



HeathWatch



www.surreyheathnw.co.uk



The quarterly Neighbourhood Watch newsletter for Surrey Heath
Volume 2 Issue 69 Spring 2020 Editor Juanita West
Printed by YesPrint Ltd. 01252 878120 YesPrint.co.uk



Message from the Chairman

It is apparent that due to reported increase in burglaries that we have received many enquires about setting up new Watches, which has meant our Area Coordinators have been exceptionally busy arranging meetings, providing the necessary documentation and help to new Watch Coordinators to establish a Watch (see back page for figures). This has also meant our Sign Coordinator has also been called upon to erect many new signs at the same time we have been provided with Selecta DNA warning signs by the Police and Crime Commissioner via Surrey Police which we have now displayed throughout the Borough. It is quite surprising that many enquiries have come from obscure sources rather than Police, our Website or Facebook. Now that we have nearly 5000 members of Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Facebook, it would be very helpful if those members could sign up for their local Watch too.

At the last Coordinators' meeting it was pointed out that many of the copies of HeathWatch not collected at the meeting which are then made available at the local library are not being collected either. This causes us concern that members of those Watches are not being given the service expected from their respective Coordinators, apart from the expense of the wasted copies and effort of the Area Coordinators to provide them.

Surrey Heath Borough Commander

I am pleased to report that the high levels of residential burglary that the borough was experiencing have reduced in volume from the levels experienced before Christmas. That is not to say that the problem has gone away and I would ask that you remain vigilant as ever.

A number of significant arrests have taken place in our Policing area and further afield in Hampshire and Thames Valley Policing areas and these have undoubtedly had an impact on those levels of offences. In investigating these burglaries the value of good CCTV has become even more apparent, so if you are considering purchasing a doorbell camera or similar then be assured of its value to the Police.

I am sure you will have seen the news of the proposed increase in Police officer numbers promised by central govern-

ment along with the uplift from the increase in the council tax precept. From my perspective that is good news as hopefully that will give me more resilience. However I would like to sound a note of caution; we are still experiencing greater than average numbers of officers leaving Surrey Police, either transferring to other forces or leaving Policing all together. Until the uplift exceeds the exit then we will be running to stand still.

Many of you know Mike Davis who has served on our Support group from its inception as Treasurer, Trailer Coordinator, Fund Raiser and Salesman at the Coordinators' meeting. Mike was presented with a award on our behalf by Robin Perry, Mayor of Surrey Heath at the last Coordinators' meeting, and also presented with a long service award by David Munro, Police and Crime Commissioner at the Surrey Neighbourhood Watch Annual General meeting in January following his decision to step down after some 35 years committed to crime prevention within Surrey Heath (see page 2). Mike is reluctant to give up completely and has indicated he will still come to Coordinators' meetings and may occasionally be available to tow the trailer to local events.

When Mike notified us of his intention to stand down we needed to consider how we could be represented at the local shows. I suggested that perhaps we could replace the trailer with a motorised mobile exhibition vehicle which would need to be funded. The income from the lottery was allocated to this; at the same time we will seek other sources of funds. We are now pleased to announce that our bid from National Lottery has been successful with a donation of £10,000 towards our goal of circa £20,000 + depending upon availability of a suitable vehicle. As you may guess we welcome any donations via our "Friends of Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch" appeal (see page 2). *Thank you, Martin Butcher*

The team is raising its profile on Facebook, with more regular posts; if you aren't following us then please do. Rob Freeman has settled in nicely with the team and is sending out our "In the Know" messages on a weekly basis; he has some ideas for news and articles he wants to promote, so if there is anything you would like to know about the local team then please get in touch with him through that portal.

Best wishes for a drier spring! *Thank you, 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 Police Update

From Mike Jones

Burglaries: Please continue to protect the rear of your properties, as burglars find this the main route into our homes. Keep side gates locked, clear away clutter in the back garden that could be used to smash windows and secure tools etc. Consider laminated glass for rear windows, doors and patio doors, if you are upgrading, or put anti-shatter film on existing windows.

Here is some timely advice from Action Fraud:
actionfraud.police.uk/alert/coronavirus-scam-costs-victims-over-800k-in-one-month

Since February 2020, the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau has identified 21 reports of fraud where Coronavirus was mentioned, with victim losses totalling over £800k. Of the 21 reports, ten were made by victims that attempted to purchase protective face masks from fraudulent sellers. One victim reported losing over £15k when they purchased face masks that were never delivered.

We have also received multiple reports about coronavirus-themed phishing emails attempting to trick people into opening malicious attachments or revealing sensitive personal and financial information. One common tactic used by fraudsters is to contact potential victims over email purporting to be from research organisation's affiliated with the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

They claim to be able to provide the recipient with a list of coronavirus infected people in their area. In order to access this information, the victim needs to click on a link, which leads to a malicious website, or is asked to make a payment in Bitcoin. Reporting numbers are expected to rise as the virus continues to spread across the world.

Grateful thanks to David Pinder of Lightwater, first donor under our new "Friends" scheme

From Tim Tostevin

We are a 'Not For Profit' organisation run entirely by volunteers and as such constantly need to raise funds to pay for meeting room hire, new/replacement signs, produce newsletters/leaflets, the costs of attending local shows/fetes etc. Whilst being a member of Neighbourhood Watch is free, from time to time people wish to support Neighbourhood Watch by making a donation to support our running costs and we would like to recognise these people.

Such donors will now be recognised officially as "Friends of Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch" by donating a minimum of £25 per year as an individual or by donating a minimum of £50 per year as a business. We are delighted to give



Protect yourself. Watch out for scam messages: don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails, and never respond to unsolicited messages and calls that ask for your personal or financial details.

Shopping online: if you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first, and ask a friend or family member for advice before completing the purchase. If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, as most major credit card providers insure online purchases. For more information on how to shop online safely, please visit: actionfraud.police.uk/shophonlinesafely

Protect your devices from the latest threats: always install the latest software and app updates to protect your devices from the latest threats. For information on how to update your devices, please visit: nsc.gov.uk/guidance/securing-your-devices.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) information: how to stay safe
nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

For more crime prevention advice please visit:
surrey.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary

Or contact Mike Jones and Stephen Cake, West Surrey Police Crime Reduction Advisors: **01483 639508**. This number is an answerphone only and we will get back to you. Do not use this number to report incidents; **ring 101 for this (always 999 in an emergency)**. **Mike Jones and Stephen Cake:** Surrey Police Designing Out Crime Officers for, Surrey Heath, Waverley, Guildford and Woking.

grateful thanks to David Pinder of Lightwater for his kind donation; the first under the new scheme!

All such "Friends of Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch" will be recognised in the next quarterly HeathWatch publication unless you advise us that you would rather remain anonymous. Businesses can also 'sponsor' the quarterly HeathWatch publication in return for a half page advertisement (£300) or a quarter page advertisement (£150). If you would like to become a "Friend of Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch" you can either:

- 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, or
- Make a payment to direct to our Bank Account - details available on the back page of every HeathWatch or by email request to info@surreyheathnw.co.uk.

Scam call centre exposed on BBC's Panorama Programme

A telephone call states that there is a problem with your computer or laptop and help is offered to fix the issue. But instead, the scammers install programs onto your computer that steal or delete your personal data.

A scam call centre that targeted thousands of British victims has been raided by the Indian police, following a BBC investigation. *Panorama* broadcast hacked footage from inside the call centre which showed how staff charged people hundreds of pounds to fix non-existent computer problems.

The programme had also obtained the recordings of 70,000 calls where victims were being ripped off in the UK, America and Australia. Indian police are appealing for British residents who paid money to the call centre to contact them by email at Shocybergrg.pol-hry@gov.in.

You can watch the footage here: bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000fzx2/panorama-spying-on-the-scammers.

Please be aware and visit the Neighbourhood Watch information pages here: ourwatch.org.uk/telephone-scams.



Following 35 years of devoted Neighbourhood Watch service, Mike Davis receives award of appreciation.

Mike Davis, a stalwart of the Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch, has been unstinting in his generosity of time and effort over many decades.



As many of you know, Mike has served on our Support group from the beginning, variously as Treasurer, Trailer Coordinator, Fund Raiser and Salesman at the Coordinators' meeting.

Mike has devoted many hours of time and much effort to bring the work of the Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch to the general public, with the aim of increasing safety and decreasing crime.

Mike was presented with an award for these fantastic efforts at the last Coordinators' meeting by Robin Perry, Mayor of Surrey Heath. In January, Mike was also recognised with a long service award by David Munro, Police and Crime Commissioner at the Surrey Neighbourhood Watch Annual General meeting.

Heartfelt thanks go out to Mike from all on the team and in the neighbourhood who have benefited from his time and efforts in combating crime in our area.

Thank you, Mike!



Watch Updates

Published by the Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group

Upcoming Watch Coordinators' and Members' meetings on Mondays at 19.30:

23rd March; 1st June; 28th September; 23rd November; 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 in distributing HeathWatch and sometimes deputising at the Watch Coordinators' meeting. This is not onerous and your Watch will benefit. Please contact your Coordinator if you can help. Your Neighbourhood Watch Support Group would be very grateful for any contribution towards our work, large or small. Should you wish, our bank details are Lloyds, account name Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group, Sort Code 30-91-53, A/C No. 00859924.

Watch News

New Watches

Watch Name/Ward

High View Road & Cranwell
Grove, Lightwater

Scott's Grove Road & Others,
Chobham

Bergenia Court, West End
Yew Tree Walk, Frimley

Pevensey Way, Frimley Green
Kepple Place & Hewlett Place,

Bagshot

Brackendale & Rayfields, Parkside
Cumberland Road, Heatherside

Watch Rep

Miranda Segar

Julie Goldie

Glenn Parker
Gerry Delacey

Fiona Kempston

Raphael Hewett

Neeraj Shah

Keith Steadman

Bain Avenue, Watchetts

Broomsquires Road, Bagshot

Watches with new coordinators

Watch Name/Ward

College Ride, Bagshot

Rugosa Road, West End

Ambleside Close, Mytchett

Richmond Close & Woburn Close,
Frimley

Hollytree Gardens, Frimley

White Acres Road, Mytchett

Irram Akhtar

Chris Seaton

Watch Rep

Peter Keeling

Ruth Dear

Vera Sheard

Debra Beckwith

John Bouch

Michael Bet

teridge

Watch closures

NONE

Facebook

The **Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Group** on Facebook was created in 2017. Please do join the group and benefit from all the updates and hard work, particularly by our dedicated group admins, Alan Hitchcock & Rev. Larry Bain. Visit facebook.com/groups/568384326884016/ or google Surrey Heath NW Facebook Group.

Useful websites

- Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch: surreyheathnw.co.uk
- Surrey Heath NW Facebook group: facebook.com/groups/568384326884016/
- 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
- 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

Neighbourhood Watch Area Coordinators

- Camberley, St Pauls, Old Dean, Town, St Michaels & Watchetts:
Alan Hitchcock, 01276 406911,
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, 01276 474231,
MPotter@surreyheathnw.co.uk
- 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