

»»» NOVEMBER 2024 «««



OUR NEWS

FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES

What's in November's newsletter?

This month (18th - 22nd November), we are hosting our autumn webinar series, focusing on a range of crime prevention and safety topics: [Visit this page on our website to register](#). In this issue of Our News, we share information on harassment and stalking; **WaterSafe** offer advice on keeping your drinking water clean; we celebrate the hard work of our local volunteers; **ERA** share advice on keeping your home safe this winter (and offer an exclusive NW member discount for a limited time!); **Patlock** highlights how good exterior lighting helps keep your home secure; and, don't forget to play the **Funding Communities Lottery** with us to raise money and win big!

Stalking, harassment and White Ribbon Day

P2

Congratulations Cheryl, winner of BBC Make a Difference Award

P3

Spotlighting our local Neighbourhood Watch groups and the difference you make

P4

Download the British Transport Police's Railway Guardian app

P5

Help keep drinking water free from lead solder with WaterSafe

P6

How to Secure Your Smart Home this Winter with ERA

P7 - 8

Support our work in local communities with the NW Lottery - play now!

P8

Lighting up your home in the darker nights with Patlock

P9

Stalking and harassment

We must continue to stand against violence against women and girls (VAWG). Figures released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that for the year ending December 2023:

- More women (13%) than men (7%) experienced at least one form of harassment
- Experiences of harassment were more prevalent among younger age groups, with one in five 16- to 19-year-olds (20%) and 20- to 24-year-olds (21%) having experienced at least one type of harassment in the previous 12 months
- Three quarters (75%) of victims of harassment experienced this behaviour in person, whereas approximately one in five experienced it online (21%)
- A quarter (26%) of those who had experienced sexual harassment said they had experienced harassment at their place of work

Of the respondents to our [2023 Neighbourhood Watch Crime and Community Survey](#) who had been a victim of crime in the last year, 31% were worried about experiencing a form of physical, verbal, or sexual harassment, and of the 35% that had experienced or witnessed a crime in the past 12 months, 28.4% had experienced a form of physical, verbal, or sexual harassment. Broken down by age groups, only 21% of over 65s feared physical assault, compared to 31% of 44-64s and 35% of Under 44s. These figures continue to remain high each year, demonstrating a need for action to be taken to tackle this crime.

We will also be shining a spotlight on **stalking**, working with the [Suzy Lamplugh Trust](#) to share resources on definitions of stalking, and how to seek support if you have been or are currently a victim of stalking.

What is stalking?

The [Suzy Lamplugh Trust](#) defines stalking as 'A pattern of fixated and obsessive behaviour which is repeated, persistent, intrusive and causes fear of violence or engenders alarm and distress in the victim.'

Stalking can happen with or without a fear of violence. This means that if you are receiving persistent unwanted contact that is causing you distress, but the person has never threatened you, this is still stalking and is not acceptable. It can consist of any type of behaviour, such as regularly sending flowers or gifts, making unwanted or malicious communication, damaging property and physical or sexual assault. If the behaviour is persistent and clearly unwanted, causing you fear, distress, or anxiety, then it is stalking, and you should not have to live with it.

Stalking often has a huge emotional impact on the victims of this crime. It can lead to feelings of depression, anxiety and even post-traumatic stress disorder. It can be a psychological as well as a physical crime.

[For more information, visit our website.](#)

Congratulations Cheryl, winner of BBC Make a Difference Award

We are delighted to share that our very own Cheryl Spruce, Head of Membership and Community Engagement, has received a BBC Make A Difference Award, in the Great Neighbour category. Congratulations Cheryl!

Cheryl has written the below, reflecting on her shock and delight in winning this Award...

BBC Radio stations across the UK each have regional “Make a Difference” awards, an opportunity for local people to be recognised for making a difference in their community. This year, I found out that I was nominated when contacted by the BBC, to say that I had not only been nominated, but I was a finalist and had been invited to attend the awards in September at Broadcasting House in London.

I attended the Award ceremony, accompanied by my supportive husband Vince. It was wonderful to meet and chat with other people that had been nominated for an award, including some celebrities! I sat listening to the amazing stories of individuals making a difference in the communities in which they live, and when it came to the Great Neighbour Award, my face appeared on screen and a short video was played along with the other nominees.

I congratulated everyone else in the room for their contributions to making a difference in their community and dedicating my award to my hero, my dad, who had sadly passed away earlier that month.



Spotlight on our local NW groups

Rosegrove's newly redecorated Youth & Community Hub



The Rosegrove, Burnley, Youth and Community Hub has recently undergone a transformation, thanks to money raised via events run by Neighbourhood Watch volunteers, and now sports a vibrant Neighbourhood Watch logo and colours on the outside - we love it!



Every week, local residents flock to this community hub to enjoy coffee mornings, craft sessions, children's clubs, and more. It brings the community together, and provides a warm environment for all to come together and connect - come rain or shine!

Michael, Coordinator in the local NW group, told us: "The Community Hub will be used by people of all ages of the community, not only in Rosegrove, but across Burnley. The Hub will be run by volunteers, and we will offer hot and cold food and drinks. We have just registered as a warm safe space with Lancashire County Council. Thank you to *Rosegrove Railway Club* for letting us put the container on the site, and to *P3 computers* for donating 10 laptops for the community to use in the Hub."

Greenwich Neighbourhood Watch groups

Each week, this local Neighbourhood Watch group gets out on the streets to clear away litter, making their streets a safer place for all the neighbourhood to enjoy. A huge well done to them for the regular efforts they put in to make their communities cleaner and safer - a community that works together, stays safe together. It's great to see this group partnering locally with IKEA and Keep Britain Tidy - well done!



Download the British Transport Police's Railway Guardian app

The Railway Guardian app is an all-in-one safety app from the British Transport Police. The app allows you to report crimes or concerns on the rail network, share your journeys with trusted contacts, and get access to news, guides and support. It allows passengers to contact the British Transport Police discreetly in situations where the perpetrator may still be present and making a 999 call might escalate the situation.



BRITISH
TRANSPORT
POLICE

Small actions make a **BIG** **DIFFERENCE**

Have help at hand when you travel. Report any concerns or crime on the **Railway Guardian app**.



**Download
Railway
Guardian**
Safest Together

CLICK HERE

Help keep drinking water free from lead solder



WaterSafe, the national register for approved plumbers, is advising residents to ask plumbers working on their drinking water supply one simple question.

Are you using lead-free solder?

Plumbers sometimes use solder to join pipes and make connections on drinking water systems, and this should always be lead-free to avoid the lead dissolving into the water.



If lead builds up in the body, it can cause health issues, with babies and young children most at risk, as it can affect their development.

Most plumbers will only use lead-free solder, as the use of lead solder in drinking water systems is illegal and it can only be sold to professionals for use in heating systems. However, a survey with plumbers carried out by WaterSafe showed some do still use lead solder on drinking water systems, and two-thirds carry it in their bags.

Julie Spinks, director of WaterSafe, said: *“Always using lead-free solder is the only safe option, which is why WaterSafe is calling for property owners to make sure only lead-free solder is used in their homes and buildings. There is no safe limit for lead, so making a note to ask your plumber about lead-free solder will help avoid the possibility of lead leaching into drinking water, and will protect everyone’s health.”*

While the solder itself is virtually indistinguishable to the untrained eye, lead solder comes in a red casing, while lead-free solder is fitted in green casing. WaterSafe is also calling on DIY enthusiasts to make sure they only buy and use lead-free solder, in a green reel, if carrying out repairs to pipework in the home.

The good news is that approved contractors on the WaterSafe register were much more aware of the health risks and far less likely to carry or use lead solder.

WaterSafe is supported by all UK water companies, and the drinking water regulators and approved plumbers on its register are all trained in the water regulations designed to keep water safe, have suitable insurance, and are audited.

To find your nearest WaterSafe approved plumber or installer, visit [watersafe.org.uk](https://www.watersafe.org.uk) or call **0333 207 9030**. To find out more about WaterSafe’s lead-free solder campaign, [click here to visit their website](#).

How to secure your Smart Home this winter with ERA

Research shows that burglaries increase in the winter months, with insurance company Admiral revealing a fifth of claims (21%) take place during November and December. Here, home security experts, ERA, share their simple security measures to help you secure your home this winter:

1. Close the curtains

Especially around the festive season, with Christmas gifts on show, it's important to make even more of an effort to block the view into your home. BBC's Beat The Burglar presenter Michael Fraser urges, *"Never, ever advertise what you've received for Christmas. A lot of people put the empty boxes showing they've got a 42" plasma colour-screen TV outside, and it's like an invitation in."*



2. Upgrade your locks

When you get a home insurance quote, your insurance company will ask what type of lock is on the main entrance, because having secure and robust door locks means your home is less likely to be burgled. At ERA we have a range of door locks that have been designed to the highest security standards, including the [Fortress door cylinder](#). This high-performance euro profile locking cylinder has six hardened high security pins for ultimate anti-pick, anti-drill and anti-bump resistance. Providing maximum resistance to forced entry, it has been awarded the British Standard Kitemark, Sold Secure Diamond and the Police Secured By Design accreditation.



Another simple solution to visibly increase your home's security is adding a door chain or door restrictor to your front door. Priced from just £9.99 for a [heavy duty chain](#) these useful devices will help you feel safer when opening the doors by allowing you to identify the visitors before granting them entry; a physical barrier will urge those looking to force entry into your house to think twice.

3. Let there be light

One of the easiest ways to deter burglars is to install motion-activated lights around your home. The [ERA Protect Floodlight Camera](#) looks and works just like the regular spotlight, but additionally sends a live feed to your smartphone, so you can monitor your home from anywhere in the world, at any time.

4. Remember to secure your garden

Whilst we all pay attention to the home itself, it's important to protect the surrounding areas of the home too. As the outdoor season comes to a close, put all garden furniture and barbecues away, and secure the sheds with high-security padlocks and cameras.

Choose ERA home security for guaranteed peace of mind

With over 185 years of experience securing British homes, with ERA's Total Security Guarantee home security products, you are in safe hands.

In the unlikely event a customer's window or door locks are damaged, ERA will pay out a cheque for £5,000 - no questions, no complicated small print or clauses, just a simple cheque to say sorry for the inconvenience. Underpinning this guarantee is, of course, the knowledge that the property is protected by ERA hardware.

ERA are also offering an **exclusive 20% discount across their smart and hardware security products for Neighbourhood Watch members** for a limited time only - don't miss out! Simply enter 'NHW20' when processing your order, before checking out. This offer is available until **15th November**.



Play the Neighbourhood Watch Funding Communities Lottery with One Lottery, and fundraise for us at no extra cost to you!

Tickets cost just £1, and you could be one of hundreds of winners!



LIGHT UP THE DARK NIGHTS

With the clocks going back, we're preparing for longer hours of darkness as winter approaches. Unfortunately, fewer daylight hours can also lead to an increase in crime and antisocial behaviour. The lighting in and around your home can provide a simple security option for the dark nights. The right lighting can deter would-be criminals, enhance surveillance capabilities, and help you & your neighbours keep an eye on your property.

Outdoor motion sensor security lights - This type of light turns on when movement triggers them, providing an instant burst of light, alerting you to any movement outside your property, and startling any potential intruder. **Dusk to dawn light bulbs** - These LED bulbs have a light sensor in them that automatically turns the bulb ON and OFF with the sensing of darkness/daylight, saving the need to remember to manually turn your external lights on and off. Designed to use less energy and reduce heat, which is good for the environment and your wallet. **Timers for internal lights** - Can be used to control lighting throughout your home. With a light timer device, you can set when individual lights are turned on and off and use them in several different rooms. This will give the appearance of your home being occupied even when you're out or away on holiday. **Solar powered garden lights** - Energy-efficient and cost-effective way to illuminate gardens/pathways. Solar lights are easy to install and automatically turn on at dusk.

FURTHER SECURITY ADVICE

Secure Doors and Windows: Always ensure that all doors and windows are locked, even when you are in the property. **Use Security Alarms:** A good security alarm system can alert you and your neighbours in case of a break-in. **Install CCTV Cameras:** Surveillance cameras can help monitor your property and provide evidence if required. **Keep a Phone Nearby:** Always have a phone within reach to call emergency services if necessary. **Trim Bushes and Trees:** Overgrown plants can provide hiding spots and cover for intruders. **Join Neighbourhood Watch:** Being part of a community watch scheme can boost security through collective vigilance.

The simple solution for securing French doors is to fit a PATLOCK. PATLOCK has no keys or combination lock and is quick and easy to fit with ratchet locking bars that secure in seconds.

It's as easy as.... Push, Click, Secure.

- ✓ **Instant** French door security. **The only French door lock** recommended by UK Police Forces.
- ✓ **Locks patio doors securely**, designed to deter and stop intruders.

CLICK HERE to buy PATLOCK at your NW

Member discounted price of £42.50