



Newsletter

> THE E-NEWSLETTER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS IN SUFFOLK

Welcome to the APRIL edition of our newsletter.

As reported in last month's newsletter, the committee have been working alongside our Area Coordinators making contact with each registered scheme on our database. Following the launch of the new "Suffolk Policing Model" last December, this has provided us with an opportunity to build a new partnership between ourselves and the Police.

We have provided the Police with direct access into our database of Coordinators and schemes which means the local Police can contact you direct for knowledge, advice and help about your scheme.

Because of this it is vital that our database reflects ACTIVE Neighbourhood Watch leaders who can give guidance. Our definition of ACTIVE, is that schemes still communicate with their scheme members, and that the coordinators are happy to be the first point of contact for their scheme should the Police require to make contact.

This is no small task as we have over 800 registered schemes. We hope to complete this exercise during May.

There are still a number of areas across Suffolk that do not have a representative Area Coordinator, so if you are interested in becoming an Area Network Coordinator, you can find out more on our website [here](#).

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



Neighbourhood Watch today is still a grassroots charitable movement, with local schemes run by volunteers throughout England and Wales.

[Join the movement here](#)



Have you got a story you would like to share?

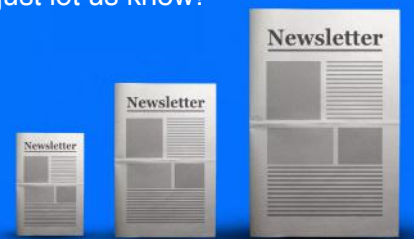
Sharing your stories help give other schemes ideas that can help communities engage more. It's not always about crime and policing - but it's always about togetherness.

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!



Month of Community: Planning ahead

June is “The Month of Community”, and is a time when people can come together to celebrate everything that makes our communities great. It's an opportunity to bring neighbourhoods closer together, to give back, and to shine a light on amazing communities.

A number of community events and celebrations will take place across the UK, as communities get together to build new friendships, have fun and support various charities and causes.

Here are some ideas for Neighbourhood Watch schemes to consider for getting involved with the Month of Community 2024!

Join MILLIONS across the UK for The Big Lunch on 1st - 2nd June.

#TheBigLunch helps bring communities together and feel a greater sense of belonging to where they live.

Get a FREE Big Lunch pack and host your own: <https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-lunch>



Neighbourhood Watch Week 2024, 1st - 7th June

Neighbourhood Watch Week is a time of celebration and connection. We celebrate our togetherness and how for over 40 years, we have been making better places to live - together.

The theme this year is **Local efforts, big impact**, and focuses on:

- Celebrating the positive impact of local community activities
- Inviting more people to [join your local scheme](#) and
- [Celebrating our volunteers](#) by nominating a Coordinator for a Volunteer Recognition Award (nominations open on the 3rd of June - more details later)

LONELINESS AWARENESS WEEK

Save the date for Loneliness Awareness Week, hosted by [Marmalade Trust](#)

10th - 16th June 2024

Created and hosted by Marmalade Trust, their annual campaign raises awareness of loneliness across the UK (and beyond!) and gets people talking about it. Neighbourhood Watch will be sharing resources and support for how to help those experiencing loneliness in the community.



Lowestoft Area Network: Community Policing Team meeting

At a recent meeting Police Inspector Mark Jackson, the Community Policing Team Inspector covering Lowestoft, Beccles and Bungay, met with Neighbourhood Watch leaders from across Lowestoft. Central to the meeting was an update on the progress of the new Policing Model launched on 4th December and how this is shaping the local policing strategy.

Inspector Mark Jackson highlighted that his officers will be undertaking more engagement with communities: working with partners to tackle community-related issues and targeting those that commit offences that affect the wider community.

There are 3 current objectives:

- o Tackling the issue of retail theft, Anti-Social Behaviour and disorder within Lowestoft Town Centre. To provide help and reassurance to all that use the area.
- o Tackling the issue of ASB on the Whitton Estate including anti-social use of motorcycles.
- o Working with partner organisations to tackle the issue of ASB and disorder in the town of Bungay.

The meeting was organised by Brian Sivyer, the Lowestoft Area Coordinator for Neighbourhood Watch. "It's a real bonus to have Inspector Jackson join our meeting and update our volunteer Watch leaders. The new model encourages the Police to be more visible, and the establishment of a dedicated and named Community Policing Officer at each neighbourhood and ward level we see as especially important for engaging with us. We have some excellent Watch schemes in the town: ready and waiting to be approached to help where we can."

A strong message from the meeting is encouragement to all Watch members and the wider public to keep reporting incidents, suspicions or concerns direct to the Police through the usual channels. These include the non-emergency line 101; online reporting through the website (which now includes Live Chat every day between 8am and 9.30pm), and of course 999 for crimes in actual progress or anyone in immediate danger.



Succession Planning: Toolkit for schemes



This toolkit is intended to help schemes to have a plan for when faced with circumstances that may find scheme Coordinators unable to continue in their role. Things such as sickness, or being on holiday, as well as the usual moving away or retiring can result in a scheme folding, as there is nobody available to take over the coordinator role.

By coordinators helping with this plan, a scheme can confidently continue to thrive.

The toolkit has a number of digital links within the document itself, so is best digitally shared rather than printed.

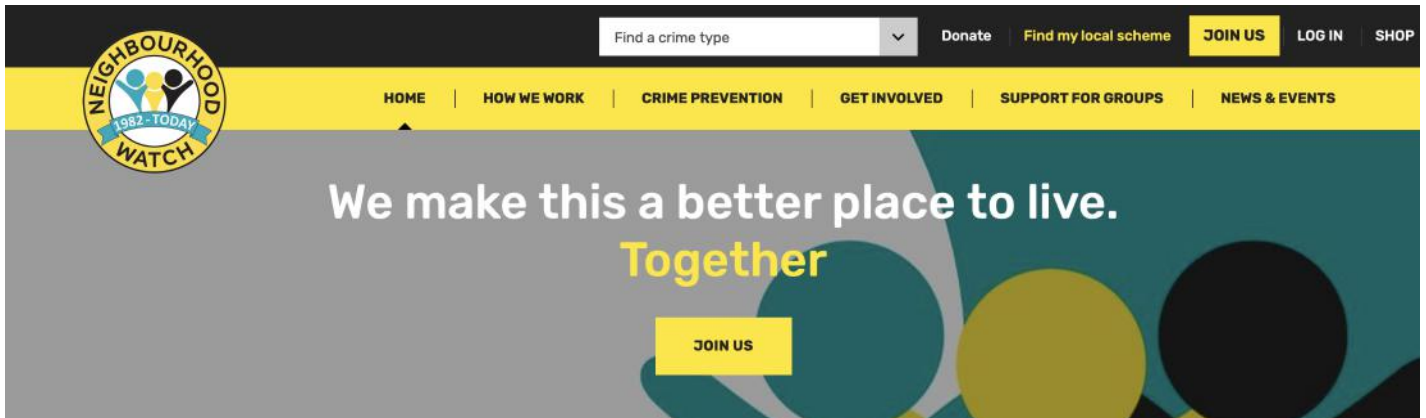
[You can access the toolkit here.](#)

Although schemes in Suffolk are registered on a local database, some are yet to register on the national organisation database.

Unfortunately we cannot do this on a schemes behalf, as it requires coordinators to send a confirmation email response to complete the registration. We highly recommend scheme coordinators to register on the national system. Read [more](#)



Scheme Coordinators: Registering your scheme on the national database



if you haven't already done so, we highly recommend all our scheme coordinators and their members to register individually on the national Neighbourhood Watch Network website.

We will continue to process the mapping of all schemes registered with the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association (SNWA) onto the National NW database. This enables the public to search for Neighbourhood Watch schemes on the national website as well as our own website.

Whilst not mandatory, we do encourage Scheme Coordinators registered with us to also register on the national database, which will enable them to "claim" their scheme on the national system.

Scheme Coordinators registered on the national database are approved and validated by the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association.

Once registered, scheme coordinators can invite existing and future neighbours to join their scheme online, and use the built in ALERT message system as a method of engaging with their scheme members.

[Sign up to the national database here.](#)

Benefits of registering

Scheme coordinators and members can expect to receive a monthly newsletters from both the national organisation, as well as the Suffolk Association. Members can also access a range of training workshops, seminar sessions, and varying forums offered by the national organisation.

When signing up, members can also opt in to receive a range of alert messages from services such as Action Fraud, Get Safe Online, Trading Standards etc.



Our neighbours

ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN ONLINE AT

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/joinNW>



Master Locksmiths Association: Safeguard your property

Six essential tips from the Master Locksmiths Association (MLA) to safeguard your property and ensure peace of mind



MASTER LOCKSMITHS ASSOCIATION

For added peace of mind choose an MLA Approved Locksmith.

- Trustworthy VETTED** Our locksmiths are criminal record checked.
- Highly skilled QUALIFIED** Our locksmiths have passed the MLA exam.
- Professional INSPECTED** Our locksmiths are regularly inspected.

FIND YOUR LOCAL MLA APPROVED LOCKSMITH. [LOCKSMITHS.CO.UK >>](https://locksmiths.co.uk)

1. Store keys securely away from doors and windows, and always use locks on all entry points, including garden gates and sheds. [More Home Security Advice](#)
2. Regularly check and replace worn or rusty window and door locks. Consult and accredited specialist for suitable replacements meeting insurance standards. [Read lock & key advice](#)
3. Securely store garden tools, bikes, and valuable items when not in use to deter thieves. Items such as ladders could also be used to gain access to your home. [Consider our Summer Security Tips](#)
4. Change locks when moving into a new home. [Read why changing your locks is important](#)
5. Hire accredited locksmiths for security installations. [Refer to our tips for hiring a locksmith](#)
6. Keep your local locksmith's contact saved in your phone so you know you'll be in good hands in an emergency. [Find your local MLA Approved Locksmith.](#)

Visit the MLA's [website](#) for more lock security advice.

Suffolk Trading Standards



REPORT IT, HELP OTHERS! #RogueFreeSuffolk

If you see a scam, an unsafe product, OR a Rogue Trader, report it via **0808 223 1133**. To find out about scams across Suffolk, [you can sign up to the Trading Standards email alert](#) on their website. Trading Standards can investigate and take court action against scammers.

By becoming a Consumer Champion you can help protect and build resilience within your local community against rogue traders and scams; and make Suffolk a safer place to live

You can also find out about [common financial scams](#) on the Financial Conduct Authority's website.



Rural Crime: Foreign drug gangs target rural communities



National Rural Crime Network

Serious organised criminals including those linked to the international drug trade are increasingly preying on rural communities, a shocking new report has found.

Despite the growing threat of crime facing rural people, campaigners say police forces across the UK are treating it as a small-scale issue, leaving people in the countryside living in fear.

The report from Durham University, commissioned by the National Rural Crime Network in conjunction with several leading rural organisations, including the Countryside Alliance, Country Land and Business Association, and the National Farmers Union, claims many crimes are committed by 'prolific rural offenders', rather than opportunistic individuals, who intentionally victimise rural communities in multiple ways, including through violence and intimidation, during long and sustained criminal careers

The full National Rural Crime Network Report can be found via their website [here](#).

Tim Passmore, Chair of the NRCN and PCC for Suffolk said: "People in rural areas are paying higher and higher taxes but often feel that Policing in their communities is not a priority. This new research provides clear evidence that criminal gangs from the UK and abroad are using our countryside to commit crimes that fuel the drugs trade and other serious criminal activity. It is now time to acknowledge that if we want to stop the organised crime gangs we have to better protect our farms, businesses and rural communities"



NCSC: Suspicious Email reporting service Anniversary



National Cyber Security Centre

April marks the 4th Anniversary of the set-up in 2020 of the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) within GCHQ's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC).

As of January 2024, thanks to the public forwarding SCAM emails to report@phishing.gov.uk the NCSC have removed 168,700 SCAMs (averaging 3,667 per month!) over 306,400 URLs.

It takes just a minute to report a SCAM email and in doing so it can:

- Reduce the amount of scam emails you receive
- Make yourself a harder target for scammers
- Protect others from cyber crime online

As well as forwarding SCAM emails to report@phishing.gov.uk you can also forward SCAM texts to 7726 and if you have received a bank-related suspicious call you can dial 159 for priority connection to your bank's fraud prevention service.

More information on GCHQ's Suspicious Email Report Service is available here:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/phishing-scams/report-scam-email>

