



HeathWatch



The quarterly Neighbourhood Watch newsletter for Surrey Heath
Volume 2 Issue 72 | Winter 2021 | Editor Juanita West



surreyheathnw.co.uk

Message from the Chairman

I expect you are all wondering what this year holds in store for us. Hopefully we can overcome this virus and start rebuilding in some form - perhaps a different way of life for the future.

I believe that a lot of good has come out of the changes forced upon us; certainly in promoting neighbourliness, which we hope will continue, especially for the most vulnerable to be able to be sure that help is always there when needed.

As you are aware it has been difficult for us to communicate person to person or for the various community fayres to take place. However we were asked to assist the neighbourhood force with promoting awareness to reduce burglary initially in Bagshot, followed up in Lightwater, Frimley and Camberley which proved very successful. Thanks to all who took part distributing leaflets.

We continue with our fund raising to purchase a mobile exhibition vehicle to replace the aging trailer used at the local events held throughout the spring and summer months. The advantages of

having a motorised unit will allow us to exhibit at other venues also. This will necessitate more volunteers to be available, therefore will be asking you if you are able to spare some time on "ad hoc" basis after we take delivery.

We have continued to compile and issue *HeathWatch* electronically and will have printed version when we are able to circulate to watch coordinators for distribution to their members. As with many other organisations, we encourage members to accept digital version of *HeathWatch* to reduce costs and help obtain a greener atmosphere.

We would like to arrange a Watch Coordinators meeting via Zoom which will also include Q & A for both ourselves and Police.

Please advise if you would participate in a Zoom meeting so that we are able to make preparations and don't forget to forward your questions to me:

m butcher@surreyheathnw.co.uk

Martin Butcher

In this issue:



Page 2: DI Alick James, Surrey Heath Borough Commander.

Updates on burglary reductions and advice about fraud prevention.

Page 3: Neighbourhood Watch "Friends" update; more ways to keep up to date with us on social media; and 3 simple steps to guard your passwords.

Important information to keep you safe online, alongside lots of good news about supporters and our growing social media presence.

Page 4: Membership updates and Crimestoppers' latest campaign.

Crimestoppers' 4 Simple Steps to avoid cyber and doorstep crime in the Covid era.

Membership Secretary's Report.

Key Neighbourhood Watch contact details.

Lottery update: don't forget that you can support us by playing the Surrey Heath Lottery from £1 a week with a weekly jackpot of £25,000. Half of the ticket money is donated to us. [Click here to play!](#)



This newsletter is produced by the Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group with funding gratefully received from Safer Surrey Heath Partnership, Windlesham Parish Council and from Surrey Police in the promotion of Neighbourhood Watch and the distribution of *HeathWatch*. We gratefully acknowledge their generosity in supporting us.



Message from Surrey Heath Borough Commander



It is with optimism that I write my first article for *HeathWatch* in 2021. We are still in lockdown but the infection rates in the borough are falling and the vaccine provides a light on the horizon. The vast majority of people in the borough are adhering to the guidelines, helping to keep us all safe and your local team continue to address those breaching the restrictions. Total crime has reduced in Surrey Heath by 11% in the last year and we've seen reductions in vehicle crime, theft, violence with injury, hate crime and burglaries.

On the topic of burglaries I would like to thank all of the Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers who supported the local team in their proactive burglary prevention this winter.

I was very pleased to find out recently that Alan Hitchcock, Mike Potter and Rob Freeman received a Surrey NHW annual award for their contributions – very well deserved indeed.

In Surrey Heath we have seen a burglary reduction of 44% and this is reflected across the whole of the County. This is driven by the pandemic; with more people at home, there are fewer unoccupied properties for burglars to target. This demonstrates the importance of making your home look occupied if you are out.

In Bagshot, where Surrey Police and the Neighbourhood Watch worked together to conduct proactive patrols and target hardening, we have seen a massive 85% reduction in burglaries – that's 39 fewer winter burglaries than 2019-2020. This wouldn't have been possible without the Neighbourhood Watch and I look forward to applying what we have learnt to other parts of the borough.

On a final preventative note, fraud makes up one third of all reported crime in the UK and it's important to stay on top of the latest scams and advice to avoid them. I recommend taking a look at the Action Fraud website [actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk) where they have some excellent crime prevention advice for individuals and business. Please be alert to the latest scam relating to the Covid-19 vaccine (see page 4 for further advice from Crimestoppers on this).

Fraudsters are claiming to be from the NHS and direct victims to an authentic looking website where they are asked for personal details, bank details or payment. Please remember that the NHS will never:

- Ask for payment – the vaccine is free for everyone
- Ask for your bank details
- Arrive at your home unannounced to administer a vaccine
- Ask you for your personal details via email or text.

Stay safe, Alick

COVID-19: SMS / Text message SCAMS

TOP 4 SMS SCAMS

Fake URL links claiming to link to GOV.UK website to claim supposed COVID-19 related payment	Lockdown fines suggesting you have breached lockdown	Offers of health supplements that will prevent you becoming infected	Financial support offers that appear to be from your bank

HOW DO SMS SCAMS WORK

Cyber criminals are preying on fears of the coronavirus and sending 'phishing' text messages that try and trick users into clicking on a bad link. Messages are short and simple and often claim to be from a known entity. Web links are harder to spot on a SMS as they are shortened so apply caution clicking on links!

Sender of UK Government SMS:
Genuine text messages from the UK Government will only come from UK Gov. You will only ever be directed to GOV.UK/coronavirus.

HOW TO VERIFY THE MESSAGE?

- 1 Challenge - Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests that don't feel right. Check GOV.UK to ensure it's genuine.
- 2 Be wary of text messages that try to get you to send money, or important personal information such as bank details or passwords.
- 3 Take a moment to stop and think before parting with information to keep you safe or your money.
- 4 Use official government websites and refer to 'Contact Us' sections of websites to access information and services.

News from our Fundraising Coordinator, Tim Tostevin

Whilst being a member of Neighbourhood Watch is free, sometimes people wish to support us by making a donation to our running costs. 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 our latest 'Friend', who donated in December. I will name check her in the next newsletter if she confirms that it is OK. I am also delighted to say that our first ever 'Friend', **David Pinder**, has renewed his membership for another year – thank you for your support, David!

If you would like to become a "Friend of Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch" you can:

- 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
- Make a payment directly to our bank: Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group, Sort code 30-91-53, A/C 00859924.
- Donate by debit or credit card via our secure website using PayPal - surreyheathnw.co.uk/donate-to-surreyheath-neighbourhood-watch

Keeping in Touch – Website, Facebook, Twitter

I am delighted to let you know that we have updated our website surreyheathnw.co.uk - please do visit if you have not looked at it for a while as there is lots of information including all of the recent *HeathWatch* publications. We are also continuing to post relevant and timely messages on our Facebook page:

facebook.com/groups/568384326884016/about

so please do join our group and contribute if you can. We have now also launched a Twitter page where you can see the latest guidance on home and online security as well as warnings about the latest frauds, scams, etc:

twitter.com/heath_watch If you have access to Twitter please do "follow us" but if you don't then you can still see all of the posted information as there is a live feed on every page of our website!

Keep Passwords Secure with 3 Simple Steps



We all know the online horror stories. So here are the quickest, most important things to do today to ensure it doesn't happen to you. Read more here: ourwatch.org.uk/passwords.

1. Create a separate password for your email account: Your personal email account contains lots of important information about you and is the gateway to all your other online accounts, including banking, social media and online shopping. If your email account is hacked all your other passwords can be reset, so use a strong password that is different to all your others.

2. Use 3 random words: Weak passwords can be hacked in seconds. Three random words is the recommended way of generating passwords, as it is easier to remember and takes trillions of years for a computer algorithm to crack. Start with your most important accounts (email, banking and social media) and replace your old passwords with new ones. The Police Digital Security Centre (PDSC) recommend looking around the room and picking three things you see, for example table, computer, map would become tablecomputermap – DO NOT use words that are associated with you; for example pets or surnames, as these are easy to identify via social media. To increase the strength of the password further you can easily replace letters with numbers, capitals and even add special characters (*+& etc.).

3. Turn on two-factor authentication (2FA): Two-factor authentication (2FA) is a free security feature that gives you an extra layer of protection online and stops cyber criminals getting into your accounts - even if they have your password. 2FA reduces the risk of being hacked by asking you to provide a second factor of information, such as getting a text or code when you log in, to check you are who you say you are.

Check if the online services and apps you use offer 2FA – it's also called two-step verification or multi-factor authentication. If they do, turn it on. Start with the accounts you care most about, such as your email and social media.

Four Simple Steps to Avoid Cybercrime

From Crimestoppers-uk.org



Crimestoppers is running a campaign in Surrey to keep people safe with four steps to avoid crime.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, there has been an increase in cybercrime and fraud. Hackers are preying on public fears around the virus. There has been an increase in scam texts and emails and fraudsters are going to homes of those who are isolated and living alone, to con them out of money. In an emergency or if you feel threatened, always call the police on 999.

And if you have information about or know the perpetrators of any of these crimes, call Crimestoppers anonymously.

The four simple steps:

- 1. Stop**
Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information.
- 2. Challenge**
Could it be fake? It's OK to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- 3. Check**
Ask to see credentials and proof of identity from people at your door or online contacts.
- 4. Protect**
Contact your bank immediately if you think you've been targeted by a scam and report it to Action Fraud, run by the National Fraud and Cyber Reporting Centre: actionfraud.police.uk or **0300 123 2040**.



Membership Secretary's Report

New Watch schemes

Watch Name/Ward

Junction Road, Lightwater
Hawkes Leap, Windlesham

Watch Coordinator

Sam Prentice
Medina McClean

Watch schemes with new coordinator

Watch Name/Ward

Grange Road & Others, St Pauls, Camberley

Watch Coordinator

Ian Powell

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

