

»»» JANUARY 2025 «««



OUR NEWS

FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES

What's in January's newsletter?

We hope our supporters, members, and volunteers, all had a happy and restful Christmas - Happy New Year! At Neighbourhood Watch, we're kicking off 2025 with a renewed commitment to our charity's goals - to share crime prevention information and resources, to connect communities, and to work together to reduce crime in local communities across England and Wales. In this newsletter, you can read home security guidance from ERA, celebrate our volunteers, and more...

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Domestic abuse - spotting the signs and accessing support

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone, regardless of age, background, gender identity, sex, religion, sexual orientation or ethnicity. However, statistics show most domestic abuse is carried out by men and experienced by women.

Across England and Wales, 1 in 4 women will experience abuse in their lifetime and on average, one woman is killed by an abusive partner or ex every five days. *

This month, we'll be signposting towards resources, guidance, and support helplines, from a variety of charities and organisations, including Refuge. For more information on domestic abuse, including how to support survivors, or access support yourself, you can [visit our website](#), or [Refuge's website](#), as well as learning more from other organisations.

There are several definitions of the many different types of domestic abuse which can be experienced - below are some examples from Refuge:

Definitions and types of domestic abuse

- **Psychological/emotional abuse:** Includes name-calling, threats and manipulation, blaming you for the abuse or 'gaslighting' you.
- **Coercive control:** When an abuser uses a pattern of behaviour over time to exert power and control. It is a criminal offence.
- **Physical abuse:** This isn't only hitting. He might restrain you or throw objects. He might pinch or shove you and claim it's a 'joke'.
- **Tech abuse:** He might send abusive texts, demand access to your devices, track you with spyware, or share images of you online.
- **Economic abuse:** Controlling your access to money or resources. He might take your wages, stop you working, or put you in debt without your knowledge or consent
- **Sexual abuse:** This doesn't have to be physical. He might manipulate, deceive or coerce you into doing things you don't want to do.

Supporting a survivor

It can be hard to know how to support a friend or loved one who is experiencing domestic abuse. Your first instinct may be to protect them, but intervening directly can be dangerous for you and them. There are ways you can help though. Read more on [our website](#) or [Refuge's](#).

**<https://refuge.org.uk/what-is-domestic-abuse/>*

Launching our Youth in Action newsletter

Interested in youth safety? Want to know how communities across England and Wales are empowering young people to engage in crime prevention? Sign up to Neighbourhood Watch Network's Youth in Action newsletter!

Since 2020, Neighbourhood Watch Network has been on a journey to amplify youth voice in communities. Working in partnership with various youth organisations, the charity is on a mission to ensure that the future shapers and leaders of England and Wales have their say on the safety and crime prevention issues that impact them. The Youth in Action newsletter is a brand-new digital community bulletin, primarily aimed at individuals and organisations who work, or aspire to work, with young people (16-24-year-olds), and are keen to make their neighbourhoods inclusive of youth crime prevention and safety needs. We also encourage any 16-24-year-olds who want to make a positive change in their communities to sign up too!

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)



Those who sign up to the newsletter can expect to receive insightful news and resources, including:

- Updates on how Neighbourhood Watch Network is working to achieve their charity goal of engaging with young people across England and Wales, and offering opportunities for meaningful inclusion and collaboration
- The latest youth safety and crime prevention trends
- Local impact stories of how communities are effectively working with young people to make neighbourhoods safer, happier, better places to live
- Voluntary and paid community action opportunities for 16–24-year-olds across England and Wales

Starting 2025 with home security on your mind



Did you know?

- Neighbourhood Watch's charity partner ERA, has been designing and manufacturing security products for more than 185 years
- ERA made its first home security lock in 1838
- The front door is the gateway to most homes and often the first route of attempted entry for thieves
- 67% of burglars enter homes via a door!

The best ways to secure your front door, according to ERA:

A simple and affordable way to improve the security of your front door is to update your existing locks with a high security cylinder. ERA's British Standard 3* Euro Profile Cylinder offers protection against picking, drilling, bumping, snapping, and extraction. It has also received Sold Secure Diamond status and has been accredited by Secured by Design's Police Preferred Specification scheme, so you can be assured that your front door has maximum resistance to forced entry.

Easy to retrofit, stylish, and secure: with ERA Protect's Smart Universal Door Handle, you are the key. Providing personalised access at the touch of a button with ERA Protect's advanced fingerprint panel, as well as encrypted key cards and geolocation technology. Once inside simply lift to lock, as you would any multi lock door handle. Available in Matte Black, Polished Chrome, and Satin Chrome, with a RRP of £216.

A great addition to ERA Protect alarm systems, window and door sensors provide a simple and low-cost solution to protecting the main entry points of your home. Priced at £24.99, ERA's Wireless Windows and Doors Alarm Sensor triggers an alarm as soon as it detects unauthorised entry, sending a notification to you via the ERA Protect app.

Congratulations to the winner of our ERA home security competition - Gary from Winchcombe! Anyone interested in finding out more about securing their home can visit: <https://eraprotect.com/>.

Congratulations to our survey prize draw winners!

In October 2024, we ran our annual Crime and Community survey, and received 25,483 responses to the survey - an incredible amount! This annual survey studies the experience of respondents in relation to crime, fear of crime, and their connection with their local community. The results have been written up and will be available soon on our website.

As usual, we can see from the results of this survey that Neighbourhood Watch members are much more likely to do more for neighbours, and have a closer connection and sense of belonging to their area.

The top 3 crimes people worry about, according to the survey, are **antisocial behaviour (69%), having your home broken into (50%) and cybercrime (45%)**. Some crimes are feared in similar percentages by different age groups, whereas others are age-dependent. For example, 50% of over 65s fear cybercrime, compared to 43% of 44-64 year-olds and 26% of Under 44's. In contrast, only 21% of over 65s fear physical assault, compared to 33% of 44-64s and 39% of Under 44s.

There was a prize draw as an incentive to participate in this survey, and we have now plucked 3 lucky winners from this anonymous draw, who will each receive £25 Amazon vouchers! Our winners include a gentleman from the Northeast, another from Yorkshire and Humber, and a third from the South East region.

Congratulations to our prize draw winners, and a huge thank you to all those who shared their feedback and experiences with us via this survey. Full results will soon be published on our website.



Enter our Funding Communities Super Draw before 25th January to win big prizes and support our charity!

Congratulations to Lynne, Chair of Merseyside Neighbourhood Watch Association, on her BEM!



We are absolutely delighted for Lynne Fairclough, Chair of Merseyside Neighbourhood Watch Association, who has been named in the New Year Honours List as a BEM (British Empire Medal) recipient for her unfaltering contribution towards helping keep others safe through her work with Neighbourhood Watch, known locally as Home Watch.

Chief Constable Serena Kennedy had this to say about 'our' Lynne: "Lynne has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in New Year Honours and it is fantastic to see a member of the public who has selflessly dedicated her life to helping others stay safe... She plays a crucial role in bringing together and working in partnership with NWN, Merseyside Police, residents, businesses, and scheme leaders."

"Lynne is committed to further expanding Neighbourhood Watch, and is always on hand to help with the setting up and establishment of new schemes to help drive down crime and victimisation for an even greater range of communities."

Cheryl Spruce, Head of Membership and Community Engagement with NWN, said "In 2021 Lynne took up the mantle of Chair of the Merseyside NWA, and very quickly set about building a team where all the districts were represented and supported. In doing this, Lynne also represented Merseyside at the regular Association Leads meetings, providing a voice from her force area. She has learnt new skills, using our membership database, working closely with the Neighbourhood Policing and Citizens in Policing teams in Merseyside as well. Lynne has sat in our focus groups about building membership, and is a very valuable, friendly and thorough-minded Chair, as well as an asset to Merseyside. For the short period of time that Lynne has led her team, we are so proud of the impact on the partners, members and volunteers, that she has had."

On receiving her nomination, Lynne said: "I was so shocked when I received the news, to use a well known Liverpool expression, I was Gobsmaeked! I feel very humbled and surprised that I had been honoured with such an accolade. It is great to see the profile of Neighbourhood Watch and Home Watch raised, and I am hopeful of more groups being formed in the months ahead. I would like to thank Merseyside police and the Central Support Team at Neighbourhood Watch for your continued support".

Launching the new Youth Watch at Cressex Community School



We are delighted to announce that there was a meeting on 21st November at Cressex Community School to launch our first Youth Watch scheme. This is not just the first such scheme in the Wycombe district - we have reason to believe it is the first one in the wider area of Thames Valley Police, and probably in an even greater area beyond!

Cressex Community School is a modern secondary school, and the scheme has been launched to help make its 750+ pupils more aware of the crimes that can affect their lives, both in the school and away from it, and to work together to find ways to avoid them.

In the previous weeks, members of the school management team have been very supportive to bring this to a successful conclusion. This was brought about with 40 pupils attending the meeting, along with members of the school's management team. Further meetings are being planned in the New Year to make the Cressex Community School's Youth Watch a success in the future. Two members of the school's management team have signed up as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators!

If other secondary schools in the Wycombe District wish to follow this initiative in due course, they can contact our Director of Operations: office@wdnhwa.plus.com.

Spotlight on local NW groups: we hear from Bolton Neighbourhood Watch



As we continue to build links within the community and with other organisations across Bolton, November saw us attending our first event as a Bolton Network.

We had already built a good working relationship with the Community Safety Team based at Bolton Council, and they invited us along to the ASB Awareness Day event held in the Market Place shopping centre in Bolton Town Centre. We also received visits from the town centre policing team and representatives from the Community Safety Team.

This event was followed by a second ASB awareness event that was hosted for the community by local housing provider, Your Housing Group, who we had already formed close links with by working with them to help reduce ASB and prevent criminal activity on one of their new developments.

At the end of the month, we were invited by Westhoughton Town Council, who recently signed up to the Community Safety Charter, to attend the Christmas Fair and lights switch on being held in the town. We joined other local groups and the local policing team and were able to provide crime prevention advice to a number of residents. We were also approached by a number of people who had previously been victims of scammers, and we were able to offer advice to help prevent them being secondary victims to the criminals and direct them to other services who could support them as victims of crime.

We have now been invited to speak to the local NHS team's Health and Care Partnership, where we will be able to discuss the links between health and crime, and we have also been asked to be guest speakers at the Women of Westhoughton group, a member of the National Association of Women's Clubs, at one of their monthly meetings.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the Neighbourhood Watch Network Central Support Team or Greater Manchester Neighbourhood Watch Association, to which we are eternally grateful. These strong local and national links show the importance of the excellent structure and support that has been put in place throughout the charity, and highlights how Neighbourhood Watch through local partnerships can play a vital role in building safer and stronger communities.

Neil McCall, MSA, Bolton Neighbourhood Watch