

# LOCAL WATCH-WORD



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

Mar 2021

## Don't Make It Easy For Thieves

Hampshire Constabulary would like to issue a timely reminder to all Eastleigh, Chandler's Ford and Hedge End residents not to leave personal belongings or valuables in motor vehicles overnight. We have seen a recent spike in thefts overnight in both Hedge End North and Eastleigh East and West.

If your vehicle is parked on a driveway or in-front of a garage you may want to consider installing a CCTV camera covering the area which your vehicle is parked or installing a motion-detector dash-cam. This way it may serve as a deterrent to potential thieves as they know that they will be caught on camera. See more about CCTV on page 4.

Most burglaries are committed by opportunists. These are often spur-of-the-moment decisions made when they see valuables left on view or notice lapses in security. Personal items such as mobile phones and tablets, handbags and work tools left in your vehicle, even if not obvious, can be a target so please do take them indoors with you every night, if you can .

Our officers in the community are continuing to follow-up on reports of thefts from motor vehicles. Please be reassured that we are doing all we can to protect the community and bring these offenders to justice.

We would urge you to remove all personal belongings from your vehicle each night. While this might seem laborious at the time it might just save you from becoming a victim of crime.

As always, if you see a crime in progress, please dial 999.



## Quarterly Tip

*Don't put an electric fence around your property.*

*Your neighbours will be dead against it*

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEEK 5th -11th June 2021

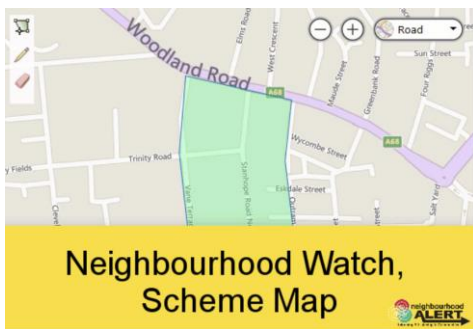
LOCKDOWN... OR NOT...

#LetsStayConnected  
**SAVE THE DATE**

[WWW.OURWATCH.ORG.UK/NW WEEK](http://WWW.OURWATCH.ORG.UK/NW WEEK)  
Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales. CIO No. 1173349

**L**IFE  
**O**FTEN  
**C**AN  
**K**NOCK,  
**D**ISSIPATING  
**O**PTIMISM  
**W**E  
**N**EED  
  
**L**ABORATORIES  
**A**RE  
**M**AKING  
**E**XCITING  
**N**EW  
**T**REATMENTS

## Are You On The Map?



Every Coordinator is asked to register their scheme (if they haven't already) on 'Neighbourhood Alert'. This can be done either via the Our Watch site or via Hampshire Alert.

With the long awaited upgrade to version 4 of the Neighbourhood Alert

system due later this year, we are encouraging Coordinators to get registered and map their scheme so that anyone looking for their local scheme can do so just by looking on either Our Watch or Hampshire Alert. Schemes that are not 'mapped' will not be able to be seen by anyone looking for their local scheme. If you are registered but your scheme is not mapped, just go to whichever site you registered and follow the instructions to map your scheme.

If anyone has difficulty or wants help doing this please

contact their Area Coordinator or Mike Anthony for assistance.

## CONTENTS

- 1 *Thieves About*
- 1 Map Alert
- 1 *Quarterly Tip*
- 2 Chairman's Note
- 2 *Corben's Corner*
- 3 Rogue Traders
- 3 *NW Signs*
- 4 Louise Hubble
- 4 *CCTV*



# A Note From Our Chairman

Mike Anthony



Welcome to our first *Watch Word* of 2021. So here we are again, coming out of yet another period of 'lockdown' - but at least things are starting to look brighter with vaccinations starting to have an effect and letting us dare to hope we will at last return to normality. I, personally, am looking forward to getting a haircut. I'm told it is either that or join a rock band!

This lockdown seems to have been 'different' in that, despite people being confined at home, some traditional forms of crime such as residential burglaries (mainly garages and sheds) and car theft have risen as well as incidences of cyber-crime (see John Corben's corner later on).


'Business' will change as a result of these lockdowns – practices such as increased working from home and buying online are no doubt here to stay, as are virtual meetings.

So too must our Association adapt and learn from the past year.

I think that, despite our expectation we will be fully 'out of lockdown' by the date of this year's AGM (on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021), we should make plans to conduct our business other than by inviting a large gathering.

To that end, we have drafted a revised Constitution (the first update since 2011) to cater, in particular, for conducting business through means other than meetings in person, as well as bring the document up to date and in line with current practices.


We will be sending out the revised Constitution and asking for approval by Coordinators in advance of the run up to the AGM. I hope you will all give it your support and participate in the AGM business – whatever methods we decide to try out.



Lots more information can be found on our ENWA website

[www.eastleighnhw.org.uk/](http://www.eastleighnhw.org.uk/)

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



Finally, I'd like to welcome new schemes that have been set up in recent months, in particular residents on the Boorley Park and North Stoneham Park developments who have banded together to combat crime through the formation of their new NW schemes.

Don't forget, if you see something suspicious – report it to the police either via 101, online or by phoning 999 if it is happening there and then.

## Corben's Corner

By John Corben

Our members have been getting the following scams on either their home phone or mobile:

**Amazon Prime** – 'your subscription is being automatically renewed unless you press key no 1.' Since they had Amazon Prime and wanted it renewed each month they did nothing – just hung up. Later they then realised that Amazon did not have their home number only their mobile, so they did an online chat and discovered that it was not Amazon calling! No harm done but it reinforced what should always do with these types of calls **put down the phone**. If you are worried about any unusual phone call, go directly to the site (Amazon for example) and check if what was said was true – invariably it is not, the scammers are just trying to get the details to get into the account.

This system proved useful when a member got a call the other day saying they were overdrawn on their bank account by several thousand, the member checked directly on the account and this time it was true – they had forgotten that last payment for their car!

**Halifax Building Society** – 'someone has been given access to your account (interesting as the member did not have any accounts with Halifax).' Note, if someone has been given access to your



account the bank will always write to you about this not phone you or email you.

**HMRC** – 'you owe a large amount of tax and to discuss this press x.' Again HMRC will never contact you on the phone like that – they will always send such information out by mail.

**Your Internet Router has been hacked** and as a safeguard the provider is switching it off. If you have set your router with a different password, they cannot do this. Indeed the service provider would just switch your Internet connection off, not sure why they would be talking about switching off a router!

**Fraudulent financial activity involving a National Insurance number** and that if you did not make contact immediately then your National Insurance number will be blocked. Since a National Insurance Number is not a digital identifier I do not see how this can be done and again any government department will always write to you not phone you.

**Covid 19 calls**. Of course, at the moment calls about vaccinations. If you have one and you are not sure if it is from your doctor, break off and ring them back!

**Fraudulent activity on Debit Card** with money being sent abroad from a 01656 721 937 phone number. They do not say which bank your card is with, so that should be a red flag straight away. Put the phone down and contact your card supplier from a different phone to check authenticity. If a different phone is not available wait at least five minutes before making the call to ensure the 'scam' caller is disconnected.

**HSBC**, A new payee request was created from an unrecognised device, you can confirm or cancel this request via: 'web link not included'. This is widely being circulated having been received by several members. The first red flag is none of them had HSBC accounts however, even if they did they should never click on the link as it would be a phishing attempt for personal details. As before, contact the bank/building society by phone to confirm.

I have been told that after you receive a scam phone call on a BT line that you can call 1572 and select Option 1, this will then stop you getting calls from that number. I have now signed up for BT Call Protect which is free for BT customers.

Please discuss these scams amongst your family and friends, you will be amazed how many of them have received similar scam attempts. However, some of them may also be worried about receiving a scam attempt and your reassurances about the types of scams and how to deal with them may just save them from being a victim.





## Corona-Con-Tact

Whilst times are hard for businesses during the pandemic, there is no excuse for exploitation of the public.

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) is working to ensure that consumers get a good deal when buying goods and services, and that businesses operate within the law.

The CMA has established a COVID-19 Taskforce to identify, monitor and respond to competition and consumer problems arising from coronavirus (COVID-19) and the measures taken to contain it.

If you want to report any incidents the COVID-19 taskforce has a dedicated email address you can use – [mcovid.monitoring@cma.gov.uk](mailto:mcovid.monitoring@cma.gov.uk) – for

people to flag price increases related to the coronavirus pandemic. Alternatively, you could complete the form online at

<https://www.coronavirus-business-complaint.service.gov.uk>

You will be asked to provide information including:

- Business name
- Business address, website or email address
- When you saw the behaviour
- What behaviour you saw

The CMA does not respond directly to every report it receives, but is monitoring all the information provided and will take actions where appropriate. Your complaint will help them to prioritise the work the CMA is undertaking in response to the coronavirus pandemic.



## A Sign Of The Times

If you are a new scheme or an existing one needing a new neighbourhood watch sign or your sign is now very faded, the following information could be useful to you. Last year the Local Area Committees of Eastleigh Borough Council agreed to fund signage for new registered Neighbourhood Watch schemes. This is on the basis of ENWA reclaiming the cost of the signs, which they purchased in bulk.

Application for permission to erect signs recently became unnecessarily complicated. Hampshire County Council were levying a charge for the application process under the blanket heading of 'Banner Consent'. Further insurance indemnity and form filling was required by the electricity company who maintain the street lights to which a sign might be affixed.

Working with the council, they have kindly agreed to waive this charge and to greatly simplify the application process. Please contact Mike Anthony: [mikea.enwa.chair@gmail.com](mailto:mikea.enwa.chair@gmail.com) for current details.

If your signage has become very faded, it is possible to apply to the committee for a stick on decal which will refresh your sign more cheaply than a replacement sign. The photo above right shows a refurbished sign. In addition we have individual property stick on NW 'roundels' which can be displayed in house doors or windows within your scheme area. Please request these through your Area Coordinator or Mike.



If you intend to either install or refurbish your sign(s) there is suggested health and safety guidance which you are advised to make yourself familiar with. A copy can be found at: <https://www.eastleighnhw.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Risk-Assessment.pdf> For signs that are attached by metallic strapping to the lamppost we can supply neoprene protection strips to avoid damage to the post. Other types using plastic cable ties do not require the strips.

# A Wild-Life For Hedge End's New Inspector



*By Louise Hubble*  
 I am the Prevention and Neighbourhood Inspector for Hedge End, though I am also currently covering Eastleigh as well whilst a colleague is away. I am supported by Sergeant Stu Jackson and Acting Sergeant Ian Simpson who manage Hedge End North and South teams respectively. I joined the District in November 2020 and am thrilled to be here.

As a bit of background on me and my career to-date I joined Hampshire Constabulary in January 1997 as a fresh-faced, enthusiastic officer who was excited about the opportunities ahead of me.

I have served at a number of stations across the West of the county, covering Response and Patrol, Neighbourhoods and Custody. In 2008 I identified an opportunity for improved service delivery and initiated the Country Watch scheme focusing on wildlife, rural and heritage crime. This was piloted in the West for two years prior to being rolled out across the force in 2010. I managed the scheme for a further four years as a Sergeant, before taking up post as Strategic Rural Policing Inspector for the next three years. I have strong interest in wildlife and natural history and am a keen wildlife photographer in my own time. I have been a wildlife crime officer since 1999.

In 2017, I was successful in my application for a three year secondment as Head of the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit and joined the team in November 2017.

I was involved in a huge amount of partnership work and enjoyed the opportunity to drive a focused, co-ordinated approach to achieve mutually beneficial goals. The role was extremely challenging and demanding, but also very rewarding.

In November 2020, I returned to Hampshire and was offered the opportunity to take up the role of Neighbourhood Inspector at Hedge End. Local policing has changed significantly over the last three years and it will take me a while to fully understand my role.

I can't believe that it has been twenty-four years since I joined the Police. I am now slightly less fresh faced but no less enthusiastic, and am once again excited about the opportunities ahead of me. The welfare and wellbeing of my staff is the most important thing to me, and I have a real focus on looking after our people.

It is a well-publicised fact that Policing is far too important to be left to the police alone, and I am looking forward to building some positive and productive (virtual) partnerships to focus on the crime types and the people causing the most harm across Eastleigh District.

## Does Your Home Or Business Have CCTV Security Systems?

If so, registering your cameras, including doorbell cameras, with the N.I.C.E. Investigate system can really help the Police in tackling crime.

If your cameras are registered, then if a crime happens within your area the Police know straight away who may have access to footage that can assist their investigations, which can be vital in bringing perpetrators to justice.

This makes it easier for them to

exchange information, which in turn helps the Police with sending the evidence needed to catch criminals faster, creating a safer community for businesses and members of the public.

Registration is simple and your participation in this free service will always remain 100% voluntary. Your information will be kept safe and secure and only other police forces will be able to see your camera locations.



Register and help today Email: [NICEDEMSSUPPORT@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:NICEDEMSSUPPORT@hampshire.pnn.police.uk) to inform the team that you would like to register your cameras.