



HeathWatch

www.surreyheathnw.co.uk



The quarterly Neighbourhood Watch newsletter for Surrey Heath
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From the Chairman

This time last year a survey was conducted asking for feedback from Watch Co-ordinators, leading to a group discussion at the Co-ordinators' meeting which gave us 25 different initiatives to consider to enable us to make Neighbourhood Watch both more effective and encourage better communication with others in the community. The result of the survey was published on our website: surreyheathnw.co.uk.

Over the following months we also approached National Neighbourhood Watch and took part in various discussions with their representatives, as well as the Police and the Surrey Neighbourhood Watch Association (SNWA), which we are part of along with all other Surrey boroughs. I am pleased to say significant strides have been made in enhancing dialogue and common ground for the future of the Neighbourhood Watch movement in 21st century.

From the days of our inception some thirty plus years ago, crime has become more sophisticated, taking the form of extortion, anti-social behaviour and violence. We need to

communicate more than ever before to warn of the dangers and we decided to consider Social Media as a way of quickly disseminating any important message to the network of those who join our group.

The Support group unanimously agreed at their meeting on 4th July to launch our own Facebook Group administered by Alan Hitchcock and Emma Bagnell, which has attracted many interested parties already. We would encourage you all to join our Facebook group; if you are unfamiliar with Facebook perhaps you would like your children, grandchildren or a neighbour to introduce you to this concept then you will be right up-to-date with the latest happenings in Surrey Heath so that you are aware of any unscrupulous circumstances.

We would also encourage you to sign up to the Alert messaging system which in Surrey is known as "InTheKnow": www.intheknow.community. By doing so you will receive up-to-date emails providing information about local crimes and also ways you can avoid it, as well as messages about Neighbourhood Watch locally and nationally.



From Inspector Bob Darkens

We have been having a busy and productive time here. Plans are being put in place to relocate the area patrol team officers who currently start their shifts out of Woking Police station, to start their shifts at the council offices in Knoll Road Camberley. I am optimistic that I can arrange the necessary infrastructure to achieve this by Christmas. This will save both time and money in travelling to and from Woking at the beginning and end of each shift, and provide better coverage and response times. I would like to thank the Chief Executive and the staff at the council for being so accommodating; I realise it's not ideal having an extra 50 Police officers tramping through your offices at the best of times.

I am sad and happy to announce that we will be losing PCSO Matt Yeomans from the neighbourhood team in the next week. Sad in losing him, as Matt has been a great example of what a PCSO can achieve since my tenure at the Heath started: it gave me great pleasure to recommend him for a Chief Constable's commendation earlier this year for saving a man's life. Happy in that he is starting his training to become a regular officer. I will do all I can to get him back here as a regular officer once his training is complete.

The team has been busy with gathering evidence of anti-social behaviour at local premises, which in turn has led to the closure of two properties that had been blighting the lives of the neighbours in Bagshot and Camberley town cen-

tre. Police Sergeant Mike Knight and his team have done some sterling work in this area and I hope it sends out the message to those people affected that Surrey Police will do all in their powers to stop this behaviour continuing.

Our priorities are still safeguarding our most vulnerable; children and victims of domestic abuse. On that note I attended a domestic abuse training day held at Pine Ridge golf club this month, where a survivor of serious domestic abuse gave a most incredible speech about her journey. It really did bring it home. If you or someone you care about is being subjected to behaviour such as this then please contact the Police or if you feel you can't do that then one of the many support services available such as Your Sanctuary.

Finally I would like to acknowledge that I have been made aware of a number of enquiries made to local councillors surrounding the policy of turning off the street lights in the Borough. I have no jurisdiction in this area but can state that I have seen no rise in any crime type that I can attribute to this move by the county council. You still live in a safe borough; yes there is crime, but this is in parity with our surrounding boroughs of Rushmoor and Bracknell Forest.

I wish you all the best for the remainder of the summer.

Inspector Bob Darkens, Surrey Heath Commander



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.



Neighbourliness – What is it?

By David Hacker

Neighbourhood Watch was introduced into the UK in 1982 with the aim of encouraging the local community to be vigilant and to look after itself in order to reduce crime and domestic burglary.

Today Surrey Heath enjoys a relatively low crime rate, so much of the initial rationale for Neighbourhood Watch has been significantly reduced. Therefore, in order to retain the interests of the public and hence membership, Neighbourhood Watch must move on.

The current Policing priorities lie elsewhere and recognising these changes the national team for Neighbourhood Watch has developed a strategy for 2015-2020. One of the features identified in this strategy is the development of Neighbourliness. But what is it and what can we do to begin to foster it in our own environment?

There have been various studies on this topic and the conclusions are that neighbourliness is a shared sense of belonging with interaction between neighbours developing pride in the community through a set of common values. In short, meet, greet and work together.

But why do this? These studies concluded that societies which exhibit neighbourliness benefit in a number of ways.

- *Marked improvement in the wellbeing of both individuals and the society*
- *Significant reduction in anti-social behaviour and crime*
- *The society facilitates mutual aid and support – not just for the weak and vulnerable but also in time of shared problems and enriching the environment*
- *Individuals can improve their life chances; opportunities to take the “wrong” turning are reduced and people stand a better chance of improving their own position and standing.*

We live in a well-off society in Surrey Heath, for the most part, and our social behaviour has changed markedly. It is now all too common for us to shut the door, turn on the television, log into social media and forget there is a world next door. We live in a world of increasing social isolation, increasingly relying on



technological communication to satisfy our social needs.

When was the last time you said hello and had a meaningful conversation with your neighbour? It is often said that people who live in flats do not even know who their immediate neighbours are! Is this any different in your street?

So what are the characteristics of Neighbourliness? What should we be looking to achieve if we want to realise the benefits of neighbourliness? The diagram below gives a number of characteristics we should seek to develop.

Individual Neighbourhood Watches have the contacts and therefore the means of opening up alternative channels of social interaction. It does not have to be the watch co-ordinator who takes the lead but it is probably the most logical place to start.

There needs to be encouragement to break the ice and to make this initial move. For many this can be painful and take a lot of personal will power and motivation. But if we make a start it may well inspire other members of the watch to do a little bit more and then it could start to develop into something significant.

Perhaps there is no prescriptive answer and it is a state of mind and a change of attitudes to recognise that there is a world outside the technological social bubble we are engulfing ourselves with?

So next time you are out in your road, make contact and make new acquaintances. Who knows they too may share the same thoughts and ideas. Create a social network of your neighbours for self-help, sharing and socialising via an annual street bar-b-q?

The things we can do are only bounded by our imagination. But remember we are Neighbourhood Watch in the 21st Century and we have moved on from our legacy and we can make a difference. What is your part?

Crimestoppers' campaign against rural crime

Crimestoppers is raising awareness of the signs of rural crime and urging the public to contact their anonymous service on crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information or **0800 555 111** in the event of suspicious circumstances.

What can we do to tackle rural crime?

- Don't ignore suspicious or unusual activity.
- Always call 999 if a crime is in progress or there is a threat to life.
- Don't leave vehicles or buildings unlocked.
- Keep expensive machinery and vehicles out of sight.
- Mark machinery, plants and vehicles in a bright colour to make them more distinguishable.
- Fit tracker devices to vehicles and get machinery security marked.
- Do not leave valuables in parked cars.
- Join Farm, Country and Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

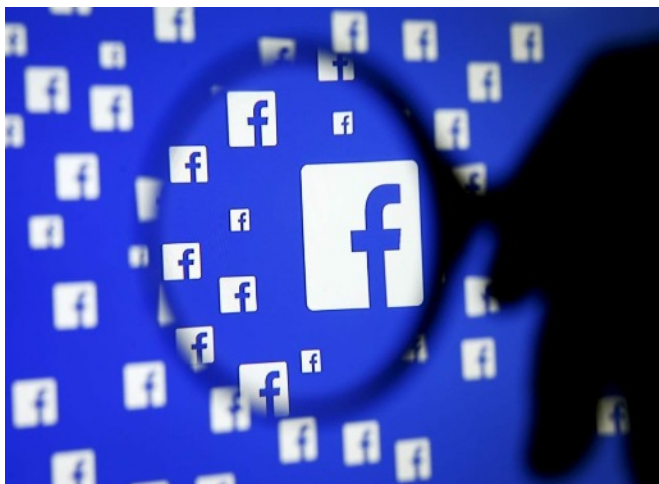


Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch on Facebook

By Emma Bagnell and Alan Hitchcock, Group Administrators, Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Facebook

In a survey that took place among members recently, a question raised was - why is NHW not on Facebook? I am now delighted to say that we are.

Joining Facebook means we can easily share information with other community groups in Surrey Heath. Many of our Facebook articles are sourced from other like-minded people, sharing crime stories that occur in their area. Irrespective of whether posts are public or in a closed group, people are generally keen to share their experience with Neighbourhood Watch members. Being able to access large groups of people in one place is a strong advertisement of Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch. Since our launch onto Facebook on 4th July, our group has attracted almost 500 members. Another advantage of the forum is ob-



taining posts instantly from Surrey Police, Surrey Beat and Get Surrey, who aim to provide 'as it happens' updates to its followers. As Facebook is an open forum, it engages many people in the local area, promoting diversity and commentary freely.

Promotion

Becoming a member of Neighbourhood Watch entitles members to special discounts on cameras, such as Y-Cam, 'fake TVs', house insurance and many other promotional security devices. Via Facebook, these promotions are advertised to more people more quickly. Householders and business people not currently members of a Watch may see our group and be encouraged to join or set up a Watch to protect themselves and their neighbourhood. Advertising our active Watch via many means, including the popular medium of Facebook, must assist with crime prevention. Myself and Alan are a case in point; two individuals who have set up Watches thanks to the Facebook group. We have also been in touch with Surrey Heath Residents Network, who shared our group and successfully gained many new followers.

Regeneration

Finally, Facebook is part of the 21st century and being part of the community opens the door to a younger generation, encouraging even adolescents to assist in making Surrey Heath a safer area to live in. As Facebook is so popular among teenagers, our presence there may help make them aware of their behaviour in public and may also be a conduit to those parents at home who do not use Facebook. Our presence on Facebook, alongside HeathWatch and InTheKnow, ensures that regular updates can be broadcast to an expanding age catchment. And increasing membership is at the very core of our goals.

Membership Secretary's Report

The final Watch Coordinators' meeting for 2017 will take place on Monday 20th November. Venue:
The Pine Ridge Golf Club, Old Bisley Road, Frimley, Camberley GU16 9NX.
Our thanks to Pine Ridge Golf Club for their generosity in allowing us use of the Green Room for these meetings.

Can you help?

Your Watch Coordinator does a grand job in running your Neighbourhood Watch but he/she needs your support and assistance in distributing HeathWatch and sometimes deputising at the Watch Coordinators' meeting. These are not onerous tasks and your Watch will benefit from the assistance you provide. Please contact your Coordinator if you are able to offer your services. Many thanks.

Your Neighbourhood Watch Support Group would be very grateful for any contribution towards its work, large or small. Should you wish to contribute, our bank account details are Lloyds Bank, account name Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group, Sort Code 30-91-53, A/C No. 00859924. Thank you for your support.

New watches

Watch Name/Ward	Watch Coordinator
St Catherine's Road, Frimley Green	Jacqueline Davies
Damask/Burnett/Erica Close, West End	Emma Bagnell
Whins Close/Forest Hills, St Michaels	Shelley Allison

Watches with new Coordinators

Watch Name/Ward	Watch Coordinator
Arethusa Way 2, Bisley	Sarah Clift
Lansdowne Road, Frimley Green	Tony Montgomery
RMA Sandhurst	Christopher Jackman
Ambleside Close, Mytchett	Sharon Law
Yaverland Drive, Bagshot	Gil M Haynes

Watch closures

Mytchett Farm Park	Reason: no interest from residents
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Useful Websites

Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch: surreyheathnw.co.uk

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

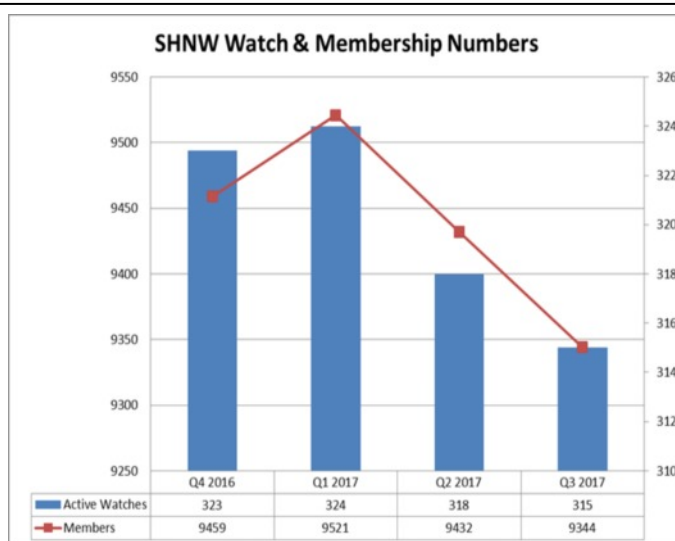
Property Register: immobilise.com

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

David Hacker, 01276 686088, DHacker@surreyheathnw.co.uk

Frimley, Parkside, Heatherside, Deepcut, Frimley Green & Mytchett

Stephanie Edwards, 01252 835099, SEdwards@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

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Mike Jones, 01483 636626, 07967987908,

mike.Jones2@surrey.pnn.police.uk