ryan Scott

During this period, we will be focussing on burglary, drugs, violence and VAWG (Violence Against Women & Girls). In this article, I have concentrated on information about burglary - what you can do to reduce your risks, what Surrey Police are doing and how we can help each other.

## Lock Up, Speak Up: Tackling Burglaries in Surrey Heath

Surrey Heath has seen a worrying rise in burglaries in recent months, with 43 incidents recorded since September. These have taken place during the day, while homes are unoccupied and at night, when properties appear empty or are poorly lit. Certain communities - including British Asian families - have also reported being specifically targeted, often due to the presence of high-value items, such as heirloom jewellery.

Burglars tend to go for easy targets. Homes without external lighting, with unlocked doors or windows, or that clearly look unoccupied are at higher risk. Unsecured sheds, garages, or tools left out in the open also increase vulnerability. Properties lacking visible deterrents, such as alarms or CCTV, are more likely to be chosen.

## How you can help prevent burglaries?

There are simple but effective steps every resident can take to make their home less attractive to burglars. Good lighting is one of the easiest deterrents - motion sensor lights or dusk-to-dawn options can make a big difference. When you're out, consider leaving on a light or even a radio, to give the impression someone is home.

Make sure all doors and windows are locked, even when you're inside. Upgrading locks, installing spy holes or door chains and securing sheds and garages all help reduce risk. Tools, ladders

and other outdoor items should be locked away rather than left in plain sight.

It's also worth taking the time to photograph and record details of valuable items, such as bikes or jewellery. Using forensic or visible marking kits can help police recover and return stolen goods, if the worst happens.

Being alert in your neighbourhood is just as important. Get to know your neighbours and keep an eye out for anything unusual - such as someone loitering, checking car doors, or acting suspiciously near properties. Trust your instincts and don't assume someone else will report it.

## Why Reporting Matters

Reporting incidents - no matter how small - is crucial. Even if nothing was stolen or there's only minor damage, telling the police helps them build a clearer picture of what's happening in the area. It allows them to track hotspots, identify patterns and target patrols more effectively.

In Surrey Heath, you should call 999 if a crime is in progress or someone is in danger. For non-emergencies, use 101 or Surrey Police's online reporting tool: <https://www.surrey.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

If you spot suspicious activity, you can also use the dedicated Suspicious Activity Portal: <https://www.surrey.police.uk/police-forces/surrey-police/areas/campaigns/suspicious-activity-portal/>

Even photos or videos without 'proof' of a crime can be helpful.

You can also speak to your local Neighbourhood Watch group or Community Safety Officer for advice, support or to share concerns.

## What is being done?

In response to the rise in crime, Surrey Police are:

- stepping up patrols, especially at night

- taking on engagement events to help educate and provide reassurance to the community
- looking at setting up events with local councillors, Neighbourhood Watch groups and the Borough Council, to spread awareness across the area

## What YOU can do today

Take a few minutes to check your locks, lighting and home security. Photograph valuables, make a note of serial numbers and register them on sites such as Immobilise:

<https://www.immobilise.com/>

Encourage your neighbours to join your local Neighbourhood Watch!

And remember: if you see something odd - don't ignore it. **Report it.**

Thank you for your continued support.

Ryan Scott  
Borough Commander  
Surrey Heath

## | Dates for your diary

The Watch Coordinator meetings for 2026 will all be held at St. Mary's Church Centre, Park Road, Camberley, GU15 2SR, at 7.30pm. The dates are as follows:

Monday 30th March

Monday 29th June

Monday 28th September

Monday 30th November

These are open to all Watch Coordinators and all members of their Watches. We usually have a local Police spokesperson to provide an update and take any questions, as well as a guest speaker.

# Neighbourhood Watch: Building Stronger, Connected Communities

## Amazing community power

Neighbourhood Watch is England and Wales' largest volunteer-led crime prevention charity, with 60,000+ dedicated volunteers and 2+ million supporter households working together to make a real difference.

## Perfect timing for connection

As winter approaches and we spend more time indoors, there is a wonderful opportunity to reach out and support neighbours who might be experiencing loneliness.

## Everyone matters

Loneliness can affect people at any life stage - whether it's older adults, teenagers navigating social situations, or people in middle age facing life transitions. The great news? We can all help!

## Be a loneliness detective

Watch for neighbours who've experienced recent life changes like bereavement, retirement or health challenges - they might benefit from your friendly outreach.

## You have the power to help

Simple actions make a huge impact: Neighbourhood Watch coordinators are perfectly positioned to be community connectors and loneliness-fighters.

## Knowledge is strength

Understanding your community's culture and building genuine relationships helps everyone feel included and engaged.

## Scam protection

Connected communities naturally protect vulnerable members from scammers who prey on isolated individuals - friendship is

the best defence.

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/crime-prevention/crime-types/scams-and-fraud/protecting-against-scams>

## Resources galore

Neighbourhood Watch offers fantastic toolkits and information packs to help you run effective campaigns and support older neighbours.

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/crime-prevention/reducing-risk-toolkits/reducing-loneliness-and-vulnerability/spotting-signs>

## Together we thrive

By building strong, caring communities, we create a protective network where everyone looks out for one another.

**WE WANT  
YOU!**

## Join the Support Group

We currently have the following volunteer role vacancies:

### HeathWatch Editor

(to collate articles for our quarterly newsletter and liaise with our designer and printer to arrange production).

### Community Events

**Coordinator** (to coordinate our attendance at local community fetes, fayres and fundays).

**Meetings Secretary** (to keep a record of our bi-monthly meetings).

In addition, we are looking for volunteers to help our Area Coordinators set up new Watches in roads not currently covered, particularly in Bisley, West End, Windlesham, Lightwater and Chobham, as well as volunteers to lead Watches in their road. All roles are fully flexible, part-time and voluntary, so can fit around your other priorities. Any out of pocket expenses will be covered.

If you are interested in any of the roles, please contact our Chairman Alan Howell – [alanhowell@surreyheathnw.co.uk](mailto:alanhowell@surreyheathnw.co.uk) - for more information.

## A warm welcome to the following new Watch Coordinators

Wendy Evans.....	Hawthorn Way, Bisley
Elizabeth Hammond .....	Gordon Avenue, Watchetts
Brandon Stephen .....	Greenlands Road, Watchetts



# Supporting your Neighbourhood Watch

## Surrey Heath Lottery

- This is our main source of funding and we are so grateful to all that play and support us.
- For each £1 ticket purchased we receive 50p. This has enabled us to raise over £16,000 in just over 6 years!
- The weekly jackpot is £25,000 and there are smaller prizes for matching fewer numbers. We get winners who support us nearly every week!
- Join the fun at **www.surreyheathlottery.co.uk/support/surrey-heath-neighbourhood-watch-support-group**

## Friends of SHNW

- Donations help cover our running costs and any are gratefully received!
- If you can donate £25 or more in a year, then we'll recognise you as a 'Friend of Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch'. Special thanks to new 'Friends' Mr & Mrs Bixley.
- Donations can be made on our website (**www.surreyheathnw.co.uk**), by bank transfer (Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group, sort code 30-91-53, a/c 00859924) or by sending us a cheque (c/o Police Office, Surrey Heath House, Knoll Road, Camberley, GU15 3HD).

## Easyfundraising

- For those of you who buy things online, you can raise money for us without any cost - the retailers will pay us!
- Sign up at **https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk** and 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 at a participating retailer you will be asked if you would like a donation to come to us.
- So far we have raised over £250 from this scheme, so please join us if you buy things online. If you have already signed up then please don't forget to agree to donate when you buy things online.

## 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](mailto:stephen.cake1@surrey.police.uk)

Mike Jones, 01483 636626, 07967987908, [mike.Jones2@surrey.police.uk](mailto:mike.Jones2@surrey.police.uk)

### Camberley, St Pauls, Old Dean, Town, St Michaels & Watchetts

Alan Hitchcock, 078300 69150, [ahitchcock@surreyheathnw.co.uk](mailto:ahitchcock@surreyheathnw.co.uk)

### Frimley, Parkside, Heatherside, Deepcut, Frimley Green & Mytchett

Jackie Davies, 01276 506215, [jdavies@surreyheathnw.co.uk](mailto:jdavies@surreyheathnw.co.uk)

### Lightwater, Bisley, Chobham, West End & Windlesham

Mike Potter, 07985 506624, [mpotter@surreyheathnw.co.uk](mailto:mpotter@surreyheathnw.co.uk)

### Bagshot

Chris Seaton, 07544 553367, [chriseaton@surreyheathnw.co.uk](mailto:chriseaton@surreyheathnw.co.uk)

### Surrey Heath Police Neighbourhood Team Coordinators

01483 639880

## Follow us on



Surrey Heath  
Neighbourhood Watch



@heath\_watch



@surreyheathnw