



Newsletter

> THE E-NEWSLETTER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
SUPPORTERS IN SUFFOLK

Welcome to the DECEMBER edition of our newsletter.

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



A merry christmas
to all our readers!

Have you got a story you would like to share?

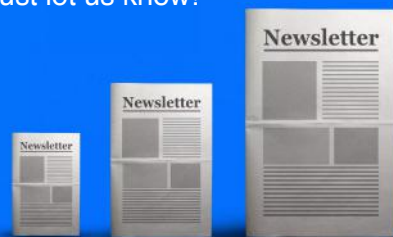
Sharing your stories help give other schemes ideas that can help communities engage more. It's not always about crime and policing - but it's always about togetherness.

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!



Top Festive Tips:

Wishing everybody a very festive season from the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association



- In bars, night clubs and pubs 'Ask for Angela' is an initiative to support people who find themselves in an uncomfortable and intimidating situation in public locations. By asking staff to 'ask for Angela' will discreetly extricate them or discreetly defuse the situation.
- Presents under the tree and unwrapped presents; make sure they are not visible from outside. At night draw curtains and if unoccupied use smart lights and lights on timers to give the impression someone is at home.
- Put rubbish bins out just before collection and fold cardboard boxes inside out to prevent the opportunistic criminal less chance of knowing what valuable contents now reside in your home.
- Exterior festive lights which need electricity for their illumination can lead to windows or doors left ajar for the mains cable. Criminals know to look for this vulnerability. Get an outside socket professionally installed or go for battery or solar.
- Check doors and windows for weak spots. The Office for National Statistics 2020 reported windows were used to gain access in 30% of burglaries. Look at window locks, deadbolts and new hinges. 1 in 7 burglars also walked through an unlocked door. It's worth thinking about keeping your doors locked even when you are home.
- Don't advertise your plans. Social media channels can be used to scout for potential targets. Don't post that you'll be away or upload photos of what you received as presents. It just acts as a catalogue. Double check your privacy settings and if possible keep your profile private.
- If you are away over the festive period make sure you cancel any deliveries. Where applicable, arrange for a trusted neighbour to park on your drive to help create the impression someone is home.
- Secure garages, sheds and ladders. Make sure tools and equipment are locked away. Consider even wheelie bins where they can be used to gain access to windows or accessible roofs.
- Don't hide your spare house keys. Burglars know all the hiding places. Give your spare keys to a family member or a trusted neighbour. If you have an alarm, make sure it is on when you are away.
- Make a note of the unique code, such as the serial number on equipment. Mobile phones have IMEI numbers. It can be found by dialling *#06#. Mark valuable items with your postcode and house number.
- Don't forget to join Neighbourhood Watch - go to www.ourwatch.org.uk or just scan the QR code shown with your phone.
- Don't forget to sign-up to the all important local Police Connect messaging system using [this link](#)



Neighbourhood Watch Network: Volunteer Opportunities



BT Digital Voice switchover Volunteering opportunities

Neighbourhood Watch continue to look for volunteers to help deliver one or more awareness events in Suffolk to provide essential information around the BT Digital Voice switchover that will be happening by end of January 2027.

The switchover will impact anyone that has a BT analogue landline, but in particular the elderly, vulnerable, remote/isolated and those with little or no mobile signal/broadband connection.

Volunteers can choose to do one or more events. Two training sessions will be provided over MS Teams by BT and Neighbourhood Watch and volunteers would not be expected to have technical expertise or knowledge. Resources will be provided to support conversations.



A number of events will take place across Suffolk in preparation for the switchover. As Venus and dates are confirmed they will appear on our website at <https://suffolknwa.co.uk/bt-digital-voice.html> where you can also find more details about this volunteering opportunity.

If you have any specific questions or would like to know more, then please contact **Ros Allen**, Digital Voice Coordinator (East of England) at rosslyn.allen@ourwatch.org.uk

Neighbourhood Watch Network: Events

DIGITAL VOICE IS COMING TO YOUR TOWN

We are pleased to announce that the first two delivery events have already been held in Beccles and Woodbridge respectively, with our next event scheduled in Newmarket on the 25th January next year.

Pop along to find out more about how the digital switchover may impact on you.





Crimestoppers has launched a national campaign to tackle the rise in seasonal drink and drug driving.

In 2023, the charity received over 45,000 reports about people who regularly drive while under the influence of alcohol and or drugs, an almost 20% increase from the previous year.

CrimeStoppers.

0800 555 111

100% anonymous. Always.

The [campaign](#) aims to create public awareness around the following three strands:

- The immediate dangers and harms of drink and drug driving
- The wider impact on loved ones when someone risks driving under the influence
- Signs to spot and how to give information for our charity

Crimestoppers reinforce throughout the campaign that anyone who uses their vital service will stay 100% anonymous. Always.

**GIVE INFORMATION 100% ANONYMOUSLY – CALL 0800 555 111
OR CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE A FORM ONLINE**

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**.

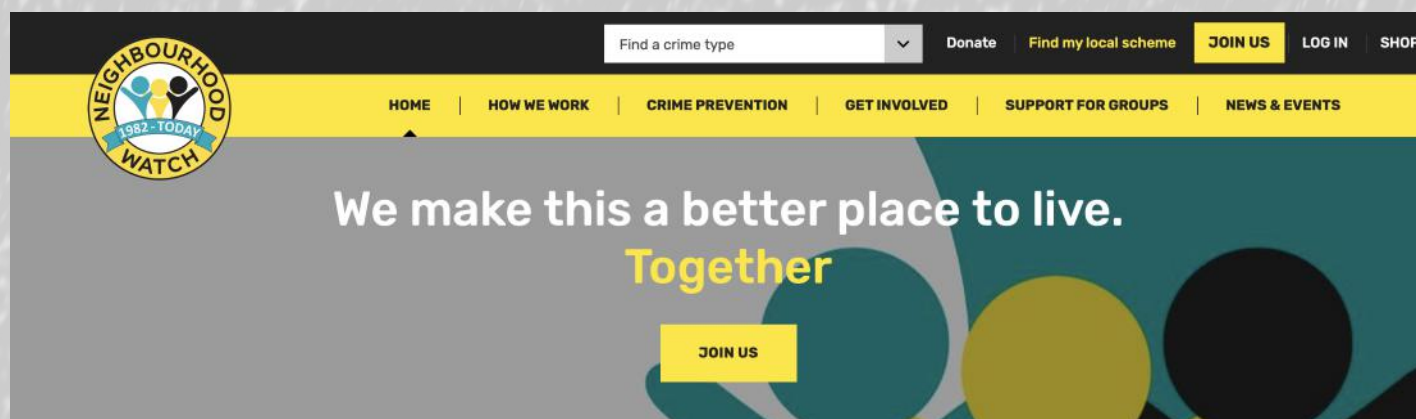
To find out about scams across Suffolk, [you can sign up to the Trading Standards email alert](#) on their website. Trading Standards can investigate and take court action against scammers.

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.



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 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>



Scheme Coordinators: Out and About – Lowestoft Area



Lowestoft Neighbourhood Watch has been well represented of late, following two events promoting ASB Awareness Week.

Special thanks to Brian and Diane Sivyer, who ran a stall at the Kirkley centre on the November, and at St Andrew's church, Roman road, Lowestoft on the November.

Local officers were present at both events, which saw a number of locals coming through the doors.

The picture shows PC Guy Ainsworth joining Diane and Brian for a “photo shoot”.

Scheme Coordinators: Neighbourhood Watch Street Signage

A new year, a new resolution?

We would like to reach out to all our coordinators to ask them to go and check on their Neighbourhood Watch street signs.

Are they in need of a refresh? Even replacement? Do you even have any signs in place for your scheme?



Sometimes, a simple clean with soapy water can make your sign look as good as new. When signs are left neglected, it can perhaps give people the impression that there is no active scheme, which can mean the crime prevention deterrent is not serving the purpose it was intended for.

You can also help us by reporting any signs you think are no longer part of an active scheme. This is easy to check - just carry out a postcode check on our website. This helps confirm whether a scheme is active or not. We can then consider recovering and refurbishing the sign for re-use.

For those of you that might not yet have signs in place for your scheme, the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association offer all scheme coordinators a guidance document to help make an application to Suffolk County Council Highways Licensing.

This guide is available on the [coordinators forum](#) page of our website.

New signs are available for purchase on the national Neighbourhood Watch website [shop](#).



Police & Crime Commissioner: Next Police and Crime Plan

Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore is inviting Suffolk residents and businesses to have their say on the direction of policing in the county and the activity which will be taken forward by his office over the next four years.



Have your say on the direction of policing in Suffolk

Following re-election earlier this year, a new Police and Crime Plan has been drafted, which, once adopted, will be Suffolk's plan for policing over the next four years.

The PCC is happy to receive people's thoughts on the plan before it is formally adopted. The consultation (link below) is an opportunity for you to express your views on the draft plan and we are assured that all views and comments will be considered.

[POLICE & CRIME PLAN CONSULTATION](#)

The consultation will run until **9am on Monday 20 January 2025**. If you answer all parts of the survey it will take approximately 25 minutes to complete, depending on how much detail you provide, however you can skip to the sections you are most interested in.

Following the consultation, the plan will be updated and presented to the Police and Crime Panel in February for the consideration of its panel members before being adopted by March 31st 2025.

Cyber Security: Shopping online securely



Make sure you have a #FraudFreeXmas: Action Fraud reveal 12 fraud types to look out for this Christmas. [Read more](#)

