

OUR NEWS



FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES

New window stickers in our shop now

New window stickers are available to order from our shop now. The new stickers feature our 'today' logo on one side and a message from the NHS on the reverse. This is part of our partnership with the NHS to encourage people to use 111 online or call 111 when they think they need medical help fast.

We are recommending that the sticker be affixed so that both sides of the sticker remain visible. By this important message being placed within members' homes, in a time of need it will prompt them to use NHS 111, either for themselves or a member of their community. NHS 111 helps assess and direct people to the most appropriate service for their medical needs.

Using the NHS 111 service could save you a trip to A&E. It is estimated that up to two-fifths of A&E attendances are avoidable or could be better treated elsewhere. People should still call 999 and go to A&E in an emergency – when someone is seriously ill or injured and their life is at risk.

The NHS 111 online service is available 24 hours a day,

seven days a week. Go to 111.nhs.uk to get assessed and directed to:

- the right healthcare in your area; or
- a call back from a nurse, doctor or paramedic; or
- advice on self-care.



People should call 111 to speak to someone if they need to:

- discuss complex medical problems;
- discuss worries about a long-term condition; or
- get medical advice for a child under five.



We know that neighbours looking out for each other can be a visible deterrent to burglars. Displaying a Neighbourhood Watch sticker shows others you are in a community which looks out for each other and offers you an extra level of protection.

[Order your stickers here](#)

TELL US YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUCCESS STORIES

How has your group made your area a BETTER PLACE TO LIVE?

Stories big & small
we want to hear them. If we use your story, your group will be entered into a prize draw to win a **£100 gift voucher for our shop!**

(Click for T&Cs. Entries close 30.04.23)

TELL US YOUR STORY HERE

What about that time that we helped a burglar be convicted by sharing our CCTV footage with police?

Since we cleared up our local park there hasn't been any more drug dealing there.

Follow us... ourwatch.org.uk



What do you think of Neighbourhood Watch?

Every year we run a survey inviting everybody to tell us what they think of Neighbourhood Watch.

We are keen to hear from YOU - whether you are a member or not - to better understand how you feel about Neighbourhood Watch. Your answers will help us to identify positives we can build on and areas where we can improve. The survey will take 2 - 8 minutes to complete. At the end, you can opt-in to a prize draw to **win one of four £25 Amazon vouchers.**

[TAKE THE SURVEY HERE](#)



HELP US TO IMPROVE
Tell us what you think about Neighbourhood Watch,
and you could win a £25 voucher

**TALL OR SHORT, OLD OR YOUNG,
MEMBER OR NOT, WHOEVER YOU ARE,
TELL US WHAT YOU THINK OF US!**



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Adjusts between 14.5cms to 23cms

Our lottery winners are reaping rewards!

As a national charity, last year we launched our own lottery to help raise funds and benefit communities. Lucky participants have not only won amazing prizes – including a year’s supply of HelloFresh! – but have also supported Neighbourhood Watch in the process.

How our lottery helps

Whilst it doesn’t cost a penny to be a Neighbourhood Watch member, we rely on your support. *“Being part of One Lottery means that, with your support, we can help to generate regular sustainable funding,”* explains Ian Bretman, our Chair of Trustees.

By playing our lottery, you can support our charity – helping us to provide our services to communities throughout England and Wales.

Amy Mawby, our Head of Fundraising, adds: *“The income raised from our lottery goes back into the community through initiatives such as our Community Grants Fund. We this funding we can also run crime prevention webinars and train our Coordinators to be more active in your local communities.”*

In the month of February, five of our winners took home prize money exceeding £300. One lucky winner, Madeleine Dalgleish, was rewarded with a year’s subscription to HelloFresh. Thrilled by her success, we asked her why she chose to take part in the lottery. *“Neighbourhood Watch is who we are in the community,”* she noted, *“helping to keep people safe and secure with an independent voice that speaks for all.”*

By playing our lottery, you too could support us in our mission to keep communities safe, inclusive, and vibrant places to live.

How it works

By purchasing tickets for just £1 each, you will be entered into both national and local draws. Match all six numbers on the ticket to win the national jackpot – and if not, you still have a chance to win in our local draw, where there is a guaranteed winner each week.

Draws take place each Saturday night. Half of every £1 you spend goes towards our charity, with the rest spent on prizes and the administration of the lottery. To maximise your support, you can choose whether to purchase a block of 1, 3, 6, or 12 months of weekly

WIN A EUROPEAN CITY BREAK

- Tickets cost just £1 a week
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and search for Neighbourhood Watch

onelottery

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older. See website for Terms & conditions. Enter by 29th April 2023.

tickets – either as a monthly recurring payment plan, or on a non-recurring basis.

Each week, you have the chance of winning a whopping £25,000 in the national draw, as well as smaller amounts in our local draws.

The more people that enter, the greater the local draw prize. In March, players were also automatically entered into a special draw to win a £500 Sainsbury’s eGift card.

Our lottery is hosted by One Lottery and managed by Gatherwell Ltd, multiple winner of the Lottery Council’s ‘Lottery Operator of the Year’ award. Visit ourwatch.org.uk/onelottery for more information.

Spread the word, and click [here](#) to enter into next Saturday’s prize draw.

Are you planning a Big Lunch?

As you may know, the Eden Project are bringing the annual Big Lunch to the special May Bank Holiday this year. They're encouraging neighbours and communities to get together to share friendship, food and fun on 6 – 8 May, to celebrate the Coronation of HM The King and HM The Queen Consort!

The Big Lunch brings millions of people together annually in June, boosting community spirit, reducing loneliness and supporting charities and good causes, with £22m raised last year. A massive 17.2 million people, one in four of the UK population, took part in 2022 and 11.7 million new friendships were made.

The Big Lunch is a natural fit with our aims and values. We've been supporting this great event for many years and, as always, we want to see as many groups as possible taking part this year!

Whether it's a full-blown street party, a picnic or a small gathering over a cup of tea and something to eat, the idea is simply to meet and get to know each other better over food.

Anyone interested in taking part can [sign up for a free digital pack](#) with ideas, invitations, practical planning tips and everything you need to organise an event. You can add your event to [The Big Lunch map](#), and also search to see if anything's already planned in your area.

The Big Lunch website is full of advice to help you plan an event, including [location ideas](#), [weather-proofing tips](#), [road closure guidance](#) and resources to help you plan the fun things, like [games](#), [activities](#) and [food](#) to enjoy on the day.



The beauty of The Big Lunch is that you can join in however and whenever works best for your community. This year, that could mean being part of history with a Coronation Big Lunch (6-8 May), or you could hold an event anytime in June, during the [Month of Community](#).

[Neighbourhood Watch Week](#), 3rd - 9th June, this year is all about inviting more people to join your group, so why not plan a Big Lunch where you can let people know about the great things your group does and invite more people join? We have a range of material from mugs to membership flyers in our [shop](#) to support you to do this.

Whatever you do, be sure to get a date in the diary and plan something to look forward to with your neighbours!



Find out more and get your free Big Lunch Pack at: coronationbiglunch.com.

The Government's new Emergency Alerts service is now live

The system will enable people to be contacted via their mobile phone if their lives are at risk in an emergency. The service will be used to warn you about life-threatening emergencies such as severe flooding.

Emergency Alerts are messages sent to all compatible 4G and 5G mobile phones when there's a danger to your life, health or property in the area you're located. They don't need your location or phone number. Only the government and the emergency services can send them. If you don't have a mobile, you'll still be kept informed through other channels.

If you get an Emergency Alert on your phone, you'll hear a loud, siren-like sound. A message on your screen will tell you about the emergency and how best to respond. You'll be able to check an alert is genuine at gov.uk/alerts.

To ensure the Emergency Alerts service works effectively, there will be a nationwide test on **Sunday 23rd April**. If you receive a test alert you won't need to do anything.

To learn more about Emergency Alerts, look out for the nationwide information campaign and visit gov.uk/alerts.

Cybercrime fears continue to rise amid cost-of-living crisis

Our latest Cyberhood Watch survey has found that fears about cybercrime have risen since the cost-of-living crisis began. Two-fifths of respondents expressed this view, while the majority now consider cybercrime to be as – and in some cases more – threatening than physical crime.

We surveyed over 25,000 people and found that one fifth of those we asked have been a victim of cybercrime. From fraudulent text messages from scammers posing as the NHS, to the selling of personal data on the dark web, the last few years have seen a sharp increase in cybercriminals exploiting those who are most in need.

In fact, last year's survey revealed that – astonishingly – one in four respondents reported losses of more than £1,000, while this year's survey found that a shocking 62% of victims lost up to £500. Aside from financial loss, these crimes are having a significant emotional impact on their victims.

With fraud and scams now making up 42% of all major crimes in the UK, the strategies cybercriminals use to exploit their victims have evolved. This is evidenced by the latest survey, which showed that only 16% knew what stalkerware was, while as little as 13% were aware of spearfishing.

To find out more, read the full survey report at ourwatch.org.uk/cybercrime/cyberhoodwatch.

Protecting yourself

We work with our partner colleagues at cybersecurity firm Avast to provide useful tips that will keep you safe online. These include regularly performing software updates across your devices, as these often include security patches that help to prevent data breaches. We also advise using different passwords for each account and for each device. In this way, if one account or device becomes compromised, the rest are still secure.

The use of three random words, numbers, and symbols helps to make passwords harder to decipher, while two-factor authentication (in which you receive a security code before logging in) adds a

vitaly important extra layer of security.

Avast also recommends changing default passwords that come with new devices, and explains how using a password manager can help to manage passwords and keep them secure – particularly useful when they are more complicated and harder to remember.

Cyberhood Watch Ambassadors

We currently have 53 Cyberhood Watch Ambassadors, with a further 17 about to be trained.

“The Cyberhood Watch project is a vital part of the work we do up and down the country to help keep communities safe from crime,” explains Robin Sutton, Cyberhood Watch Ambassador and Chair of Cambridge Neighbourhood Watch.

“Ambassadors are all volunteers,” he adds, *“who give up their time to train, offer advice, and keep themselves up-to-date with current cybercrime developments and share their knowledge with their community.”*

Are you interested in becoming our next Ambassador? If so, we will equip you with toolkits and knowledge that can make a real difference to the online safety of your area – helping to keep your community safe in an increasingly connected digital world.

To learn more click [here](#).



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The offer is not time bound
[Download Avast One here](#)



Looking for advice on how to save money off your energy bills?

The UK government has launched a new public information campaign to highlight simple, no or low-cost actions that will cut down on energy use and bills – ones that are not already adopted by the majority of households but can offer significant financial savings this winter, without reducing comfort or putting people's health at risk.

The new campaign promotes government's top recommended actions to help households save money on their energy bills, including (but not limited to):

Reducing the temperature a boiler heats water to before it is sent to radiators (known as the boiler flow temperature) from 75°C to 60°C

Turning off appliances at the plug

Reducing heating loss from the property, such as by draught-proofing windows and doors

Visit the [website](#) for further detail on how these energy saving actions and more can add up to big savings.

#ItAllAddsUp

The graphic features the UK Government crest and logo at the top. Below it, the text 'Discover lots of little tips that could save you hundreds of pounds on your energy bill' is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with each line on a separate yellow background. Underneath, 'It all adds up' is also in bold on a yellow background. At the bottom right, there is a white box with a black border containing the text 'Help for Households'.

Take Five to Stop Fraud

We are proud to be supporting Take Five Week (w/c 17th April).

Criminals are experts at impersonating people and organisations we trust, such as the police, your bank, a delivery or utility company. They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you'll let your guard down for just a moment. However, there are things we can all do to protect ourselves.

If you receive a request for money or personal information, always remember to Stop, Challenge, Protect. Ask yourself if it could be a scam? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

Your bank or the police will never ask you to transfer money to a safe account or contact you to

ask for your full PINs, passwords or passcodes. If you think you may have fallen for a scam, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via [actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk).

To stay safe, follow the advice from [Take Five to Stop Fraud](#). Support the campaign and empower people in your network to Stop, Challenge, Protect.

The graphic is set against a yellow background. It features a large black cross shape. Inside the top-left arm of the cross, the words 'PROUD TO SUPPORT' are written in yellow. The main body of the cross contains the text 'TAKE FIVE TO STOP FRAUD WEEK' in large, bold, white letters. Below this, a yellow rectangular box contains the dates '17-21 APRIL 2023' in black. In the bottom right corner, there is a black hand icon with the words 'TAKE FIVE' written on it, and below that, the text 'TO STOP FRAUD' in black.

Why choose a Master Locksmiths Association Approved Locksmith?

The Master Locksmiths Association (MLA) was established to help to maintain the integrity and reputation of the locksmith industry and ensure that customers receive reliable and professional services from reputable companies.

All MLA approved locksmiths are vetted, qualified and inspected. Find out more about licensing [here](#).

VETTED

- All employees of the approved Locksmith must have had a satisfactory standard DBS check
- A change to the law on the [vetting of locksmiths](#), implemented as a result of campaigning by the MLA, means the only way for locksmiths to obtain standard level Criminal Record checks (or DBS checks as they are now) is through MLA membership

FULLED QUALIFIED

- Locksmiths must have passed the MLA exam to become a QML (Qualified Master Locksmith) member. The MLA exam is Ofqual recognised and the highest locksmith certification in the UK
- All MLA approved companies must employ at least one QML (Qualified Master Locksmith)

INSPECTED

- The MLA conduct regular inspections of their approved locksmith companies
- Regular inspections help them ensure that their approved locksmiths are upholding certain standards in their workmanship and administration
- During these inspections, approved locksmiths may be evaluated on various factors such as:
 - their compliance with industry regulations and best practices
 - the qualifications and training of their staff
 - their use of proper tools and equipment
 - their customer service and communication skills
 - and their overall quality of workmanship

Why does the MLA license approved locksmiths?

As there is no governmental licensing process for locksmiths so the Master Locksmiths Association has implemented its own licensing program.

The MLA always [recommend checking the credentials of a locksmith](#).

[Visit their site to find your local
MLA approved locksmith](#)



MASTER LOCKSMITHS ASSOCIATION

**SECURE YOUR HOME.
PROTECT YOUR WORLD.**
LOCKSMITHS.CO.UK

FOR ADDED PEACE OF MIND
**CHOOSE AN MLA
APPROVED LOCKSMITH.**

 **Trustworthy**
VETTED

The only way for locksmiths to get standard Criminal Record checks (DBS) is through MLA membership.

 **Highly skilled**
QUALIFIED

All our Approved Companies employ at least 1 Qualified Master Locksmith whose passed the MLA Qfqual recognised exam.

 **Professional**
INSPECTED

To ensure high standards, quality workmanship and customer satisfaction.

 **TO FIND YOUR LOCAL MLA
APPROVED LOCKSMITH.**
Visit [locksmiths.co.uk](#)

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Neighbours by chance.
Working together by choice..

**WE ARE MAKING THIS A
BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.
TOGETHER.**

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