



HeathWatch

www.surreyheathnw.co.uk



The quarterly Neighbourhood Watch newsletter for Surrey Heath
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A Message from the Chairman

I am writing this message in advance of the Representatives' Meeting, where hopefully the Police and Crime Commissioner would have addressed the audience. The content will shortly be available on our website. I have been informed by the Surrey Heath Enforcement team that new legislation is being introduced in 2017 to give them more scope for prosecution; a brief overview was also being proposed for the meeting and more information can be found on their website: surreyheath.gov.uk/PSCO

At the last Representatives' meeting we requested that Watch Representatives take part in round table discussions to give us feedback on "*How can we make Neighbourhood Watch more relevant to our community in Surrey Heath and broaden its appeal.*" The Support Group has been busy analysing the feedback, have addressed each suggestion and comment accordingly and replied to the Representatives. There were some questions which were either outside our jurisdiction and we indicated the body responsible, while some were referred to Police for their response, which have been dealt with by our Neighbourhood Police Inspector.

A Message from Inspector Bob Darkens

As I write this missive the clocks go back this week-end signalling the darker evenings and more opportunity for thieves and other miscreants to take advantage of insecure properties. Can I ask that you keep aware of your home security and that of your neighbours, especially any elderly people or those neighbours who may be spending time away in warmer climes.

We have, in company with neighbouring areas been subjected to a recent spike in dwelling burglaries of late, but I am pleased to report that has settled down to near normal levels this last few weeks. On a good note, two of my team stopped two criminals travelling in a car bearing false registration plates only this week, resulting in them being arrested on suspicion of theft of the car. I

Some of you may have seen "*Rip-off Britain*" when they mentioned that you can get protection wallets for your contactless cards from your Neighbourhood Watch: unfortunately they did not mention that you needed to be registered with "OWL" which only a few forces are. Surrey is registered with Visav and communicates through Alert; therefore we do not have these. There are several metal shields you can buy online which will protect your cards starting at 7p each; however you can easily protect your cards by placing a layer of tinfoil in your wallet to shield them from any likelihood of being copied by a passing assailant.

Now that the winter evenings are again drawing in and Christmas approaching we need to be extra vigilant especially as some street lighting is to be turned off between midnight and 5 am from December. See surreycc.gov.uk/streetlights for more information.

As this is our final HeathWatch for 2016 it is time to wish you a happy Christmas and New Year.

***Martin Butcher, Chairman
Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group***

have no doubt that they were on their way to carry out crime at the time they were stopped and they are now in the criminal justice system with appropriate bail conditions whilst enquiries are on-going. We have also been working with our colleagues from Hampshire Police and executed a warrant at an individual's house who we strongly believe to be involved in handling stolen goods. We recovered a substantial amount of property, some of which would appear to be power tools and the like which would have come from shed breaks, and we are now in the process of trying to identify the owners. The male in question was not at home and is now wanted by us for questioning as he has decided not to return home after our visit!

Once again can I thank you for your continued vigilance and support.

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.



A Message from the Surrey Heath Enforcement Team

Public Spaces Protection Order consultation – give your views.

Residents are being asked to have their say on proposals to help address anti-social behaviour in public places around Surrey Heath. Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) were created by the 2014 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, to regulate activities in public that have a detrimental effect on the local community. The council is considering introducing a PSPO to help address nuisances or problems in local public places. A PSPO would assist in taking steps to improve issues such as alcohol and substance misuse, begging and irresponsible dog ownership.

How do I get involved?

There is a range of ways to express your views before the consultation closes on 17th January 2017. More information, including an online questionnaire, map and a list of the proposed areas for restrictions, is available at: www.surreyheath.gov.uk/PSPO. If you wish to receive a paper copy of the questionnaire, please call the council to request this on 01276 707100 or email:

pspoconsultation@surreyheath.gov.uk

What happens next?

The Council's Executive will make the final decision about the Public Spaces Protection Order on a date to be confirmed, with the details of the meeting and subsequent decisions to be published on

www.surreyheath.gov.uk

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Burglars' Trade Secrets

Based on our survey of 100 ex-burglars, we found that the top five things that put them off were:

- 71% Having an alarm system
- 71% Having a dog in the home
- 52% People in the property
- 46% CCTV
- 21% Outdoor/sensor lights

'If a property did not have an alarm that would be a definite sign to investigate.' Ex-burglar

What you can do

Consider having a range of these security measures, as no one single thing will put burglars off. For instance, simply getting a dog isn't enough to protect your home. More-experienced burglars see dogs as friendly pets that can easily be dealt with. One even told us about a time he befriended the family dog before breaking in. While having deadlocks or having multiple locks didn't feature in the top five, it's still worth ensuring these are good quality. The Metropolitan Police recommends fitting certain kinds of locks, such as five-lever mortice deadlocks and automatic deadlocking rim locks, to your doors, and key-operated locks on your windows.

Burglar alarms

Alarms are seen as a strong deterrent. However, our in-depth interviews also revealed that they're no silver bullet, as neighbours and passers-by can ignore them. One told us: 'By the time anybody has taken any notice of an alarm, you are long gone.' So while an alarm will put off a lot of burglars, it's not going to deter all of them. So make sure you install other security measures, too, like security cameras. Most ex-burglars thought they couldn't tell the difference between a dummy alarm and a real one, but 24% thought they could.

How burglars establish if a property is empty

Of the ex-burglars we spoke to, 66% said they identified empty properties by looking for lights, and 52% checked whether the TV was on. 50% also monitored when residents leave the house or look through windows.

Continued on P3



Burglars' Trade Secrets continued from P2

What you can do

If you're going away, or are out for the evening, make it look like you're still in. For example, you can install some timed devices, such as lights and a radio. Alternatively, ensure there's a room with the light on and the curtains shut.

Which properties are most likely to be targeted?

The ex-burglars we surveyed told us that they were most likely to target detached houses, with semi-detached being their second placed preference. And our in-depth interviews reveal this is likely to be due to ease of access. Terraced houses are trickier. There are potentially more people about, plus it's harder to make a quick escape out the back if the burglar has to navigate lots of fences.

'Nosy neighbour syndrome, curtain twitchers, that is a problem - that is how my partner got caught' Ex-burglar

However, it's not just how they can get in and out, it's also how overlooked the access route is. For example, one told us that they would look for high hedges and anything else that would protect them from a neighbour's line of sight.

Once a burglar has chosen a property to target, they will often scope it out.

More-professional burglars would do this for two or three days, according to the ex-burglars we spoke to. This could mean going through your rubbish for names, and searching on the internet for your home phone number and calling to see when you're in. Opportunists can visit a promising neighbourhood and break in the same day. One told us: *'You can just knock, then pretend you're from an energy company if someone is there.'*

What you can do

Ensure that any side and rear boundaries are high, to make access difficult. Keep front boundaries low to remove hiding places. You can also make access difficult by ensuring that any side gate is locked, with a wheelie bin behind it. Keep on good terms with your neighbours or join a neighbourhood watch scheme –

they can keep an eye out when you next go away. Always ask for ID if someone knocks. If you get any suspicious phone calls, check with the company they claim to be from. If you think something's dodgy, let the police know.

What burglars are looking for

We asked ex-burglars what they were most interested in stealing. The top five answers were:

- 84% jewellery
- 83% money
- 55% laptops
- 44% mobile phones
- 37% watches

'I have actually stood in someone's house and Googled a brand of jewellery to see if it was worth taking.' Ex-burglar



But our in-depth interviews also suggested that more 'professional' burglars target specific brands, with luxury labels Louis Vuitton, Bulgari and Rolex mentioned. These professionals also tend to turn their noses up at items such as mobile phones.

What you can do

If you have specific valuables that you think could be targeted, consider marking them using a police-approved forensic marking system. This uses a water-based solution which is painted on. Each bottle contains a unique chemical 'barcode' that's registered on a secure database. It is only detectable when it glows under UV light. You should also consider installing a safe that's fixed to a solid surface.

Our thanks to Which? for permission to use this article.



SelectaDNA will help protect your home

We have sold out of the SelectaDNA kits which were on offer for £20 per kit. We do, however, have a limited quantity of a slightly smaller version of the SelectaDNA kit which will mark approximately 25 items. These are available for sale at £10 per kit on a first-come-first-served basis. Please send your cheques for £10 to Mike Davis using the order form overleaf. **Limited stocks available - call Mike before you send your cheque on 01276 63846**

Membership Secretary's Report

Watch Representatives' meetings 2017 take place on the following Mondays: 20.3.17, 5.6.17, 11.9.17, 20.11.17. 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 Representative 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 Reps' meeting. These are not onerous tasks and your Watch will benefit from the assistance you provide. Please contact your Rep 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.

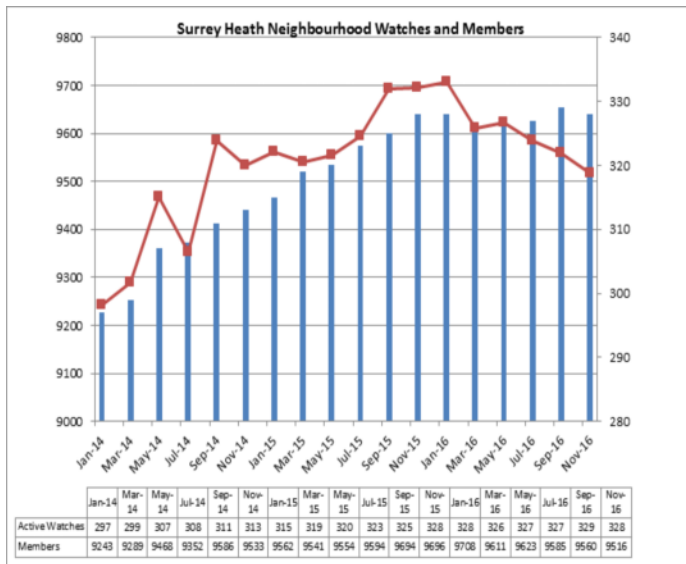
Three Watches have new Representatives:

Watch Name/Ward

Tenby Road, Heatherside
Ridgewood Drive, Frimley
Caroline Way, Frimley

Watch Representative

Jan Warwick
Alex Humphrey
Amy Speakman



Useful Websites

- Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch: www.surreyheathnw.co.uk
- Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network: www.ourwatch.org.uk
- Surrey Heath Borough Council: www.surreyheath.gov.uk
- Safer Surrey Heath Partnership: www.safersurreyheath.info
- Lost Property: www.virtualbumblebee.co.uk
- Reporting minor crimes: www.police.uk
- Property Register: www.immobilise.com
- Most Wanted: www.crimestoppers-uk.org
- National Fraud Intelligence Bureau: www.actionfraud.org.uk
- Surrey Police: www.surrey.police.uk
- Twitter.com: [@surreypolice](https://twitter.com/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, edwardssteph@btinternet.com
- 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 Officer (DOCO) Stephen Cake, 01483 633272, 07967 988734
stephen.cake1@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Order slip for SelectaDNA kits: Please send to Mike Davis, 36 Iberian Way, Camberley, GU15 1LY
To the Treasurer: I wish to order one SelectaDNA property marking kit (marks 25 items) at £10 each. Enclosed is a cheque for £10 payable to Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group.
Limited stocks available - please telephone Mike before you send your cheque on 01276 63846.

Name, address, email and telephone.....