

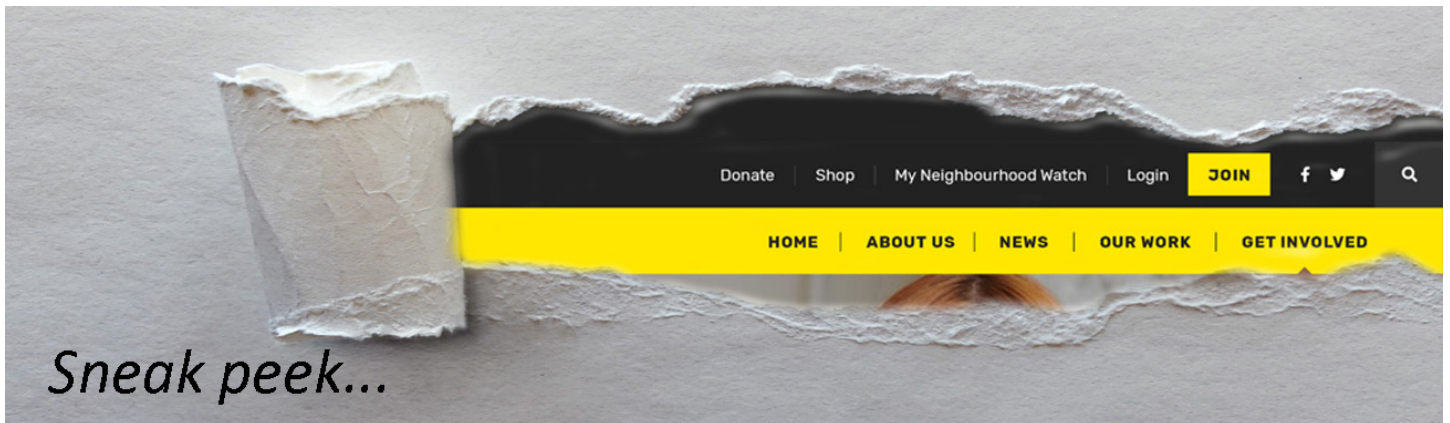


OUR NEWS

the e-newsletter for Neighbourhood Watch supporters

JANUARY 2020 EDITION

A Sneaky Peek at our New Website



Neighbourhood Watch's new website, created by Oyster Design, is due to be launched soon. It will deliver a host of easy to find information such as campaign materials, crime prevention toolkits and advice, local inspirational stories, research, policies and assessment tools to support Neighbourhood Watch groups and supporters.

The new website will enable people to join Neighbourhood Watch in just a few easy steps and receive member benefits such as belonging to our national movement and discounts on products.

John Hayward-Cripps said "We are very excited to be creating a new website which will be easy to navigate and full of innovative ideas and resources to support our existing and new members."

We are proud of our new toolkits and resources we have developed in the past 12 months. Our website will enable Neighbourhood Watch members across England and Wales to have easy access to these toolkits, inspirational stories, campaign materials, news and much more."

Neighbourhood Watch's new website will not only meet the needs of our supporters across England and Wales and reflect the charity we are today, but also honour our legacy. We are proud of our history and how that has shaped who we are.

OUR STORY...

In 1964, 28-year-old Kitty Genovese was stabbed in New York outside her apartment. Two weeks after the murder it was rumoured that 38 witnesses saw or heard the attack, but none of them called the police or came to her aid.

This motivated a community response and the very first Neighbourhood Watch scheme was set up in New York, and in 1982 the first UK scheme was set up in Mollington, Cheshire.

From there we grew from strength to strength. Neighbourhood Watch representatives formed local, and wider, structured groups.

In 2007, with the support of the police and the Home Office, the umbrella organisation for the movement, now known as Neighbourhood Watch Network, was established. Our focus was on building local Neighbourhood Watch community groups which liaised with the Police and focused on reducing burglary and other home and personal crimes.

...continued on page 2

Neighbourhood Watch is proud to be supported by ERA Home Security and the Co-op Insurance.



Greenwich's Successful Secondary School Programme

Greenwich Neighbourhood Watch Network has been working hard in their community asking residents what they would like them to do. As a result of listening to their residents, they developed their plans for 2020.

Residents wanted more information about what services were available to them, wanting to feel safer in their areas by being proactive rather than reactive, and to steer the young people in their community in a positive way. The key focus was the message of being part of a community and playing your role to make a positive impact.

In response, Greenwich Neighbourhood Watch developed their **secondary school programme**. The aim was to support young people to implement something positive in their community, with a crime prevention element.

The programme runs for six weeks in a workshop-style setting, actively discussing what crimes are going on in the area, how it affects people's lives and the impact it has on the whole community. They discuss the 'Broken Window'

theory (the concept that each problem that goes unattended in a given environment affects people's attitude toward that environment and leads to more problems), scams and burglaries. The students fully engaged, they plan, create and lead a project that interests them.

Over the second two weeks the young people deliver the project in their communities and measure its impact via a survey with residents. During the final part of the programme they present their projects to their peers, local councillors and the police.

Greenwich Neighbourhood Watch have four schools currently signed up and the pupils are engaged and proactive.

Other projects Greenwich Neighbourhood Watch are leading on to actively engage their community in a positive way are Tea and Tech sessions with the elderly taught by police cadets. They received a £3,000 grant to buy laptops and internet data to enable them to do this. They have also developed a PowerPoint presentation about how to stay safe and how to report crime. The police cadets are fully engaged and eager to help in their communities.

Additionally, workshops run by Greenwich Neighbourhood Watch to the entire borough have proved successful. They talk with local coordinators and Police about what is impacting in their area and develop a personalised presentation to them. They run workshops on burglary, vehicle crime, internet safety, hate crime, how to start a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, and scams, to name but a few.

OUR STORY: *continued...*

Today we live in un-predictable and ever-changing times. With the transformation on how people use the internet, communities are no longer restricted to geographical locations, and crime has taken on new forms.

To ensure we remain relevant when the pace of change is faster than at any time in our past we have taken steps to ensure Neighbourhood Watch as a charity is in a strong and trusted position to support Neighbourhood Watch groups and individuals who wish to wish to **build connected and resilient communities to reduce crime in all its shapes and forms across England and Wales.**

Since 2016 we have modernised our logo, changed our name to Neighbourhood Watch Network, introduced inspiration pages for our members, developed partnerships that help our members be at the forefront of preventing crime, and are now in the process of launching a brand-new website to deliver easy to find and engaging toolkits, resources, campaigns and news to our supporters.

We are supporting communities with knowledge and tools to tackle not only traditional crimes but also future crimes.

[**JOIN THE MOVEMENT**](#)



The Big Curry's 'Biryani in Bedford'

Wow! What a night!

An amazing 94 Neighbourhood Watch members, partner organisations and service veterans enjoyed an evening of fantastic food, friendship and fun at the Bedford Neighbourhood Watch Big Curry on Monday 25 November 2019 at the Indian Summer Restaurant in Bedford.

Inspired by the ['Together for Good: The Neighbourhood Watch Big Curry'](#), the event was organised by Colleen Atkins, Chair of Bedford Neighbourhood Watch. The event brought people together to share a meal and raised £800 for the two charities of ABF The Soldiers' Charity and Neighbourhood Watch.

Colleen said, "I'm overjoyed that the Bedford Neighbourhood Watch Big Curry was such a tremendous success and we were proud to be partnered with ABF The Soldiers' Charity for this special event.

"We were delighted that Garry Forsyth, the Chief Constable of Bedfordshire Police, showed his support for the event by being a guest of honour as did the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner and other special guests.

"We very much appreciate all the effort put in by everyone to make this special event happen. We thank Indian Summer Restaurant, in Tavistock Street, Bedford, for hosting and for the delicious buffet. The important thing is that people came together over some lovely food, enjoyed conversation and won superb prizes in our grand raffle. We'll certainly be doing it again next year."

One of the highlights was having a brilliant professional toastmaster for the evening. Neighbourhood Watch member, Peter Saunders, offered his services free for the evening. This made it extra special, ensuring the night ran smoothly and everyone was able to relax and enjoy themselves.

From Left to Right: Peter Saunders (Toastmaster), Deputy Chief Fire Officer Andy Hopkinson, Fouzia Zamir (Neighbourhood Watch Member), Chief Constable Garry Forsyth, Nesreen Akhtar (Bedford Neighbourhood Watch Trustee), Colleen Atkins (Chair, Bedford Neighbourhood Watch)



Bedford & District
Neighbourhood Watch
invites you to

The Big Curry

'Get Together for Good'

Monday
25
November
7.00 pm

Book at:
eventbrite.co.uk
Bedford
Neighbourhood
Watch –
The Big Curry

Charity event
only
£15 per head
for a delicious
buffet

Raffle

Indian Summer Restaurant
69 Tavistock Street
Bedford MK40 2RR

For more information contact Colleen Atkins:
BedfordNW@gmail.com or ring 01234 307811

In aid of ABF, the Soldiers' Charity (Charity No.1146420)
& Bedford Neighbourhood Watch (Charity No. 1062009)

The image contains several circular images of food dishes and logos for 'The Big Curry' and 'Neighbourhood Watch'.

Whittlesey Dog Owners Leave Only Pawprints

Dog fouling was a frequent discussion point in Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Watch meetings and on local Facebook groups. This led to increasing pressure on local councils to introduce restrictions on dog walking by increasing legislation and penalties.

Whilst this was an understandable reaction, when the problem was thoroughly studied it became clear most dog walkers were clearing up their dog's fouling and the usage of dog bins was good. The real problem was with a small minority of dog walkers who were following the same daily routine but did not pick up.

Areas where dog fouling was significantly worse were usually areas frequently used by the public, such as routes to schools and playing fields.

Enforcement measures had very limited and usually temporary effect. Dog Wardens could not be deployed everywhere, and warning notices and fines had made little difference.

There was a clear need for a new approach. **Whittlesey's best resource was the local community.** The community already recognised that dog fouling was anti-social. The challenge lay in changing the culture to everyone actively looking after their environment.

Two theories from criminology, recognisable by many Neighbourhood Watch members, are the Broken Windows Theory (where if one window in a disused building is broken more will quickly follow if its' not repaired), and the three elements needed for a crime to occur:

- a person who wants to break the law,
- something they want, and
- the absence of a capable guardian such as a security system or person watching.

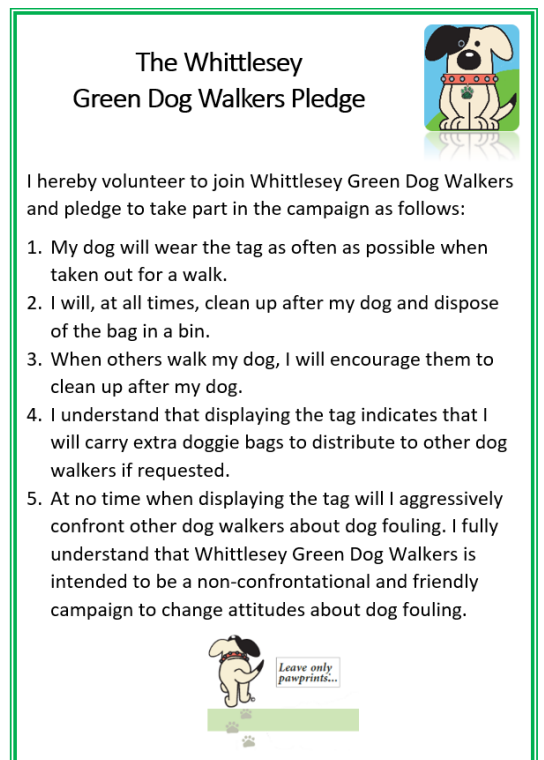
Applying these theories to dog fouling:

- cleaning up every instance will reduce the likelihood of more occurring,
- and the community modelling good behaviour (and knowing that anyone around will view not picking up as unacceptable) are together a powerful combination.

The community discovered Green Dog Walking — a friendly and non-confrontational project started in 2008 by Falkirk Council. This project offered excellent graphics, leaflets and a handbook full of ideas.

The local District Council bought the licence for all local villages and towns to use the materials. The group collated a welcome pack (funded by the local Town Council) which consisted of a distinctive dog tag (which shows that the dog owner is a member of Green Dogs), a roll of doggie bags, a welcome letter and a copy of the pledge.

The pledge, edited slightly to remove reference to legislation and enforcement, is very important and signed by everyone joining the scheme. Most said "we do this anyway" but Whittlesey Green Dog Walkers now had many dog owners displaying that they were responsible through their dog's paw print tag. This, along with local shops,



...continued on page 5

vets, the council and the library — all who displayed the posters and helped hand out leaflets — brought the scheme into public view.

Whittlesey Green Dog Walkers have since attended many local events to increase membership. Despite being a small town, they now have 184 dogs displaying tags. Most importantly, the group now see only very occasional fouling.

Many dog walkers now accept the idea that it is good to clean up after their own and others' dogs. The culture is slowly changing from "someone else can deal with this" to "I can fix this". Whittlesey now have a free dog bag dispenser, funded by their District Council, on the main playing field which is used sensibly and kept stocked.

To administer the scheme, the group designed a database to personalise letters and envelopes and

produce statistical reports. They started a Facebook page and have a slot on the local Neighbourhood Watch website. Recently they began plotting dog fouling hotspots on Google maps to see if there were patterns of a problem and using this to highlight areas for more action.

Going forward they have teamed up with their Council Recycling Team and are planning to visit schools with a joint message about looking after our environment.

Their target is to have 300 dogs signed up by the end of summer and then they will look at the possibility of Green Dog Walking events such as dog walks and perhaps a show.



Leave only pawprints...



Cardiff West Supports Students

National Safeguarding Week 2019 ran from the 11th - 15th November 2019 and, as part of Cardiff West Neighbourhood Watch Association's contribution, they secured a table at the Crime Prevention and Safety Awareness Roadshows at 3 locations: Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Llandaff Campus, and Court Mansion House, Llandaff.

Neighbourhood Watch stood alongside other charities and organisations, such as Crimestoppers, Regional Safeguarding Board, Victim Support, South Wales Police, Respect, Rise, Trading Standards, Welsh Water, Cardiff Alarms and Age Cymru, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, South Wales Police Crime Reduction Officers, and Students Union.

Cardiff West Neighbourhood Watch Association's aim at the two Universities was to target first year students to make them aware of scams, cybercrime; and personal safety, security of their accommodation and safeguarding personal property such as mobile phones and laptops. They achieved their objective by speaking to a considerable number of students and members of staff at both Universities and received very encouraging feedback after the events.

The event at Insole Court Mansion House was open to the general public and even though the weather was nasty they had a very good attendance. They once again received very good feedback: people

were amazed at how much information was available to them and were grateful that Neighbourhood Watch volunteers were willing to give so much of their time to meet the public face to face.

Talking to the public is what these events are all about, and Cardiff West Neighbourhood Watch walked away feeling it was a very worthwhile few days.



From left to right: Representative from Cardiff Arms, PCSO Gary Dunning, local NPT, Steve Abson, South Wales Police Crime Reduction Officer, Bill Farnham from Cardiff West Neighbourhood Watch Association at Insole Court.

Become More Cyber Aware

In November 2019, we announced a planned 12-month partnership with cyber security firm Avast, called Cyberhood Watch. We are finalising the details of the partnership and hope to confirm this in the next month.

This initiative has been set up to help members and their families and communities keep their digital lives safe and secure, by providing resources, information and practical advice via our networks and the [Cyberhood Watch webpage](#).

Since the campaign launched, the initiative has been covered in [The Telegraph](#) and our CEO, John Hayward-Cripps, appeared alongside Avast's Pete Turner on over 20 radio stations throughout England and Wales in November and December, providing practical advice to consumers on basic cyber security dos and don'ts, and how to secure smart devices.



Think you can spot a **fake** website?

Cyberhood Watch has released a game for you to test your ability to tell the difference between a real website and a fake website. Try it out here: <https://phish.avast.com/>

FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD TO CYBERHOOD PERCEPTIONS OF CYBERCRIME IN THE UK

In July, Avast surveyed over 14,000 members of Neighbourhood Watch and have created a report 'From Neighbourhood to Cyberhood: Perceptions of Cybercrime in the UK' on the findings. The report looks at what people fear more — physical crime or cybercrime, the impact of crime, our understanding of cyber threats, and how people are protecting themselves. To read the report, [click here](#).

In the coming months, further activity is planned, including:

- Establishment of a network of '**Cyberhood Watch Ambassadors**' – members of Neighbourhood Watch across the regions, who have existing cyber knowledge and can help members by sharing expert guidance and content and providing on the ground support. Ambassadors will undergo a formal online accreditation developed by Avast in the spring.
- Avast sponsored **regional events** – an opportunity for you to meet with the Avast experts and discuss your concerns or issues about cyber security. Details on dates and locations will be shared soon.
- Launch of an **in-depth report** commissioned by Avast, in partnership with the University of Birmingham and foreword by John Hayward-Cripps, which looks at the issue of 'cyber vulnerability' in detail, exploring the risk factors and identifying what can be done to help people protect themselves better. A digest of this report will be shared with members in the spring.
- Development of further **toolkit resources** covering topics such as emerging cyber scams, how to shop safely online, managing passwords and other areas of relevance to our members.

If you have any questions about the Cyberhood Watch initiative, or you are interested in becoming an ambassador please fill in this [online form](#).

We are also interested to hear from any of our members who have been affected by cybercrime or cyber-enabled crime. If you have and would like to share your story with us, you can do so [here](#).



Beat the Winter Chill

We're continuing our partnership with ABF The Soldiers' Charity to encourage neighbours to get together and raise vital funds for both local communities and soldiers, veterans and their families. Beat the winter chill... there is still time to join in with the Janu-curry Get Together!

Last year both charities worked together for the **Together For Good: Neighbourhood Watch Big Curry** in September 2019 and the **Boxing Day Big Curry** which saw local communities and members of the Army family join each other at home and in local halls and restaurants to share a Big Curry meal and raise vital funds.

Now, we encourage you to choose a date this January and host your own Big Curry meal. You can find all the information you need at soldierscharity.org/big-curry. Get inspiration for what to put on the menu with free recipes and make inviting people easier with our special invites and posters.

Get 2020 started off with a good deed this January. All funds raised will be split equally between ABF The Soldiers' Charity and Neighbourhood Watch so both the Army community and local neighbourhoods will benefit from your great efforts.

We want to see your Janu-curry Get Togethers so

post your pictures on Facebook or Twitter and use **#BigCurry** and you could be in with a chance of winning a Big Curry tea towel, apron and copy of Dr Rupy Aujla's cookbook *The Doctor's Kitchen*.

John Hayward-Cripps said "Christmas and new year is a time for getting together with family and friends. But we must remember our neighbours, especially those who are vulnerable and isolated. Hosting a Big Curry in January is a great way to reach out and connect with neighbours in our community following the excitement of Christmas. We are very pleased to be joining ABF The Soldiers' Charity in this initiative."

Brigadier (Ret'd) Robin Bacon, Chief of Staff at ABF The Soldiers' Charity, added: "It is a great pleasure to be joining Neighbourhood Watch again and bringing people together to share a curry with a difference. Every bite matters when it comes to taking part in a Big Curry meal. We are delighted to be helping both the Army family and also the local communities they live in."

ABF The Soldiers' Charity is the British Army's national charity and runs the Big Curry, a year-round national campaign, which encourages people to gather and share the Army tradition of eating curry together and swapping stories. To find out more about ABF The Soldiers' Charity, visit www.soldierscharity.org.

UK's Best Neighbours

Regional winners have been announced as part of Co-op Insurance and Neighbourhood Watch's search for the [UK's best neighbours](#).



Left to Right: Cara Watts nominated her neighbour Musarat Hashmi

East Midlands Best Neighbour

Julie Brown from Church Gresley was nominated by her neighbour, Sarah Winter, who wanted to highlight Julie's efforts in bringing her neighbours together with street parties, BBQs, and charity coffee mornings.

Sarah said of Julie: "Julie has created a real sense of community on our road that everyone is thankful for. I think every street could do with neighbours like Julie!"

In addition to putting on events for the street, Julie will often take other neighbours' children to the park or out blackberry picking, and always keeps an eye on neighbours' properties when they're not around.

Julie said of the award win: "It feels fantastic to be recognised with an award like this. Even to be nominated was a wonderful gesture, but to win is something else! It's nice to have awards such as these that remind us how important it is to look out for each other."

North West's Best Neighbour

Tracey Rennox, from Wigan, was nominated by her neighbour, Jenny Gordon, thanks to her unwavering support towards her neighbours – whether that's

taking in parcels for them; providing practical help to elderly neighbours; or making afternoon tea for her neighbours.

Jenny said of Tracey: "When I saw the opportunity to nominate someone for the 'best neighbour', I immediately thought of Tracey. Her nature and what she does for her neighbours, makes you want to do the same. She's built a real community spirit on the street."

Tracey has also helped neighbours who have been ill and has offered support to those who have lost partners to illness on the street.

Tracey said of the award win: "It's in my nature – I've always been that sort of person who would go out my way to do something nice for someone. But to get an award for it is an honour, I'm absolutely thrilled!"

South East's Best Neighbours

Corina, Charlotte, Susan, Sammy, Rachel, and Nila who all live on the same street in Monkston, Milton Keynes were nominated by their neighbour, Emily Kahill, thanks to being there for her in every way possible. The women have banded together to help Emily with childcare, cooking meals, and even helping to redecorate her house.

...continued on page 9

NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS AND INITIATIVES

Emily said of her neighbours: "I've had a difficult few years and these women have been there with support every step of the way. I'm a single mum, and sometimes things can get hard. These ladies have got me through my worst and I genuinely don't think I would have survived without them."

In addition to everyday support, the neighbours surprised Emily on her son's 8th birthday last year by treating them both to a trip to Paris Disneyland.

Scotland's best neighbour revealed

Musarat Hashmi, from Cupar in Fife, was nominated by her neighbour, Cara Watts, due to her unwavering support when Cara was going through health problems.

Cara said of Musarat: "When I was ill, Musarat came round every single morning to have breakfast

and ensure I had taken medication. She helped with tidying and cleaning the kitchen and encouraged me to go for a swim or a walk. She'd also take me to GP appointments, cooked me evening meals, and was always checking on how I was."

In addition to her caring manner towards others, Musarat also shares cultural traditions with neighbours through events. She has been known to organise Eid celebrations and Bollywood parties with local women. She also cooks traditional meals for her neighbours, and of course, shares the recipes!

Musarat said of the award win: "It feels great to win this award! To be recognised not only as a good neighbour, but as a good friend is an honour. These awards remind us to look out for each other and I hope me winning this will inspire others to do the same."

Alongside the awards, Co-op Insurance and Neighbourhood Watch have, for the second year running, carried out research to investigate neighbourly behaviours among people across the UK.

The study reveals that just one in ten (11%) of East Midlands homeowners and renters say that they know all their neighbours. However, of those who do know their neighbours, almost two fifths (37%) saying that they're good friends.

In creating the Neighbour of the Year competition, Co-op Insurance and Neighbourhood Watch hope to highlight how being a good neighbour can contribute to safe and happy communities. Hundreds of entries were judged on criteria outlining what makes a good neighbour.

Top 10 Traits UK Neighbours Think Make a Good Neighbour

74% They take parcels in

They're quiet and courteous 61%

57% They keep an eye on a neighbour's property when they are not there

They're not nosey 43%

42% They're courteous about where they park

They take the bins in and out for neighbours 37%

31% They keep to themselves

They do odd jobs for neighbours 16%

15% Their neighbours tell them they're a good neighbour

They check that their neighbour has everything they need 14%



Neighbourhood Watch Awareness Week

Save the date..

7th June - 13th June
2020

This year we will be encouraging Neighbourhood Watch members to 'Say Hello' and connect with their neighbours through community events such as organising a Big Lunch or joining your local Neighbourhood Watch Facebook group.

More details coming soon!



David Huse Led Neighbourhood Watch 'Into the Future'

David Huse, the Chair of the Neighbourhood Watch Network, is leaving the organisation after a very successful period as Chair.

David took over as Chair in 2017 as the organisation was undergoing a very challenging period with significant financial pressure and changes to the Board and staff team.

After extensive liaison with visits to many Associations and police leads David formally took on the role and recruited a new and skilled Board and a new Chief Executive — John Hayward-Cripps.

David encouraged and led significant liaison with members, national stakeholders, the Home Office and the Police leading to the development and adoption of the 3-year strategy 'Into the Future'.

David supported and led the transition of the organisation to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation reducing reporting bureaucracy and with the Board and CEO addressed the financial position from very poor to stable and sustainable.

David has remained a very active Chair liaising with Associations and leads and supporting the organisation to use data and research, to learn and be more outcome focused.

'David leaves the organisation in a much stronger position than when he joined and the consistent messages from leads and stakeholders on his time



as Chair relate to David being fair and honest, happy to receive feedback even when uncomfortable and crucially that he got to grips with the much needed rejuvenation and new purpose that needed to be implemented.

Under his guidance there was a turning point for the organisation, and the momentum which we are currently experiencing has been a direct result of his understanding of the organisation and experience in galvanising volunteers.' John Hayward-Cripps

We're a Friendly Bunch at Central Support Team

We recently shared our Christmas photo wishing all our supporters a very merry Christmas.

We had a wonderful response with feedback about wanting to know more about who we each are... so we would like to introduce the team to you one by one, starting with Jayne Pascoe, our Head of Partnerships.



...continued on page 12

Position: Head of Partnerships and Projects at Neighbourhood Watch

What attracted you to work for Neighbourhood Watch Central Support Team?

I retired from Cambridgeshire Police after 30 years as a police officer at the end of 2015 following a 2-year secondment to the Police Strategy and Reform Unit at the Home Office as Senior Policy Advisor on police transparency, accessibility and accountability.

Between 2007 and 2013 I was seconded to the National Policing Improvement Agency and then the College of Policing, leading national work programmes such as Citizen Focused Policing, Public Confidence and the Citizens in Policing Programme; supporting the initial roll out of Neighbourhood Policing and identifying future developments for local policing.

How does your position support Neighbourhood Watch groups across England and Wales?

I develop national partnerships to identify upcoming issues and shared agendas. I scope ideas and joint projects with relevant partners designed to broaden the reach, diversity and impact of the Neighbourhood Watch movement.

Working with Associations and local partners I pilot and test new ideas and projects to understand what role Neighbourhood Watch has in raising public awareness of how to prevent a broad range of criminal activity and support vulnerable people.

I lead on creating tools to assist Neighbourhood Watch groups to develop and understand the impact of their local activity, offer advice about starting new projects and establishing local partnerships that support the 3-year Neighbourhood Watch strategic plan.

Keep an eye on our new website as we will shortly be sharing an 'Impact Assessment Survey Tool' for groups to help them understand their impact.

What are you excited to be working on at the moment?

I have been leading an innovation project 'Communities That Care' in the Thames Valley area that has been developing and testing how Neighbourhood Watch volunteers can best support older people in their communities to protect themselves against all types of fraud.

We have worked with Neighbourhood Watch members, new volunteers and older people to develop resources that older people can use to increase their



awareness of fraud, as well as practical aids such as telephone and door stickers, calling cards and simple advice checklists.

Partners such as Trading Standards, Thames Valley Police, NatWest Bank and our funder NESTA have been amazing in supporting the project with advice, training for our volunteers and sharing their resources.

The most exciting outcome of the project for me has been feedback from older residents that they feel safer and more confident as a result of knowing their Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator is there to help them if they have concerns and can give them advice and assistance about fraud.

What you enjoy most about being part of Neighbourhood Watch?

I most enjoy helping Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators and Associations with advice and ideas to assist them to take forward their own projects and help solve any problems they encounter.

I see the main role of the Central Support Team as an enabling one, to help remove any barriers that may stand in the way of some of the great work that our volunteers are involved in and make things as easy as possible for them to be successful in what they want to achieve.

To find out more about the Communities the Care project Jayne has been working on, have a look at the blog 'Listening to our older people to help communities tackle fraud'. <https://www.nesta.org.uk/blog/listening-our-older-people-help-communities-tackle-fraud/>

Celebrating 37 years of Volunteering

Val McPherson from Thames Valley was recently formally thanked by Neighbourhood Watch Network for volunteering for over 37 years at Neighbourhood Watch, at both local and national level.

Val joined Neighbourhood Watch in the early 1980s as coordinator for her local scheme. Over time her responsibilities developed and was for many years the Chair of the Thames Valley Association and the South East Regional Forum which included oversight of the

Neighbourhood Alert database and messaging system being shared with Thames Valley Police. In 2015 she was awarded the British Empire Medal for her services to policing and community safety.

To recognise Val's loyalty, dedication and hard work a reception was held on 4th December 2019, attended by senior Home Office officials, the Police & the Crime Commissioner of Thames Valley and Neighbourhood Watch friends and colleagues across the country.

Speakers congratulated Val on her remarkable achievement highlighting memorable moments from her long history of volunteering. Val was presented with a tribute, gifts and letters of thanks from The Right Hon. Theresa May, Chief Constable John Campbell, and a local resident)

Val continues to be heavily involved in running her local Neighbourhood Watch and to support at a national level.



Essex Celebrates 25 Years of Neighbourhood Watch

Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association celebrated its 25th Anniversary Year this month with a very special anniversary cake and buffet lunch.

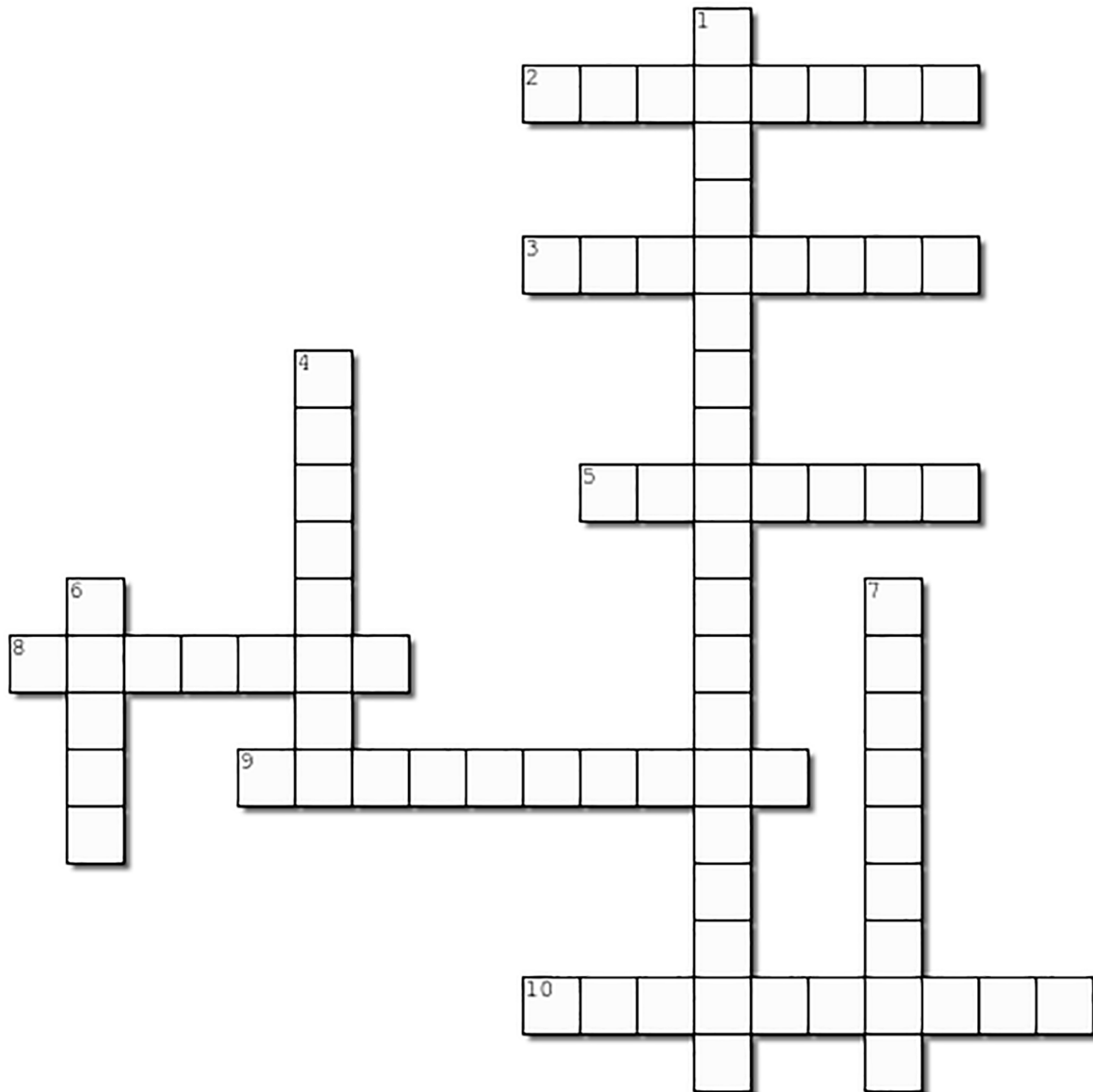
To mark this event Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association were joined by representatives from the 14 Neighbourhood Watch districts, Crime Stoppers and Essex Police.

It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate Neighbourhood Watch successes.



Neighbourhood Watch's Crossword Challenge no. 1

Complete the crossword puzzle below. Email entries to enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk
First correct 10 entries received will receive a prize.



Across

- 2. Neighbourhood Watch's Facebook page
- 3. In 1964, Neighbourhood Watch schemes were set up in New York as a community response to the murder of Kitty
- 5. A not for profit organisation
- 8. Top trait 74% of people think makes a good neighbour is 'They take in'
- 9. What town hosted the very first UK Neighbourhood Watch scheme?
- 10. A way to 'beat the winter chill' this month supporting neighbours and the Army family

Down

- 1. Neighbourhood Watch's website address
- 4. Neighbourhood Watch Awareness Week will be encouraging members to '.....' this year
- 6. Complete the initiative name, 'Cyberhood
- 7. Someone who lives in your street

Did You Know...

...Crime Prevention Toolkits are Available Free on our Website?

Prevention is key in tackling all forms of traditional and modern crime but addressing modern crimes require new solutions if they are to be tackled effectively. Neighbourhood Watch has developed toolkits to support our members and the general public in tackling burglary, domestic abuse, terrorism, modern slavery, child sexual exploitation, serious violence, and scams and older people.

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

...Everyone has a Digital Footprint?

Everyone has a digital footprint.

What does yours look like?

Read our top tips to minimise your digital footprint, or make sure it's a good one. www.getsafeonline.org/yourdigitalfootprint
#yourdigitalfootprint [f](https://www.facebook.com/getsafeonline) [t](https://twitter.com/getsafeonline) @getsafeonline



...Project Pegasus Needs your Help?

Project Pegasus is a joint law enforcement operation tackling aviation border crime around the UK. There are tens of thousands of light aircraft, helicopters and microlights in the UK, flying in and out of small UK airfields and airports across the country every day. Because not every plane and airstrip can be monitored 24 hours a day, the local community can play a vital role in preventing border crime and maintaining a safe community.

Report any unusual or suspicious activity at a UK airfield or airport immediately, such as:

- planes landing in unusual places or at unusual times
- packages being dropped from low-flying aircraft or suspicious deliveries
- someone taking an unusual interest in airport security
- someone where they shouldn't be
- seeing someone flying a drone close to an airfield or airport
- an aircraft that has been unusually modified
- a person being evasive about passengers, flights or routes
- a person ignoring aviation regulations or filing misleading or false general aviation reports or flight plans
- items being handled suspiciously or concealing cargo

If you see anything unusual or suspicious you can report it online or call the police on 101. If it is an emergency, call 999.

To find out more about Project Pegasus [click here.](#)



Fire Kills

Did you know...

- you should test your smoke alarms at least once a month?
- you should have a smoke alarm on every level of your home?
- your local Fire and Rescue Service do free home visits to make sure your home is fire safe?

The Fire Kills campaign returns in February promoting these, and other fire safety behaviours to adopt around the home. Neighbourhood Watch members can support this campaign by reaching out to vulnerable and isolated neighbours to ensure their house is fire safe.

Visit <https://firekills.campaign.gov.uk/> for helpful tips and advice.

It only takes one accident to start a fire. Fire Kills. Let's prevent it.

