

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 2020

Eastleigh And Hedge End To Get Nine More Officers

At the beginning of the year the government announced plans to boost police numbers with a massive recruitment drive. Forces in England and Wales have lost 20,564 officers between March 2010 and March 2019, so the national target of 20,000 new recruits in 2020, if successful, should help to redress that. Our local force is beginning to see the results of this initiative, as nine new officers will be joining, next three months.

Inspector Louise Hubble joins Hedge End. She is supporting Inspector Phil Raymond in the rank and role of Inspector for the district. In addition eight student officers



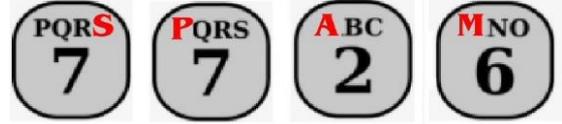
are in the pipeline. These places, two in November, two in December then a further four in January next year will hopefully thicken the thin blue line.



Quarterly Tip

To report text spam forward the text to 7726.

SPAM



Eastleigh				
PC	Amberlouise	Hague	Joins Nov 20	Central
PC	Louise	Fry	Joins Nov 20	Central
PCSO	William	Newell	Joins Jan 21	Central
PC	Samuel	Lovibond	Joins Jan 21	East & West
PCSO	Brandon	Thorp	Joins Jan 21	East & West

Hedge End				
PC	Timothy	Bright	Joins Dec 20	Hedge End S
PC	Lauren	Munday	Joins Jan 21	Hedge End S
PC	Tom	Gowans	Joins Dec 20	Hedge End N

What Are You Doing This Christmas?

Social isolation and loneliness can be a key factor in making older people more vulnerable to a range of problems, from health issues to becoming a victim of crime, abuse or exploitation. With Christmas on the horizon, and a time when families gather together, maybe in a more limited way this year, for some people loneliness can become doubly significant, if their family is not nearby or no longer around.

Do you know all your neighbours? Is there a person who may be on their own for Christmas

this year? In the current climate, neighbourliness is even more important and just making some contact with that person could make all the difference to their day.



1. CONTENTS	
1	New Officers
1	Social Isolation
1	Quarterly Tip
2	Chairman's Note
2	Corben's Corner
3	Cyber Champions
3	Scheme Continuity
4	Marcus
4	Cold Callers

A Note From Our Chairman

Mike Anthony



XMAS IS A TIME FOR GIVING BUT SADLY FOR TAKING TOO!

Welcome to the December edition of our quarterly newsletter.

At the time of writing we are just coming out of Lockdown 2, and with vaccines against Covid-19 being rolled out, let's hope that we will soon find life beginning to return to 'normal'.

The periods of 'lockdown' have meant that there have been fewer opportunities for 'traditional' forms of crime such as residential burglary but cyber-crime has continued to increase.

Inevitably, this Xmas more of us than ever will be shopping online for our presents. However, this means it could also be a bumper time for scammers who regard Xmas online shoppers as perfect targets for fraud. Our update on NW Hampshire Cyber Watch later in this newsletter gives some useful tips to avoid becoming a fraud victim when shopping online this Xmas.

Restrictions are being partially lifted to allow travel for Xmas so, if you intend to travel, please don't become a victim of burglary. Here are some tips from the police and other NW members:

1. Make sure any social media posts saying that you will be away aren't public and that they're only seen by your friends - also hide your (and/or your children's) location if you/ they use a location App (like 'Zenly')
2. Leave lights and a radio on a timer to make the property appear occupied
3. Get a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property and let your Neighbourhood Watch coordinator know
4. Consider asking your neighbour to close curtains after dark and to park on your drive



Lots more information can be found on our ENWA website

www.eastleighnhw.org.uk/



and also take a look at our Facebook page

5. Remember to cancel any deliveries or ask your neighbour to look out and remove them

Again, a big 'thank you' to the coordinators and members who continue to help neighbours and friends through this difficult time and over Xmas. Remember to keep an eye out for suspicious activities – if you see something odd, report it to the police.

Corben's Computer Corner

By John Corben

As we approach the end of what has been for all of us a rather unusual year, we can reflect on the way Covid has impacted on society. Apart from the more obvious impacts on health it has other sinister consequences for all of us. We have been spending more time at home and most likely more time on our computers. This has meant the scammers have redoubled their scamming efforts.

Within my immediate family my mother has received several malicious phone calls during the last few weeks and so have other family members. All of us having received scam texts and phone calls. My last one was supposedly from Amazon and requested me to press button one on my phone to connect me to a 'sales advisor' to assist mescam speak for extort money out of me. As a Cyber Ambassador for HINWA I was able

to reassure my family that on each occasion this was the work of scammers and to ignore any messages or content.



There is a dedicated Hampshire CyberWatch web page hampshirecyberwatch.org/ where anybody can seek help and advice if

they suspect they or a family member or friend is being scammed. One of a dedicated team of Cyber Champions will provide help and advice and hopefully stop the scammers in their tracks.

As the scammers increase their attacks we should protect ourselves and further extend that vigilance to those near to us as well.

I would like to draw your attention to a scam involving 'phone number spoofing'. It is not beyond the competency of many scammers to alter their phone number to appear different on the caller display to what it really is. This number could be 'spoofed' to appear from a bank for example with the scammer using this to gain your confidence. If you receive a phone call from 'your bank' hang up and either visit your local branch to discuss or phone your bank and confirm from a different telephone if possible.

Finally I would wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas.

Cyber Champions Update

In the last edition of Watch Word we announced that the Hampshire Cyber Watch (HCW) service was coming soon. **Now it's live!**

HCW is manned by NW volunteers trained and assisted by Hants Constabulary Cyber Crime Unit.

The **FREE** HCW online service was formally launched for NW members at the beginning of October and offers advice and assistance to anyone concerned about scam or fraud attempt.

Since launch the Cyber Champions have had a steady number requests for advice or help. We are now offering this free service to anyone across Hampshire.

One of the aims of HCW is to increase the number of reports of attempted scams to the National Cyber Security Centre in order to help identify and close down scam operations. The NCSC reports that 3.6 million suspicious emails alone have been reported by the public, leading to the removal of over 18,000 scams and over 39,000 malicious web pages - so it does work!

Don't give the scammers a seasonal present this Xmas. Here are some useful tips for shopping online safely this Xmas:

- When you're shopping online, make sure websites are authentic - ideally, type in or use a saved site name rather than clicking on a link in an email, text or post. It's easy for scammers to set up fake websites that are very similar to the real thing
- Be extra vigilant about checking that ads on social media and online forums are authentic before purchasing.
- Don't pay for anything by transferring money directly to people or companies you don't know. If you can, always pay by credit card.
- Remember to Log Out of the web page or app when payment is completed - simply closing it may not log you out automatically.
- At this time of year, fake parcel firm delivery notifications are commonplace, as are emails and other messages featuring 'special offers' and 'prizes'. Don't click on links in emails, texts or posts that you're not expecting, and don't open unexpected email attachments.



Remember, if you or someone you know receives a suspicious communication or becomes a victim of a scam and is not sure what to do – you can always contact a Cyber Champion for free advice at www.hampshirecyberwatch.org.

Is Your NW Scheme *Resilient?*

There have been a few instances when schemes have closed because the membership information has been lost, so we ask Coordinators to ensure that there is continuity of scheme information available in the event that the Coordinator (or their computer) becomes incapacitated.

Backup storage

Scheme membership information may be held on paper or on a Coordinator's computer. A suitable secure method of

backup is recommended in case of computer problems e.g. on a memory stick, removable disk or in the Cloud.

Cloud storage

There are several Cloud storage options such as Google Drive, Dropbox, iCloud etc. these all offer the facility to 'share' files and folders with another person. All files stored on secure cloud servers benefit from an enhanced level of security. The security credential most users are familiar with is



the password. Cloud storage security vendors secure data using other means as well. These include firewalls, encryption, intrusion detection, event logging and physical security. Cloud storage is used and trusted by the police and government agencies to allow group working and keep data safe remotely.

Scheme Deputy or 'Buddy'

The next step is to nominate a deputy who can be allowed access to the data (or provided with a copy at regular intervals).

Typical options for a scheme are as follows:

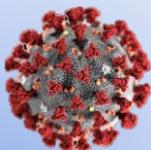
- (1) A scheme Deputy is appointed from the membership.
- (2) A Coordinator's spouse is often nominated Deputy. The spouse then just needs to be able to access the scheme member data and know what to do if a problem arises.

If there is no deputy, the scheme needs to nominate someone else, 'a buddy' (within NW) who can access the membership data.

The local NW Area Coordinator (ACO) or a member of ENWA Committee can act as 'buddy' for the Coordinator. The Coordinator can store the scheme details somewhere that the 'buddy' can access e.g. in their Cloud or in the ENWA Cloud

The choice is yours - whatever works for you is fine – you just need to let your ACO know what arrangements you have made - and don't forget to let us know if your Deputy or 'buddy' changes.

Check
On
Vulnerable
Isolated
Dependents



Minister attends NW AGM

Bob Combes, Chairman - Hampshire Neighbourhood Watch Association attended the National AGM by video link. The introduction to the meeting was by Kit Malthouse – Minister for crime, policing and fire service who praised the work of NW members bringing communities together - especially during the current covid crisis.

He spoke of a change of emphasis in the Home Office towards prevention of crime and the importance of addressing crime affecting local communities. He said 'prevention is much better than cure' and believed Neighbourhood Watch volunteers have a key role to play in preventing community-based crimes.



Kit Malthouse MP

The Neighbourhood Watch five year strategy was discussed (see inset right) and the Minister said he was encouraged by the latest 5 year strategy which was 'music to his ears'

The recent crime survey was answered by 33,000 residents and was designed to help us understand where NW fits in people's perception of security and so guide us for the future. An analysis of the results will be made public in January .

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NETWORK STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-25

Neighbourhood Watch is the largest crime prevention charity in England and Wales. We work to prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime by helping people to protect themselves, their property and their communities. We were founded on the premise of bringing people together as neighbours and communities. The need for this today is as great as it has ever been and the desire for neighbours to support each other has been clearly evidenced during the Covid-19 response.

The authoritative voice on community-based crime prevention

Everyone will know about Neighbourhood Watch and will be able to access the advice and support they need

The most popular gateway for citizens to engage in their locality

We will provide the first step for neighbours to connect with each other to offer support with other community partners

A recognised contributor to community health and wellbeing

We will be known for positive impact on crime and fear of crime as well as community cohesion and reducing loneliness and isolation

Doorstep crime

There are a number of scenarios whereby you might receive a **cold caller** at your door:

- Bogus callers - These people may trick you into giving them money or your personal details.
- Rogue traders - These people offer to do work for you, but then overcharge you for poor or incomplete work.
- Distraction burglars - One person keeps you occupied at the front door while another person's goes around the back and enters your property without you knowing.

Sound advice from Hampshire Trading Standards is to say "No" to all doorstep cold callers. There is no obligation for you to allow any person into your home, and you are within your rights to refuse access.

Below is some further crime prevention advice for local residents around potential cold calling activity.

- Always use the door chain when answering the door: LOCK STOP CHAIN and CHECK - if unsure do not open the door.
- Always check your back door and windows are secure before answering the door.
- If someone who appears official knocks on your door, you should check their identity before allowing them to enter the house. If they are a genuine official person they will not mind you verifying their identification. Ask them to wait outside and shut the door. Always call the company/service directly by looking on a utility bill, or looking up the number of the company and not from the number on the card or any number the caller gives you. If you are not happy with their identity do not



allow them to enter your house under any circumstances.

- Consider setting up a No Cold Calling Zone (speak to your local Trading Standards Team)
- Report any suspicious callers or activity to the police immediately – you can use 101 or report it to us via our online reporting tool on the Hampshire Constabulary website. If there is a crime taking place or a threat to life, then please dial 999 immediately.