HeathWatch

The quarterly Neighbourhood Watch newsletter for Surrey Heath
Volume 2 Issue 75 | Winter 2021 | Editor Juanita West

surreyheathnw.co.uk

Message from our Chairman

Firstly, I would like to thank Rev. Larry Bain on behalf of the Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group, for taking on the Role of Chairman for 6 months of this year, for his time and dedication as a Watch Coordinator in Heatherside and for his hard work as one of our Facebook Moderators. I would like to wish him every success in his Role as the new Vicar of Matthew's Tipton with St Paul's and St Martin in the Black Country.

I would also like to thank Juanita West for her long service and support as she has held the Role of Editor of our *HeathWatch* Newsletter for ten years, with this being her last issue. The skills, experience and hard work that she has given to this Role on a Voluntary basis has been invaluable and is very much appreciated.

In Surrey Heath, we currently have one of the largest and most active Neighbourhood Watch Groups in the UK (8660+ members across 307 active Watches). I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Watch Coordinators for their valued help and support, whether it is passing on fraud/scam information to neighbours, canvassing for new Watch members or simply keeping an eye out for unusual activity or suspicious characters.

The success of Neighbourhood Watch lies with all of us – the Support Group working together with Watch Coordinators and Surrey Police – to continue in our combined efforts to ensure that Surrey Heath remains a safe and enjoyable place to live. We are very keen to continue improving the awareness of Neighbourhood Watch, not only amongst our own generations, but particularly amongst younger people, to encourage them to come forward and get involved as Watch Coordinators for their roads, to help us with our Social Media presence, and to spread the word about the good work that we do.

Members of the Support Group and several Watch Coordinators continue to team up with the Neighbourhood Police team in proactive operations to "spot" burglars and catalytic converter thieves who have targeted our homes and vehicles.

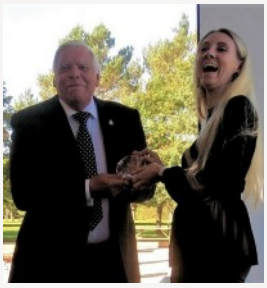
We are currently looking for a few more people to join our Support Group. If this is something that interests you, or you would like to find out more about the flexible Voluntary Roles we have available, please email me on janwarwick@surreyheathnw.co.uk. Thank you.

As we move into the winter months, please take care of yourselves and your families and continue to look out for your elderly or vulnerable neighbours, especially those who live alone. With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, *Jan Warwick*

This newsletter is produced by the Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group with funding 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.

Congratulations!

To members presented with awards recently



Alan Hitchcock is presented with his trophy by Deputy PCC, Ellie Vesey-Thompson

Our three Area Coordinators for Surrey Heath were presented with Awards at a recent Surrey Neighbourhood Watch Association (SNWA) Awards Ceremony in Epsom.

Alan Hitchcock (Vice Chairman and Area Coordinator for Camberley, St Pauls, Old Dean, Town, St Michaels and Watchetts) and Mike Potter (Area Coordinator for Lightwater, Bagshot, Bisley, Chobham, West End and Windlesham) received Trophies for their work on the 'Winter Burglary Prevention Campaign' and Jackie Davies (Area Coordinator for Frimley, Parkside, Heatherside, Deepcut, Frimley Green and Mytchett) was presented with a 'Dedicated Service Award'.

Mike Potter is presented with his trophy by Deputy PCC, Ellie Vesey-Thompson

Jackie Davies receives her Dedicated Service Award from Martin Stilwell, Chairman of SNWA

Rob Freeman, (Police Community Engagement Volunteer and member of the SHNW Support Group), was also recognised with a Trophy for his work on the Winter Burglary Prevention Campaign, and Anne Bing (Membership Secretary), was awarded a 'Dedicated Service Award'. Unfortunately they were unable to attend the Ceremony, so we wish to congratulate them on their achievements and thank them for their dedication.

From Alick James

Message from the Police Borough Commander

This will be the last time I write for HeathWatch, as in December I hand over to Inspector Gemma Taylor and move to Guildford as their Borough Commander.

Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch (SHNW) is outstanding and sets a high standard to which other watches can aspire. The level of partnership working and passion for community safety is inspirational. I have no doubt that SHNW has directly contributed to the greater than average crime and anti-social behaviour reductions we have seen in the borough. This winter, please continue to secure your properties against burglaries. Make your home look OCCUPIED, a DIFFICULT target and a RISKY prospect for offenders. Keep keyless entry car keys in a bag which blocks its signals. If you're buying a second hand car, get the digital code changed to protect against cloning. Some of the best protections are still the mechanical steering wheel locks and other physical barriers.

Surrey Police's recent survey, 'Call It Out' explored female experiences of personal safety. A significant proportion of the respondents had experienced sexual harassment, sexual assault, cat calling, wolf whistling and other inappropriate behaviour. There were low reporting levels to Police due to views that: Police wouldn't be able to do anything about it; wouldn't take it seriously; this behaviour is accepted; that this is normalised behaviour. I ask you to join me and push out the message loud and clear that this behaviour is unacceptable: women and girls should not suffer everyday harassment. I take it seriously, my team takes it seriously and Surrey Police takes it seriously. Please report these incidents to Police and encourage others to do so too.

Thank you once more for all your hard work in keeping Surrey Heath safe.

From Rob Freeman

Community Engagement Officer (Surrey Heath) and Member of Neighbourhood Watch

A big thank you to the 18 members of Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch who turned out on 2nd November to support the Surrey Heath Police's proactive operation targeting catalytic converter theft and other vehicle crime across the Borough. The members acted as 'spotters' across a number of hot-spot locations where vehicles have been previously targeted.

Message from the Police

Advice from Western Designing Out Crime Officer, Stephen Cake

With the onset of darker evenings this is the time to review personal safety whilst away from home. These are some simple steps that will act as a timely reminder to us all. The following information has been taken from the Crime Stoppers web page: crimestoppers-uk.org/keeping-safe/personal-safety

- Taxis and Ubers: Getting a taxi? Use a valid taxi service or online cab checker to confirm it is licensed. You can send the registration number to a friend so that they know which car you've got in. Feeling uneasy about a driver? Listen to your instincts: if in doubt, don't get in the car.
- Cars: Make sure your car has enough fuel to complete your journey. Check it for broken lights and windscreen cracks.
- Cars: Park in busy areas where there is good lighting, especially at night. Never give a lift to a stranger.
- Trains and buses: Waiting for the 18:03 or the number 42? Stand in a well-lit place near other people.
- Trains and buses: Someone bothering you? Tell the guard or driver - you can stay with them if you continue to feel uncomfortable.

Looking after your belongings

- Do not be over-protective of your belongings. If you are a victim of theft (and the chances are very low), you can get a new phone and you can order new bank cards. If you are in a dangerous situation leave your possessions and seek help in the nearest safe place.

- Keep your bag closed: if it is open an opportunist thief is more likely to see what you have and take it.
- There is also a wide selection of information on personal security here: suzylamplugh.org/personal-safety-leaflets.

From Tim Tostevin

our Cyberhood Watch Ambassador and Treasurer

Reporting crime, scams or suspicious activity

People are often unsure how to report crime, scams, anti-social behaviour etc, and as a result they don't report things they see. However it is important to report anything suspicious as follows:

- If you are witnessing a criminal act taking place or require immediate police presence call 999. If you're deaf or hard of hearing, use the textphone service 18001 or text on 999 if you've pre-registered with the Use Relay UK with textphone | Relay UK (bt.com) (Relay UK).
- If you suspect or see a crime is about to be committed or see a person(s) behaving suspiciously, you should report your suspicions to the police immediately, giving as much information as possible (do your best to identify persons and /or vehicles) call : 101. If you're deaf or hard of hearing, use the textphone service on 18001 101.
- Alternatively you can report non-urgent matters online at police.uk/pu/contact-the-police/report-a-crime-incident.
- You can also report via direct message on Twitter to @SurreyHeathBeat or message @SurreyHeathPolice on Facebook. Both methods go to a call centre which is monitored 24/7.
- Watch members should be as observant as possible from their vantage point but should not put themselves at risk. If they are reluctant to contact the police, they should seek a neighbour's advice or opinion and / or speak to their Watch Coordinator – but do so immediately.
- If a Watch member suspects or sees a crime is about to be committed or they see a person(s) behaving suspiciously, they should report their suspicions to the police immediately, giving as much information as possible (do your best to identify persons and /or vehicles) call : 101
- If they are witnessing a criminal act taking place or require immediate police presence call 999.
- If a Watch member has good information concerning criminal activity and wishes to report anonymously – call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or report on crimestoppers-uk.org.
- To report Online fraud or cybercrime please go to: actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud
- To report a scam or fraudulent e-mail please forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk
- To report a scam or fraudulent text please forward it to 7726.

From Cyberhood Watch Ambassador and Treasurer, Tim Tostevin

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 Angela Mitchell who has become a 'Friend' for a second 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 QR code here or visit our website: surreyheathlottery.co.uk/support/surrey-heath-neighbourhood-watch-support-group.

A big welcome to our new Watch Coordinators

Hannah Bray	Church Road, Windlesham (new Watch)
Dorota Cieslak-Jones	Middle Close, Parkside (existing Watch)
Vince Kerr	Rectory Lane, Windlesham (existing Watch)

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