



Newsletter

> THE E-NEWSLETTER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS IN SUFFOLK

Welcome to the August edition of our newsletter.

A somewhat shorter newsletter this month, but we hope you find the content just as interesting. A focus this month on steps to take for ensuring your home is secure, especially during the summer months when people are away on holidays, or leaving windows open during the really hot days of late. You will also find more details of the latest scams doing the rounds.

As always, please remember to check our "news" page on our website for updated news in between newsletter editions, and if you use social media, why not visit our [Facebook page](#), follow us and give us a "like".

The Executive Committee



INSIDE THIS EDITION:

Suffolk PCC public meetings **PG 2**

Trading Standards **PG 4**

Action Fraud **PG 7**

Home security **PG 3**

Crimestoppers **PG 6**

Have you got a story you would like to share?

Sharing your stories help give other schemes ideas that can help communities engage more. It's not always about crime and policing - but it's always about togetherness.

Send us your story via email to the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association Comms team: comms@suffolknwa.co.uk



Thank you to all the schemes that send us their newsletters. You can send yours to comms@suffolknwa.co.uk

If you would like them uploaded to our website, just let us know!



Your Police Your Say

PUBLIC MEETINGS

**SUFFOLK POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER TIM PASSMORE,
A CHIEF OFFICER AND THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM**

PUBLIC MEETINGS 2022

DATE

LOCATION

Thursday 29 September

Wherry Hotel, Bridge Road, Oulton Broad,
Lowestoft NR32 3LN

Monday 3 October

Online via Microsoft Teams. Go to
www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk to register

Thursday 6 October

Cedars Hotel, Needham Road, **Stowmarket** IP14 2AJ

Tuesday 11 October

Suffolk New College, Rope Walk, **Ipswich** IP4 1LT

Tuesday 18 October

Mildenhall Hub, Sheldrick Way, **Mildenhall**, Bury St
Edmunds IP28 7JX

NO NEED TO BOOK, JUST TURN UP

Meetings start at 6.30pm, the online meeting starts at 6pm.

For more details go to www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk



Home Security: Keeping your home secure

This year more than ever we finally deserve a holiday. But as the sun comes out, so do burglars and break-ins are on the rise.

According to a study by Statista, on average, home burglaries spike 10% between June and August. Fortunately, there are a few simple steps you can follow to protect your home and guarantee yourself a stress-free holiday.

Don't make it obvious

Most burglars will target properties which are clearly unattended or have no obvious security.

Before leaving for holiday make arrangements with friends or trusted neighbours. Ask them to collect parcels and letters, to make sure they're not building up on the doorstep. You could also invest in a smart video doorbell, which will allow you to not only monitor your home while you're away, but see and speak to the person at your door. Allowing you to direct the delivery person where to securely leave your parcel

If you're already using a smart home security system, share your spare remote control with a friend and ask them to visit your home while you're away, walk around and switch on the lights in different rooms. Making the house look occupied is one of the most effective ways of deterring opportunists.

67% of burglars break through the front door

It may be easy to forget about the simplest security measures in the holiday rush. Make a checklist and be sure to action it before leaving. Ensure that front doors and windows are locked and double-check the rear entrance. Make sure that your door lock meets the latest security standards and has a British Standard Kitemark accreditation. If you can afford it, it's worth investing in a 3 Star Cylinder for maximum protection. These cylinders offer excellent resistance to forced entry and if attacked, a security pin automatically triggers blocking the door lock preventing unlawful entry.

Don't leave valuables in visible or obvious places. Hide smaller items and if possible move bigger items away from the windows.

You can also view and download our handy home security checklist [here](#)



Keep an eye on the garden

Garden valuables are one of the most common targets of domestic burglaries. It's vital to treat garden security seriously. Make sure to put away all the outdoor furniture and bikes. If you own a garden shed or garage, apply additional security measures. Make sure it's securely locked and add an extra padlock where needed.

Consider installing security cameras to keep an eye on the outbuildings. The integrated smart home alarm will immediately alert you when any motion is detected. You can check what's happening around your home in real-time and take any necessary action. You can even hear and speak to potential trespassers through selected cameras thanks to a built-in two-way talk. A floodlight camera will additionally trigger the spotlight when any movement is detected, deterring any intruders.

Consider investing in professional monitoring with a smart alarm

If you're looking for ultimate peace of mind while on holiday and need something more than a standard alarm system, then professional monitoring can prove invaluable. Regardless of where you are in the world, professional monitoring will look after your home, for added reassurance that your house will be protected while you're away. If the alarm triggers, the security professionals will take a look at your security cameras and alarm system to assess if there is a genuine intruder. They will determine an appropriate course of action and notify the authorities if needed. Your home is completely covered, while you relax and enjoy your holiday without worry.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEMBER OFFER

AS A LONG-TIME PARTNER, ERA HOME SECURITY ARE OFFERING OUR READERS

15% OFF ALL ERA PROTECT PRODUCTS UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST

SIMPLY USE [NHWTAKE15](#) AT CHECKOUT

ERA



SUFFOLK
TRADING
STANDARDS



Telephone Scammers: Utility scams

Trading Standards are receiving reports that residents are being targeted by telephone scammers claiming to be from OFGEM, the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets.

Ofgem do not sell you energy, and will never ask you for personal information or come to your property.

If you receive such a call hang-up.

If you receive an email, check that the address ends in @ofgem.gov.uk

For more information, check the OFGEM page dedicated to scam awareness - <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/information-consumers/energy-advice-households/avoid-and-report-energy-scams>



Text Scam: Revolut

Revolut is a British financial technology company that offers banking services.

Beware of these fake Revolut text messages that Suffolk residents have received.

Revolut have confirmed that they did not send the text messages and that the number used in the text has been spoofed.

Please report suspicious text messages by forwarding them to 7726 (it's free of charge).



Marketplace Scammers: Facebook

Don't make a Marketplace mistake by buying from a Facebook fake!

Facebook Marketplace is full of bargains to be had, but it is now also a place where scammers and rogue lie in wait with too good to be true offers. Once the money is paid, you are then either left with no money and no goods, something that is either poor quality, not anything like the advert or worst of all dangerous.

One Suffolk resident this week reported that they had sent £150 to an individual via bank transfer for a Go Pro advertised on the Marketplace. As soon as the money was sent the seller blocked the buyer and changed their profile details.

Do your research before agreeing to a purchase.

- 1 – Look at the Commerce Profile of the person advertising. Do they have the same or similar items listed in locations across the Country?
- 2 – Does it look like a fake profile? Check the date the account was created. Treat new accounts with caution
- 3 – Is the price too good to be true?



Beware Of Facebook Marketplace Scammers

Phishing Scams: Whatsapp

Have you received a message from a friend or family member from a new phone number?

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) is warning the public about the continued increase in reports about scams where victims are targeted on WhatsApp by criminals pretending to be someone they know – typically their children.

Criminals will usually begin the conversation with “Hello Mum” or “Hello Dad” and will say that they are texting from a new mobile number as their phone was lost or damaged. They will then ask for money to purchase a new one, or claim that they need money urgently to pay a bill.

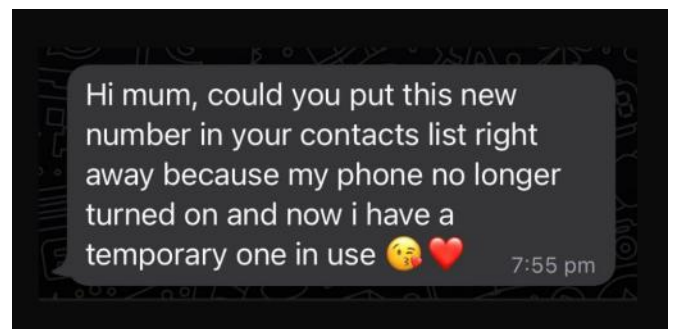
The criminal will provide bank details for the payment to be made to, with some even coming back with further demands for money.

One Suffolk mum received a text message believing it to be from her son, when really it was a scammer pretending to be him. The scammer stated that their phone was water damaged after dropping it in the toilet. They called to ask ‘a favour’ but purposely couldn’t be heard, just rustling, to add to the plausibility of their story. The scammer asked the Suffolk mum to pay a bill of £600 for them as they couldn’t access their banking app. She was sent details of a bank account, but instead of paying she called her son on WhatsApp who confirmed it wasn’t him.

Always Stop! Challenge! Protect! if you receive a request for payment after a friend or family member gets in touch on a new number. Be especially cautious if they refuse to speak over the phone or send a voice note but still ask for money.

Contact your bank immediately if you think you’ve been scammed and report it to Action Fraud. You can report spam messages or block a sender within WhatsApp. Press and hold on the message bubble, select ‘Report’ and then follow the instructions.

Never share your account’s activation code (that’s the 6 digit code you receive via SMS).



Suffolk Crimestoppers: Help turn the tide

Coastal Crime

We all have the power to protect our coastal communities from crimes that put them at risk.

When it comes to stunning coastlines and bustling port and harbour towns, Suffolk is incredibly lucky to have so many great locations to enjoy and explore - but if crime and the people behind it are left unchecked, then everybody suffers.

This campaign aims to highlight the warning signs to look out for when it comes to coastal crime, and how to stop the criminals behind it.

The Coastal Crime Line allows people to report any information or suspicions 100% anonymously. You can call free on 0800 011 3304 or report it online 24/7 on the website

CrimeStoppers.



CrimeStoppers.

Crimestoppers believe everyone has the right to feel safe from crime, wherever they live, wherever they work, for ourselves and all those we care about.

But sometimes people might be worried about a crime, or something that's wrong, and want to pass on information. Which is why it's good to know they can always trust Crimestoppers.

Crimestoppers is an independent charity that gives people the power to speak up and stop crime, 100% anonymously. By phone and online, 24/7, 365 days a year.

No police contact. No witness statements. No courts.

Every year we help stop thousands of crimes.

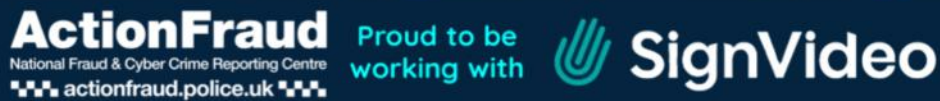
Support us to help make communities and work places safer together.



Action Fraud: Sign Language Reporting service now in use



Action Fraud partners with SignVideo to make fraud reporting service accessible for British Sign Language users



Action Fraud, the national reporting centre for fraud and cyber crime, has partnered with SignVideo to assist those who are deaf or hard of hearing and use British Sign Language to report fraud.

Those who use British Sign Language can now contact Action Fraud via their mobile device using the SignVideo app. They will be connected to an interpreter from SignVideo, who will relay the conversation to a staff member at Action Fraud's contact centre.

For more information on SignVideo and how to use the service, please visit the [Action Fraud Frequently Asked Questions page](#).

Suffolk Fire Service: Chimney Fire Safety Week 2022

Chimney fires have been steadily decreasing in most regions, but 40% still occur between Jan-Mar.

Ultimately the Chimney Fire Safety Week campaign strives to raise **awareness** of chimney fires and encourage consumers to **take action**. The campaign focuses on the importance of chimney sweeping and appliance maintenance, the use of quality fuels and tips to get the most efficiency from a stove.

Read more [here](#)



Neighbourhood Watch Community Grants secured by Patlock



Recommended by
Neighbourhood Watch

Since being introduced to the security market in 2014, Patlock has come a long way.

They have gained the accolade as the only specific French Door security lock to achieve the Police preferred Secured by Design accreditation and the recommendation of police forces throughout the country.

With Patlock being the French Door security 'go-to product', their work with Neighbourhood Watch is more important than ever as more people leave their homes unattended to return to the office.

Patlock and Neighbourhood Watch have worked together since 2015. Patlock is keen to continue this partnership to support the great work that Neighbourhood Watch provides to local communities.

Not only has Patlock retained the original discounted rate of £42.50 for Neighbourhood Watch supporters, but they have also contributed £7.00 from each purchase back to Neighbourhood Watch Network. This contribution has totalled an amazing £34,846.00, increasing the funds in our popular Neighbourhood Watch Community Grants scheme.

To order a Patlock at the Neighbourhood Watch discounted rate of £42.50, visit <https://www.patlock.co.uk/neighbourhood-watch>





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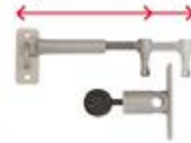
The U bolt allows for easy positioning on the frame with an adjustable width. The locking pin drops into the barrel in any of the 4 holes which is lockable with a removable key.

www.locklatch.co.uk

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MiniLatch®

Let fresh air in, keep opportunistic intruders out. Adjusts between 4.5 to 8 cms



LockLatch®

Perfect for Safe Ventilation, small Pet Access, or as a Window Restrictor. Adjusts between 9cms to 17cms



PetLatch®

The perfect Pet Door alternative for small to medium sized dogs. Adjusts between 14.5cms to 23cms



SPECIAL 15% DISCOUNT FOR ALL NWN MEMBERS
Use Coupon Code **NWNLock** on Check Out.

