



HeathWatch



The quarterly Neighbourhood Watch newsletter for Surrey Heath

Issue 87 | Spring 2025

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

A message from our chairman, Alan Howell

Welcome everyone to the Spring HeathWatch newsletter. I'm happy to say this will continue in the new format, as we received a lot of positive feedback following the Winter edition. Many thanks to Carol for pulling this together.

In this edition I would like to make a call-to-action to anyone who has ever considered volunteering.

Join the Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch!

Are you passionate about keeping your community safe? Do you want to make a positive impact in Surrey Heath? Join

our Neighbourhood Watch team and help us create a safer, more connected community!

Why Volunteer?

- **Make a Difference:** Your involvement can help reduce crime and improve the quality of life in your neighbourhood.
- **Build Connections:** Meet like-minded neighbours and strengthen community bonds.
- **Stay Informed:** Gain access to important safety information and resources.

How You Can Help:

- **Spread Awareness:** Help distribute safety information and raise awareness about crime prevention.
- **Support Events:** Assist with community events and initiatives aimed at promoting safety, security and a sense of community.
- **Get involved today!**

Contact Us:

Email us or call to learn more and sign up: <https://www.surreyheathnw.co.uk/contact-us/> or visit our website for more information: <https://www.surreyheathnw.co.uk/volunteer/>

Follow Us:

Stay updated by following us on our social media accounts. [Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Facebook](#) [Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch | X](#) [Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch | Youtube](#)

Together, we can make Surrey Heath a safer place for everyone. Join us today and be a part of the change! Many thanks for your support and as always, please remember to stay safe at home and online.

Warm regards,
Alan Howell - Chairman
alanhowell@surreyheathnw.co.uk

Volunteer Recognition Awards

Last November, the Voluntary Support North Surrey Volunteer Recognition Awards were held at Chobham Golf Club. These recognised the fantastic volunteers who work for a wide variety of good causes across Surrey Heath.

It was great to see the following Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch volunteers receive recognition:

Alan Hitchcock, Mike Potter and Reg Ward all received Long Service awards from Surrey Heath's Mayor Kang, alongside other volunteers from other



organisations (as shown in the picture). Unfortunately Reg Ward could not attend, but has subsequently been presented with his certificate.

In addition, Anne Bing and Alan Dixon were nominated for 'Unsung Hero' awards, Jackie Davies for the 'Inspirational

Volunteer' award and Tim Tostevin for 'Fundraiser of the Year' award.

It was great to see so many volunteers being recognised for the invaluable work they do. Afternoon tea and cake were served after the awards ceremony and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Update from Acting Inspector Ryan Scott

Firstly, let me introduce myself to those who do not know me. I am Acting Inspector Ryan Scott. I have recently taken over from Inspector Gemma Taylor, whilst she is seconded to our Northern Division.

I have been with Surrey Police for fourteen years, having worked on the response team as a Constable and Sergeant, Criminal Investigation Department and for the last 2 years a Sergeant at Woking Safer Neighbourhood Team. I am passionate about Neighbourhood Policing and truly believe that this is where we can have the most impact on the community.

My priorities are tackling anti-social behaviour, drug offences, violent crime and theft. I believe that these crime types have the most impact on the community as a whole, but are also drivers for other types of offending. ASB, drug use and dealing are prime examples of this. I plan to take a tough approach to these offences, working with my team to issue Community Protection Warnings to offenders over 16 years of age. These CPW's allow us to place conditions on offenders. If they breach these conditions, we can escalate to a Community Protection Notice, which is then arrestable if breached. Anyone, regardless of age, being identified as being involved in ASB, will receive an ASB warning letter, progressing through the stages if the behaviour continues. Camberley Town Centre has become a problem location for us recently, with large amounts of ASB and other offences taking place, mainly over the weekends. This led to me having to implement several dispersal orders for the maximum period of 48 hours. My team and I have worked hard to tackle this, providing extra

staffing and patrols at key times, utilising the dispersal orders and serving ASB letters to children. We are looking at a long term problem-solving plan, which will include working with the local businesses, the Council and Social Services.

Colleagues in Social Service are looking to reinstate the safe space pop up café, so that youths can report offences and speak to qualified staff. This will hopefully take place at Rainbow Café, as it has done previously.

We will obviously continue to monitor reports of ASB in other locations outside of Camberley Town and will respond accordingly.

Following a recent poll, I understand the impact anti-social driving has on the community. My team are looking at several operations with colleagues in specialist departments, which will take place in the areas most effected by this. Again, this is something we will take a robust approach too.

My team and I have been working closely with Trading Standards, visiting vape shops and other businesses of interest, stopping the sale of illegal and dangerous vapes that often end up in the hands of children. One of the visits conducted in January led to a seizure of £16,000 worth of illegal vapes from one shop. A second visit to that shop a couple of weeks later led to the arrest of one male for drug offences and sale of counterfeit goods, along with further illicit vapes being seized. A closure warning notice was served on the shop, meaning we can look to close the business if there is any other linked criminality. We are planning further visits to other locations in the future. Whilst not strictly a 'Policing' issue, these locations and the items they sell often lead to ASB and other offences. A huge part of this work is also protecting vulnerable children from harmful products and potential exploitation.

We continue to run shoplifting operations, plain-clothed and overt. These

have been successful and have led to offenders being arrested or dealt with by out of court disposals. We have a lot more work to do in relation to shop theft, but we are taking measures to tackle this national issue. I have meetings set up with some local businesses and will be looking to arrange others to discuss issues and how we can assist with tackling them.

The burglary series we saw over the Christmas period, particularly in relation to 'family gold', has reduced significantly. There is still work ongoing to try to identify the suspects for the offences and bring them to justice. We have also seen a decrease in the theft of tools from vehicles. The team completed a lot of good work, along with partners, to help educate, prevent and deter these offences.

Finally, I cannot stress enough the importance of reporting crime and intelligence to the Police. Without these reports, we cannot truly know what is happening and where.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this update.

| Dates for your diary

The Watch Coordinator meetings for 2025 will all be held at St. Mary's Church Centre; the dates are as follows:

Monday 30th June 2025

Monday 29th Sep 2025

Monday 24th Nov 2025

Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour takes many forms, from aggressive, noisy or abusive behaviour to neighbourhood disturbances involving drugs, abandoned cars or animals.

If you've witnessed antisocial behaviour, please report it to us.

Your neighbourhood can be an area where you live, work, or visit often.

This can be reported online via <https://www.surrey.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/> or call 101 for non-emergency enquiries. If you have a hearing or speech impairment, please use our textphone service on 18001 101.

Tips for making other people feel safer on the streets

Some of this advice might seem obvious, but there are some simple things we can

do to help other people feel safer when they're out in public.

Keep your distance

When walking behind someone, particularly at night, try to leave a good amount of distance between yourself and the person ahead of you. Remember that the closer you are, the more threatening you might seem.

Don't stare

A stranger staring at you can be intimidating and unsettling. Focus on something else to show you're not a threat. Look out of the window, message a friend, or read a book or newspaper.

Cross the road

Somebody running up behind you, particularly at night, can be frightening. If you're out for an evening run, or walk, and see someone walking ahead, cross the road, call out to let them know you're about to run by them or make sure to leave a good amount of space when you pass them.

Keep comments to yourself

What you might think of as just a bit of fun, or flattery, can be insulting, upsetting or even scary to someone else. Keep any comments or opinions to yourself.

Keep your friends in line

If you're in a group of people where someone is harassing another person on the street, try to calm the situation. They may just need to be told that they're behaving inappropriately.

Be an active bystander

If you notice someone is uncomfortable with another person's behaviour, show your support by being an active bystander. It can be as simple as standing between a person and their harasser to block their line of sight. Ask that person if they need any help and back up anyone else who is intervening.

Share these tips

Sharing these tips with other people can go a long way towards making us all feel safer on the streets.

Neighbourhood Watch - Our Story

Have you ever wondered how Neighbourhood Watch all started? It began in 1964, when 28-year-old Kitty Genovese was stabbed to death outside her home in New York. Two weeks later, it was rumoured that 38 witnesses saw or heard the attack. None of them called the police or came to her aid. This prompted inquiries into what became known as the 'bystander effect'. Her murder motivated

a community response, and the very first Neighbourhood Watch group was set up.

The first groups began in the UK 18 years later, in response to spates of local burglaries. From 1982, we grew from strength to strength as more volunteers across England and Wales formed local, county, and regional groups.

Today we are an independent charity and

the largest volunteer crime prevention movement across England and Wales. **We help to reduce the opportunity for and fear of crime.**

Members are more connected within their community, feel a greater belonging to their area, and less isolated or lonely.

Membership is FREE

We need your help

Every year, we aim to attend a number of events across the Borough, to offer security advice and encourage more people to get involved in Neighbourhood Watch in Surrey Heath.

So far this year we've been invited to attend the following events in May and June:

- Chobham Carnival – 5th May
- Windlesham Fete – 14th June
- Lightwater Village Fete – 21st June

We really need more willing volunteers who can spare a little time and help us to man the stand. If you can help, even for just an hour or two, please contact neilwilkins29ovw@gmail.com
Neil Wilkins - Surrey Heath NHW Support Group



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 generated over £14,500 in just over 5 years!
- The weekly jackpot is £25,000 and there are smaller prizes for matching fewer numbers. We get winners nearly every week.
- Join the fun at: <https://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 'Friend' Peter Evans and to Douglas Fish who has renewed for a 5th year!
- Donations can be made on our website (<https://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 nearly £250 from this scheme so please join us if you make purchases online.

A warm welcome to the following new Watch Coordinator

Alison Mills Summer Gardens, Heatherside

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
 Mike Jones, 01483 636626, 07967987908, mike.Jones2@surrey.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

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