



APRIL 2024



OUR NEWS

FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES

What's in April's Our News?

We've got another busy newsletter this month, with highlights including... Links to watch recordings of our recent spring webinar series with guest speakers; the countdown to the Month of Community and Neighbourhood Watch Week begins this April; you can play the Neighbourhood Watch Lottery and be in with a chance to win big, as well as support our charity; hear from Greenwich Neighbourhood Watch; and much more!

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NWN's Crime and Community Survey 2023 results

Back in autumn 2023, we received over 28,000 responses to our National Crime and Community Survey - an amazing number. Thank you if you took part! Every year this survey provides us with invaluable insights, feedback and information from our supporters, members, volunteers and members of the public, on crime, personal safety and community topics.

Some of the key findings include...

- Antisocial behaviour (ASB) is the most feared and most experienced crime in the UK
- 28% of Brits don't feel safe in their own homes
- People from the South West feel the safest
- Over half of Brits who experienced a crime didn't report it to the police

[Read the full survey results on our website here!](#)

Our spring 2024 Crime Prevention webinars

This March, we held our spring webinar series, which focused on a range of crime prevention and community themes. These webinars are for everyone, and are designed to bring expert insights and guidance to relevant, trending topics in the field of crime prevention and community wellbeing. For this series, we welcomed talks from **SimpliSafe, Historic England, Merseyside Police, Re-engage** and the **Suzy Lamplugh Trust**. These partner organisations covered topics including burglary trends and home security, heritage crimes, protecting your car from vehicle crime, the role loneliness and isolation plays in scams, and stalking and female personal safety.

[Watch recordings of these webinars here on our website!](#)

Getting ready for Month of Community 2024!

The Month of Community (June) is a time to come together to celebrate everything that makes our communities great. It's an opportunity to bring our neighbourhoods closer together, give back, and shine a light on our amazing communities. June will see a huge range of community events and celebrations across the UK, as we get together to build new friendships, have fun and support various charities and causes. Watch out for the launch of our **Volunteer Recognition Awards 2024** during the month!

GET INVOLVED IN THE MONTH OF COMMUNITY!



Neighbourhood Watch Week (NWW) and the launch of our Volunteer Recognition Awards, 1st - 7th June

This year's NWW theme will be "local efforts, big impact", a brilliant opportunity to celebrate the positive impact that your local events, activities and efforts have in your communities. Share your plans for Neighbourhood Watch week with us - email comms@ourwatch.org.uk! You can [read more about past NWW's on our website](#). We will also be opening nominations for our Volunteer Recognition Awards 2024 during this week - keep your eyes peeled for more information coming soon!

The Big Lunch, 1st - 2nd June

The Big Lunch is the UK's annual get-together for neighbours and communities, with millions of people coming together for a few hours of food, friendship, and fun.



It connects people and encourages friendlier, safer communities where people start to share more – conversations, ideas, skills, resources and friendship. [Sign up here](#) for a free pack to get your Big Lunch rolling, full of handy downloadable resources and exclusive content to help you plan and host your Big Lunch. You can also [check out the Big Lunch map](#)!



Loneliness Awareness Week, 10th - 16th June

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

Visit the Month of Community website for more ways to get involved this June!

Bringing a community closer together in Greenwich

Greenwich Neighbourhood Watch Network has been developing a community hub with various activities to help a community heal after a vicious murder on the streets in a built up community. The mission of GNWN was to develop a range of activities that can be accessed by all the residents in that area, for free. This is to bring the community together in a positive way, engaging people to learn new skills and build friendships with one another. Below we hear from Greenwich NW...

The range of activities offered have included Irish dancing for children, Jujitsu classes for women, art classes for adults, arts and crafts for families, sessions on being an active bystander and how to can protect yourself from scams. As well as this, we have organised social events for people to come and meet their fellow neighbours.



We've joined in the laughter, witnessed the bruises, got paint on the floor and learnt together. We are very proud of this project because while learning together, we have also helped local residents to see the real Neighbourhood Watch and the positives it brings to communities. We have also seen an increase in membership of the schemes in the area and eagerness to start their own schemes. This is a massive turnaround from pre-existing thoughts on what Neighbourhood Watch did, such as the cliché 'curtain twitchers' and 'snitches', and a new appreciation for how Neighbourhood Watch brings the community together, looking out for and support one another and taking positive action to reduce the fear and opportunities for crime to happen.



#NoPlaceforHate

Throughout April and May, we'll be sharing resources and information on hate crimes - what a hate crime is, how to report them and the support available to victims of hate crime. Hate crime can and does effect anyone, however for this campaign we will be focusing on some specific types and the groups effected by them.

WHAT IS A HATE CRIME?

A hate crime is any criminal offence that is motivated by hostility and prejudice towards a person's identity or perceived identity. The following are the five nationally monitored strands:

- Disability
- Race
- Religion/Faith
- Sexual Orientation
- Transgender Identity

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE
FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

Anyone can be affected by hate crime. You don't have to be a member of the group to which the hostility is targeted at. You don't have to be gay to have had homophobic abuse shouted at you. You may not be part of a religion and still have someone target you because they think you are.

For this particular campaign, we will be focusing on the following types of hate crime: **racist** hate crimes, **disability-based** hate crimes, **homophobic** and **transphobic** hate crimes, and **gender-based** hate crimes.

Hate crimes can have a devastating impact on the victim and their loved ones. Some hate crimes start as minor incidents, which can escalate into more serious and frequent offences. Where victims suffer a series of such incidents, the cumulative effect can destroy their lives through emotional damage and long-term trauma. People are made to feel like they don't belong and will often change their lifestyles or question their identities to try and avoid further incidents.

All hate crimes can be reported to the police - you can call the police on **999** if you or someone else are in immediate danger, or you can call 101 in a non-emergency. You can also anonymously report a hate crime to [CrimeStoppers](#), visit a local police station, or report via [Stop Hate UK](#).

Share your story to win a £50 Shop voucher!



We want to celebrate your local Neighbourhood Watch stories!

Whether it's a litter pick, an Easter Egg hunt, a car boot sale or a 'lunch and learn' about scam protection, if you've been part of a local Neighbourhood Watch activity or event, let us know.

If we feature your story in Our News or other NW publications (e.g. our Impact Report), you'll receive a £50 voucher to spend in the NW shop!

Email comms@ourwatch.org.uk to share your story and photos, and be in with a chance to win!

SCAM ALERT

Recently, there have been reports around the country of scammers placing fake QR codes on parking meters, which lead unsuspecting drivers to unauthorised payment sites where they are prompted to input their personal and financial information. Follow these top tips to avoid falling victim to these scams...

- 1. Verify QR codes:** Before scanning any QR code for parking payment, look for any signs of tampering or irregularities, such as scratches or tear marks on the QR code.
- 2. Use official payment methods:** Stick to using official payment methods and avoid making payments through unfamiliar QR codes or websites.
- 3. Stay Vigilant:** Be on the lookout for any suspicious behaviour around parking meters, such as individuals tampering with them or loitering nearby.
- 4. Report Suspicious Activity:** You can call 101 or contact [CrimeStoppers](#) to report potential scams of this nature.

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 >>

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.

PLAY NOW

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TO BOOST OUR FUNDRAISING



- Help give our fundraising a boost •

Tickets cost just £1 a week

- Win up to £25,000

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