

LOCAL WATCH-WORD



The Newsletter of the Eastleigh Neighbourhood Watch Association keeping you up to date with crime and safety issues in your area

Dec 2023

NW SIGNS & ROUNDELS



Clean NW signs are a good indication that your NW scheme is active. Dirty or unreadable signs give the impression that the scheme is perhaps inactive.

Why not get a few neighbours together and (safely) clean your signs before the winter?

If your signs need refurbishing or replacing, please contact us at chair@eastleighnhw.org.uk. Signs are still provided free, thanks to support from your Eastleigh Borough Council Local Area Committees.

If you are aware of any NW signs that are no longer needed, please notify us and we will see if they can be refurbished and reused.

Whilst additional roundels (and signs) are offered for sale in the Our Watch shop, National NW provide an



Quarterly Tip

Look at your home security through the eyes of a burglar



initial supply of roundels to each Association for distribution. Hampshire and IoW NW Association (HINWA) has so far been able to provide us with as many roundels as we have requested - so they remain free for our Eastleigh NW schemes. If any coordinator needs additional roundels, please contact us.

B 4 U GO

- C**heck doors and windows are locked
- H**ave you shut and secured your shed, garage and garden access?
- R**emember to leave a light on a timer
- I**s your Xmas tree (and presents) visible?
- S**ee your home through burglar's eyes!
- T**hink about what you post on Social Media.
- M**ight your post indicate an empty house?
- A**void leaving tempting articles and equipment on display
- S**tay Safe and enjoy the festive season



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A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIR



Claire Wills

You will see on page 4 a request from Speedwatch for volunteers. I spent an hour (the length of a session) with them to see what they do. They are primarily about prevention – preventing accidents due to drivers speeding. They are not aiming to 'catch' speeding drivers. They do note anyone who is driving at more than 5 mph above the limit, which they pass onto the police. Given that they are in high vis clothing

and are very visible it surprised me that anyone was speeding, but a few were and some did not slow down! No one stopped to speak to them although a few drivers did give them a friendly wave.

Last month we had a successful Meet the Police event for coordinators in Chandler's Ford and aim to repeat this in 6 months. I am meeting the Chief Inspector for Eastleigh soon, so will report back about that in the next issue. I intend to raise some communications ideas from the Coordinators at Chandler's Ford.

I have also had some success in contacting the Police and Crime Commissioner (Donna Jones) to establish what is happening with Eastleigh Police station – this is reported on page 3.

Finally do not forget that the Warm Welcomes are still operating this year. They are a place to get warm and see a friendly face. They are at:

Elim Pentecostal Church, Eastleigh
The Mercury Library & Community Hub
Pavilion on the Park, Eastleigh
Places Leisure Eastleigh
St Andrews Methodist Church
St Paul's Church, Bursledon
St Thomas' Church, Fair Oak
The Point Eastleigh



Lots more information can be found on our ENWA website

www.eastleighnhw.org.uk/

and also take a look at our [Facebook](#) page



Velmore Community Centre,
Chandler's Ford
YMCA Eastleigh (North Stoneham)
Chandler's Ford Library
Eastleigh Library
Hedge End Library
Netley Library
West End Library
 Full details can be found at [Warm Welcomes \(eastleigh.gov.uk\)](http://Warm Welcomes (eastleigh.gov.uk)) where changes are noted.

CORBEN'S CORNER

By John Corben

Winter is fast approaching; the days sadly are getting shorter and colder. This inevitably means we use more energy as we fire up our central heating and turn on our lights for longer. Then our thoughts turn to how much all this is going to cost and how we are going to pay. It is at this point that fraudsters are callously playing on people's money worries. Posing as OFGEM, the Energy Regulator, they offer people energy efficient boilers or offer to source and switch their victim to a cheaper energy provider. The potential victim will receive a cold call email or text from someone claiming to represent the regulator and their intent is to get the victim's bank details, with the resulting consequences. Never ever hand over your personal details!

The fake pre-payment meter key scam is another doing the rounds. Being offered a pre-payment key half price may sound tempting to some people,

especially where money is tight, but it can backfire spectacularly months or years down the line. The energy companies have the ability to monitor a consumer's usage and may pick up that the payments do not reflect the typical usage they would expect. This may lead to an investigation and, where fraud is identified a consumer may be forced to repay the difference, resulting in paying more in the end for their energy.



It is reported that purchase fraud is also on the increase. Scammers create fake bargain deals to defraud unsuspecting online shoppers. Stay vigilant when online shopping, especially around Black Friday deals. Avoid super low priced unbelievable deals as these are possibly fraudulent. Also be on the lookout for misspellings or blurred pictures which can also be an indication of a scam deal.

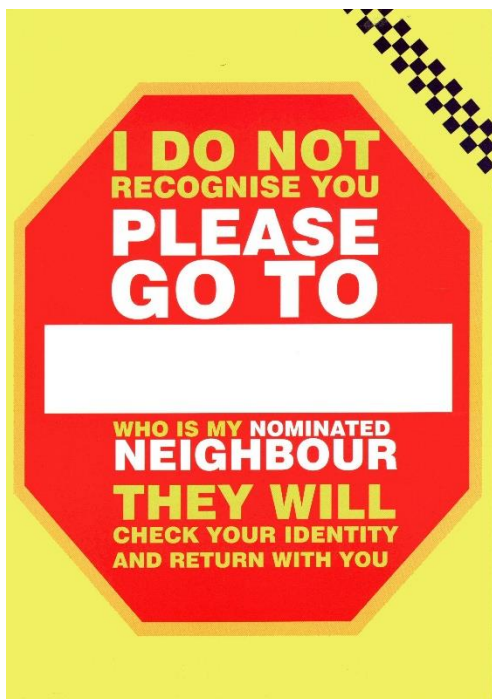
As always, stay safe online and remember we can always be contacted on hampshirecyberwatch.org for advice and assistance.



HAMP SHIRE
CYBERWATCH



COLD CALLERS BEWARE!



Do you have neighbours who may not be happy to talk to doorstep callers? Would you be willing to help them by checking out their visitor for them.

The Hampshire Police have created this initiative to help your vulnerable neighbours who may feel intimidated by unexpected callers. Just print out the A5 handout, which they can use to divert the caller to a helpful neighbour, to check the identity and credentials before progressing further. The download to print is available on the ENWA website at:

<https://www.eastleighnhw.org.uk/threats-tips-news/doorstep-crime-advice/>

Just give this to your neighbour after having first filled in details in the white box.

DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR

- ✓ ALL DOORS LOCKED
- ✓ USE THE DOOR CHAIN
- ✓ SHOW THIS CARD TO THE CALLER
- ✗ DO NOT enter into conversation
- ✗ DO NOT let them in

REMEMBER
Genuine callers
will be happy to wait or call back

KEEP YOUR MONEY SAFE

£p£p£p£p£p£p£p£p£p

Don't get caught out. Attempted fraud and scams are on the rise. This advice is from Nat West, but applies equally to any person with a bank account. Follow these tips to help keep your money safe.

Never give away your:

- full password
- PIN
- full card number, expiry and security number.

It's now much easier for fraudsters to get hold of information. So don't trust a cold caller just because they know some of your personal details. Even if it looks like your bank calling.

Watch out for links in emails asking you to hand over your personal information.

Turn on push notifications using your mobile app, so you'll get alerted about any new account activity.

Use your app to set up biometric approval. Then go to My Security Profile, which has tools and tips to help keep you safe.

REPORTING CRIME NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

The Hampshire Police website has a useful area where you can interact, by reporting crime, missing persons and other incidents. As you can see by the menu headings there are many other links which may be of use to members of the public and or organisations. www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/

'Your area' is particularly interesting, as you can enter your postcode and see the prevailing crime statistics where you live.

If you continue to the 'On the team' sub menu you will be able to see the names and ranks of the Police Officers serving in your district.

The map showing stations and contact points currently shows Winchester, Southampton and Portswood, but we have been

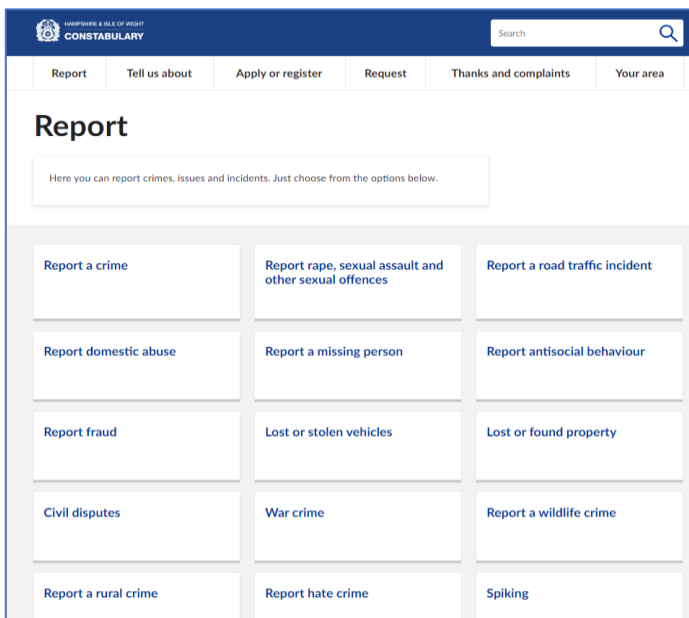
promised, that in the future, there are plans to re-open an Eastleigh Station.

In a recent communication the ENWA committee were told: "The Commissioner's plan is to have a central site with front desk in Eastleigh."

All the new front desks will be manned by Police Staff known as Police Counter Enquiry Officers (PCEO) who currently man all current front desks across the county.

The PCEO will be able to take crime reports, provide advice and raise incidents for deployment where appropriate.

There will also be officers and staff based there. At this time, the teams can't be confirmed until the building plans are finalised. As the force has grown the current estate is not big enough to house operational officers so it is likely that local policing teams will be based at these locations.



COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you like to join the Community SpeedWatch Team? We currently only have a Hedge End and Chandlers Ford Team in place. Both are well established. They are always keen to take on new team members.

Volunteers use equipment that can monitor the speed of passing traffic and then record the details, later adding them to a database. Vehicle checks are then undertaken by the police and letters are then sent to the registered keepers advising them of their speed and reminding them of why it is a community concern.

Community SpeedWatch is an educational scheme, not enforcement. It is considered as the first-tier response to speeding issues. If a problem persists, it can be escalated to tier two, meaning that enforcement can be undertaken by the Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

If you would like to be a part of the CSW Team in your area, please direct all enquiries to speedwatch@hampshire.police.uk or visit [Community](#)

[Speedwatch | Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary](#) for more information



COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH



HOW THIEVES CAN TELL IF YOU'RE AT GNOME

Not a local problem yet, but worth being aware of.

Police have issued a warning to anyone who finds a mysterious "Christmas gnome" in their garden.

While at first glance the cuddly festive decorations appear to have been randomly left, the officers in North Wales believe there may be a more sinister explanation.

If the gnome is not collected by the resident or removed from its location, it could be a sign that the property is empty and an "easy target" for burglars.

A spokesperson for the Flintshire North branch of the force said: "We are aware of a report of individuals in the Broughton area leaving Christmas gnomes in residential front gardens.

"This type of behaviour is sometimes used as a 'calling card' to see if the gnome is collected by the resident."



"If not, the property is likely to be empty and could be an easy target for burglaries," he continued. "We would advise residents to be vigilant and ensure your home is secure."

North Wales Police urged anyone who witnesses anything suspicious to contact the force via their website or through 101.

They also issued advice for homeowners to ensure their property is secure, which includes installing CCTV and alarm systems and keeping their property unobstructed so that burglars have nowhere to hide.

Internal and external lighting is also advised to further protect properties.