

LOCAL WATCH-WORD



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

June 2020

Is the Worst Behind Us?

Mike Anthony

At the time of writing, the Coronavirus epidemic in the UK is at last beginning to subside. The Government is taking the first steps towards getting people back to work and the economy going again, whilst trying to minimise the risk to public safety. This is good news for everyone. However, we should not let down our guard against this virus. Our lifestyles are likely to be changed for some considerable time to come, perhaps forever in some aspects.

Working from home, social distancing, increased shopping online, avoiding large gatherings, reduced foreign travel and staying home – or thinking twice before going out – these are probably here to stay, maybe for a year to come. Working patterns may be changed forever in some cases.

Looking forward, we are told wearing face masks in public could become the new norm. It is likely that we (on a large scale) will be encouraged to use a contact-tracing app on our smart phones which, by monitoring nearby Bluetooth signals from other phones, will let us know if we have been in close contact with someone who later reports positive for Covid-19.



Efforts continue towards finding a vaccine, but even the most optimistic predictions suggest a vaccine is unlikely to be available before September this year and then manufacture and mass inoculation is going to take months after that. So we are in for a long haul.

Government Covid-19 guidance is updated daily so please check for the latest at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>. You can also sign up to get emails when Covid-19 information changes at the gov.uk website.



Quarterly Tip

Don't Click on links from cheap meat companies. They might be spam!

Our thanks go out to all the NHS staff and carers across the country. Also to all the other key workers doing their bit to keep the country running.

Neighbourhood Watch has a role to play in any emergency - whether it be a local or national issue.

During the present challenging time, Neighbourhood Watch encourages members and schemes to support their communities in the best way they can, for example, by keeping in contact with those who may be isolated, passing on warnings concerning Covid-19 scams and helping to ensure that the vulnerable have the support they need.

However, many of our volunteers are in the age groups at higher risk from Covid-19 and may also have other conditions that increase their vulnerability. So the most important thing we must all do is to follow the guidelines and avoid becoming ill, putting our lives at risk and placing further pressure on the NHS and other services.

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A Note From Our Chairman

Mike Anthony



projects that were on the 'to-do sometime' list. Others though, are finding it hard – perhaps in isolation, maybe without the comfort of being able to use Zoom (other video conferencing solutions are available) or order things on-line. It is times like this that we come together and support each other, and particularly our vulnerable neighbours.

I have been pleased to hear from our schemes around Eastleigh about the actions they have taken to help their communities. If you want to share some of your stories or successes, please feel free to email me too.

If you are looking for a project to keep you busy – see our article about security of sheds and garages.

Finally, I would like to thank all NW members for their care and support to their communities during the ongoing crisis. Keep safe and remember that special efforts will be needed for some time to come.

You will not be surprised to hear that our AGM, which was to have been on 6th July, has been

Welcome to the second edition of our quarterly newsletter. Due to COVID-19 our living and working patterns are very different at present – some are working as normal, some from home, some are catching up on



Lots more information can be found on our ENWA website

www.eastleighnhw.org.uk/

and also take a look at our Facebook page



cancelled - we will instead deal with the business of the meeting via email. I'm sure you will see this as sensible. If you have any matters you would have liked to raise at the AGM please let me know and we will try to deal with them.

Corben's Computer Corner

By John Corben

Firstly I hope everyone is managing through the current situation and let's all hope for a safe return to some sort of normality over the coming months. Sadly the computer scammers are redoubling their efforts to attempt to scare and trick computer and phone users into revealing their personal information. Government agencies such as the DVLA and Inland Revenue will never send text messages or emails informing the public that they are due a refund. These are simply scams attempting to get your personal information and must be totally ignored. On a positive note we are receiving messages back from you that this message is getting through and several targets of these scammers have contacted us explaining the messages and emails they have received are being ignored.

Strong passwords are one of the key cornerstones to guarding

against hacking. It should consist of at least 10 characters, preferably more, and include upper and lower case, numbers and special keys. A simple way of creating a good password is to think of two unrelated words such as 'letter' and 'bowl'. Add in a couple of upper



case letters and insert a couple of special keys.....Lett!rBow&l.....12 characters long and to the average hacker totally unhackable. Never duplicate passwords across accounts. Many software security suites now include a 'password manager' which will generate totally safe passwords for all your

visited sites. These are totally safe to use.

Protection against malware and hacking is now an important component of any device. Antivirus protection software for computers and phones come in both paid for and free versions and any major brand software provides good robust protection. Paid for software packages often include useful extras, but free packages cover the essentials.

Of the free packages for PCs, the Feb 2020 edition of *Which?* magazine rated Avira Free as currently best (scoring 84%) but Windows Defender (which comes integrated as part of Windows 10) scored only 63% by comparison. Whilst Defender is continuously improving, it is probably worth investing in additional protection for your PC.

However, having an anti-malware programme installed and monitoring your computer, tablet or phone is vital and it should be updated and used regularly.

Reduce the threat to sheds and garages.

Rates of residential burglary remain stubbornly high and more than half of reported incidents are attacks on sheds and garages. The focus of incidents has moved over recent months from Eastleigh centre towards Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath. But anywhere could be targeted. Take time out now to look around and protect your sheds and garages.



SHEDS .

- Consider buying a shed alarm.
- Always keep your shed locked and secured.
- Put tools away.
- Keep tools and items such as bicycles covered.
- Ensure hinges for shed doors are internal (no exposed screws).

- If you have a motorised door opener protect your emergency cord from being accessed from outside the garage.
- Remember to secure any pedestrian doors or windows into your garage.

To find out more about these and other preventative measures go to our website:

<https://www.eastleighnhw.org.uk/threats-tips-news/local-burglaries-theft/>

and follow the link to improving shed and garage security.

GARAGES

- Consider fitting a simple garage alarm.
- Make sure your garage door cannot easily be opened from outside.

What can you do to counter Fly-Tipping?



It seems that fly-tipping is on the increase - just last week we learned of litter dumped behind the Botley Market Hall. This problem has

probably not been helped by the closure of council recycling and household waste facilities during the Covid-19 crisis.

As the recycling sites start to re-open, hopefully instances of Fly-tipping will decline but the problem has been on the increase before the epidemic, so we need to be vigilant.

Not all Fly-tipping is domestic waste but some of the worst problems are created by unlicensed 'waste businesses' disposing of paid commercial and domestic waste in remote countryside locations. Often the owner has to pay for the rubbish to be removed.

If you come across an instance of Fly-tipping, then you should report it to your local council. If you need to, the Gov.uk website will help you identify your local council. Alternatively an easy way to report it is to go to the ClearWaste website <https://clearwaste.com/flytipping/report>. ClearWaste will then refer it to the appropriate authority. It is helpful to note the location and take photos of the rubbish if possible.

If you actually see someone Fly-tipping, you should also note and inform the council:

- how many people are involved and what they look like,
- what they tipped - how much and what it looks like,
- information about the vehicles used including make, colour and registration number.

Introducing Our New Eastleigh District Inspector



Inspector Phil Raymond

I joined Hampshire Constabulary in 1994 having been a Special Constable in Hampshire for the two years prior to that. I have enjoyed a hugely varied career that has

included response and patrol, roads policing, a Youth Offending Team, strategic roles both locally, as the Staff Officer to the PCC and nationally in the team establishing the National Police Air Service. I have also served as a Detective Inspector and have just returned to the force following a two year secondment to the College of Policing, the world's first professional body for police. I am delighted to have joined Eastleigh District as the District Inspector since mid-March.

It has been a really interesting and challenging time to return to frontline duties, with the Covid-19 restrictions coming into place just days after I landed. This period of lockdown has been the single greatest test of the concept of policing by consent, probably since the modern police service came into existence in 1829. I am extremely proud of the way that our officers and police staff have managed the lockdown restrictions, maintaining the emphasis on Engage, Explain and Encourage. However, none of that would be possible without the support of you,

the residents of Eastleigh, and so I would like to thank you for your understanding and support as we have navigated through these uncharted waters.

In addition to the new world of Covid-19 we have also been focusing on the business as usual for policing. The teams have been tackling offenders. You will have seen the arrest, charge and remand of a suspect for a series of shed burglaries in the northern part of the District. We have also continued our work to tackle drug related harm, and I hope to be able to update you on that work at a later date. We have also been focusing on protecting vulnerable people, again often made more vulnerable whilst in the enforced lockdown.

I hope to be able to keep you up to date with what your local policing team has been doing to keep you safer through these quarterly newsletters. If you would like more regular updates then please follow us on Facebook and/or Twitter. Alternatively if you don't do social media then please do sign up to Hampshire Alerts where you can register to receive direct emails about crimes and activity in your community.

<https://www.hampshirealert.co.uk/>
<https://www.facebook.com/EastleighPolice/>
<https://twitter.com/EastleighPolice>
<https://www.facebook.com/HedgeEndCops/>

Neighbourhood Patrol Teams

Since our last Newsletter there have been some changes in Police personnel as staff roles and areas

are modified to meet the Force's needs. We will try to keep our website up to date to reflect these changes. The latest list can be found by using this link.
<https://www.eastleighnhw.org.uk/reporting-crime/neighbourhood-patrol-teams/>



Hampshire CYBERWATCH
 Cyber Champions



Neighbourhood Watch is working with Hampshire Police Cyber Crime Unit to train a number of NW Cyber Champions across the County. These will give presentations to groups on the latest threats and steps that can be taken to protect individuals and their families from becoming victims of online fraud or scams.

It is also hoped to set up an email 'helpdesk' which will give advice to individuals who are concerned about communications they have received or fear they may have become a victim. Eastleigh NWA is at the forefront of organising this initiative.

The first Cyber Champions will be trained by the Hants Police Cyber Crime Unit in late May. If you are interested in participating in this initiative or offering to help, please contact Mike Anthony.
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