



Newsletter

> THE E-NEWSLETTER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS IN SUFFOLK

Welcome to the January edition of our newsletter.

A happy new year to all our readers.

To begin this year, the Executive Committee are heavily focused on seeking volunteers to join the team, and help fill a number of the vacant Executive Committee roles. Whilst we are in discussions with some already, we will always welcome others to come forward to join the Committee.

Our plan to undertake a number of projects, with varying tasks, can no doubt be supported by a wide range of skill sets that volunteers can offer. Could this be you? Please get in touch if you would like to know more.

In other work, we are looking to map all the schemes in Suffolk onto the national website. This will enable visitors to the national ourwatch.org.uk website to look up neighbourhood schemes in Suffolk in much the way we offer through the suffolknwa.co.uk website.

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

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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!



Suffolk PCC: Proposed Precept survey

A Message From Tim Passmore....



PRECEPT SURVEY: PCC proposes increase in precept to fund Constabulary in 2023/24

As your Police and Crime Commissioner, setting the budget is one of my most important responsibilities. I must ensure that the Chief Constable has the resources she needs to provide an efficient and effective service.

Later this month I will need to make a decision about the policing element of the council tax precept. I am planning to ask the Police and Crime Panel to support my proposal to raise the policing element of the precept by £15 a year (for a Band D property) which is essential to maintain an efficient and effective service, and provide the resources needed to manage demand as effectively as possible. I would be very grateful if you could take part in the survey (link below) and let me know what you think. Could I also ask you to forward this on to others within your organisation/network and anyone else you think may be interested to comment.

The survey will close at 9am on Thursday 26th January 2023.

To take part in the survey please click [here](#).



Go to my website for more detail [here](#).

Suffolk Fire Service: Fire Safety Checks for the Elderly or Vulnerable



Are you worried about an elderly or vulnerable persons fire safety in the home?
Are they eligible for a safer home visit?

SuffolkFire carry out Safe and Well visits and provide specialist advice to help keep people safe in their homes and fit free smoke alarms if required.

[Find out more here](#)



Neighbourhood Watch Network: Burglary Prevention

Think WIDEN to keep your home safe

Want to protect your home? Think WIDE(N) (WINDOWS, INTERIOR, DOORS, EXTERIOR, (NEIGHBOURS) to have the best possible protection against burglary.

[Research](#) from Nottingham Trent University shows that a set combination of security actions provides up to 50 times more protection for your home versus no security.

A combination of WIDE actions is the most effective and recommended by police throughout the country. Additionally, at Neighbourhood Watch we believe neighbours keeping an eye out for each other is also key to preventing burglary. Click on each area to find out more:

- [WINDOWS](#): Lock your windows
- [INTERIOR](#): Put your interior lights on a timer
- [DOORS](#): Double or deadlock your doors
- [EXTERIOR](#): Put your exterior lights on a sensor
- [\(N\)EIGHBOURS](#): Keep an eye out for neighbours

As with all types of crime, prevention is much better than cure. Taking simple measures such as these can significantly reduce your chances of being burgled.



Find more burglary prevention advice [here](#) or click below to download our useful burglary prevention checklist to double-check you have left your home safe when you walk out your front door.

DOWNLOAD THE NEW BURGLARY PREVENTION CHECKLIST

For further advice on helping to keep your home safe, Suffolk Constabulary also offer their “First Principal” advice Through use of their A-Z of crime prevention [Read more here.](#)



BURGLARY PREVENTION



Upgrading your home security? Look for 'Secured by Design'

A home's overall impression will influence whether a burglar targets it. As a general rule, if it looks like there is someone inside, the burglar is likely to go elsewhere. A home in a dilapidated state will seem easier to break into, so a simple deterrent might be tidying up a garden, or repainting doors and window frames.

But if you want to upgrade your home with better security products, remember, wherever possible to always ensure security products you purchase are [Secured by Design](#) or [Sold Secure](#) – these are good quality, independently tested products.

WHAT IS SOLD SECURE?

Sold Secure is the premier testing and certification house for security products.

Security products tested and approved by Sold Secure provide you with the best in security, for a variety of applications. The range provides products to:

- enhance vehicle security
- secure leisure equipment
- secure your home or business
- protect your valuables.



WHAT IS SECURED BY DESIGN?

Secured by Design (SBD) is the official police security initiative that works to improve the security of buildings and their immediate surroundings to provide safe places to live, work, shop and visit.

Secured by Design is the only way for companies to obtain police recognition for security-related products in the UK.

SECURITY STANDARDS EXPLAINED

Secured by Design operates an accreditation scheme on behalf of the UK police for products or services that have met recognised security standards. Such products or services must be capable of deterring or preventing crime and are known as being of a 'Police Preferred Specification'.

Look for the 'Secured by Design' logo on the product packaging or when buying a product, ask whether it has been accredited by Secured by Design.



Reducing crime by good design



How to avoid Amazon scams

No website is completely immune to scams, and Amazon is no exception. Amazon is a trusted global platform, and scammers take advantage of that. We look at the most common Amazon scams and how comprehensive security software like Avast One to help protect your online life.

Amazon phishing scams

Amazon phishing scams often send emails with graphics to make them look real. Amazon phishing emails come in several forms, and often include a link to a spoofed website where the victim is prompted to make a payment or enter personal details.

- **Update payment information** - these try to convince people that their Amazon payment information needs to be updated or has expired
- **You've won!** - dangling a prize in front of victims to trick them into clicking a link to a spoofed Amazon website
- **Order confirmation** – this can happen when customers receive an email or text message with an infected link asking them to verify a recent purchase
- **Amazon gift card scams** - Requesting an Amazon gift card as a form of payment is a common scam that pressures the victim into purchasing one and disclosing the activation code in the following ways:
 - **Urgent assistance** – the scammer poses as a friend/relative asking for urgent help in the form of an Amazon gift card.
 - **Tech support** - a person pretending to be an Amazon tech support agent convinces the victim that they need to upgrade a plan or purchase a service, using an Amazon gift card as payment.
 - **Survey reward** - Scammers offer Amazon gift cards as a reward in return for filling in a survey. They collect sensitive personal information in the survey responses.

- **Debt payment** - Victims usually receive a call claiming they have an unpaid debt — such as a tax penalty — and asking them to pay it using an Amazon gift card.



Outside of purchasing products on the real Amazon website, any individual asking for payment using an Amazon gift card is not legitimate. If you're unsure if a text or email about an Amazon gift card is real, check the phone number and registration link. Real Amazon gift cards come from the number 455-72, and the registration link should include amazon[dot] com/g/ followed by the claim code.

Beware of fake Amazon websites

Many Amazon scam messages contain links to web pages imitating the real thing. These phishing sites have almost undetectable differences from the real Amazon site.

How to protect yourself from Amazon scams

- Never provide personal information over the phone
- Always check URLs when visiting websites
- Don't click links in suspicious emails
- If it seems too good to be true, it probably is
- Use different passwords for all your accounts and use 2FA to log in to your accounts
- Don't pay individuals with a gift card
- Don't buy from a third-party website
- Install antivirus software
- Use 2FA to log in to your accounts



TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#).

Get powerful protection against online scams with Avast One

Amazon scams are far from the only danger lurking online. Installing all-encompassing cybersecurity software — such as Avast One — can nip scams in the bud while protecting you from a host of other threats.

By blocking viruses and malware, weeding out scam emails and phishing attacks, and providing extra security so you can shop online safely,

Avast One helps you ward off scams and the complications that come with them. Install it for free today.

[DOWNLOAD AVAST ONE PREMIUM WITH 80% OFF HERE](#)



Locked out, not caught out

Lost keys, broken locks – at one time or another a lot of people find themselves locked out of their homes.

In most cases the immediate response is to take to your favoured search engine and find your local emergency locksmith.

In many cases using a search engine to find a locksmith is a fine strategy, however the Master Locksmiths Association (MLA), are finding a growing trend towards consumers being left feeling overcharged for companies they have found a locksmith at the top of searches.

In 2022 they received well over 200 complaints from consumers that felt they had been misled into paying much higher bills than they should have to get back into their property.

Complaints vary but some customers have reported of emergency callouts costing significantly over £500 and one consumer who received a bill for £3,123.60 to gain entry, change two locks and cut some keys.

To help prevent being overcharged or getting shoddy work, they've compiled some top tips to avoid being caught out.

The red flags to look out for when hiring a locksmith are:

1. **Very low price in an online advert** – It will normally be an advert rather than organic entry – top of the listing
2. **False claims of 3rd party approval and accreditation** – always check any claims of being vetted/accredited by 3rd parties and check what they actually mean
3. **Police claims** – false claims of being Police Recommended or Police Approved
4. **Company name** – Generic name or no company name on the ad
5. **National locksmith** – Claiming to be national locksmith company

More advice [here](#).

The best strategy to avoid paying more than you should is to do your research. Find your local trusted emergency locksmith and save their number into your mobile before you need them.

Perhaps a friend or relative can recommend one they have used. Alternatively visit Master Locksmiths Association at locksmiths.co.uk to find one of their approved companies.

The MLA have vetted (DBS checked) all locksmiths on their website. In addition, locksmiths with an MLA qualification and are regularly inspected.



Crimestoppers: Campaign



Puppy smuggling & dog theft

Alarming data shows that 1,882 dog thefts were reported in 2021 – 25 per cent more than the 1,500 offences recorded in 2020, and the equivalent of five dogs being stolen every day.

The figures, obtained under freedom of information laws by Dr Daniel Allen, co-founder of Pet Theft Reform, come from 31 police forces in England and Wales – and as some police forces did not provide data, the true number is likely to be even higher.

Puppy smuggling, illegal breeding and organised dog theft are serious crimes. If you have information about those behind organised dog theft, puppy smuggling or illegal breeding and wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crimestoppers either online, or on the phone.

For more advice on how to keep your dog safe, visit Neighbourhood Watch [here](#).

CrimeStoppers.

0800 555 111

100% anonymous. Always.

Government: Emergency Alerts system live soon

The UK government's new Emergency Alerts system will be live early this year, and you should expect to receive a test message. The system will enable people to be contacted via their mobile phone when lives are in danger.

It will be used to warn you in the event of emergencies, such as severe flooding. Emergency Alerts are sent to all compatible mobile phones within an area of risk. They don't track your location, need your phone number, or collect personal data.

Only the government and the emergency services will be able to send them. If you don't have a mobile phone, you'll still be kept informed through other channels.

If you get an Emergency Alert on your phone, you'll hear a loud, siren-like sound.

A message on your screen will tell you about the emergency and how best to respond. You'll be able to check an alert is genuine at gov.uk/alerts.

If you receive an alert, read the alert carefully and follow the instructions. You can opt out of receiving emergency alerts; for more information on how to opt out please go to gov.uk/alerts.

To find out more about Emergency Alerts, visit gov.uk/alerts.



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