



# Newsletter

> THE E-NEWSLETTER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS IN SUFFOLK

Welcome to the JANUARY 2025 edition of our newsletter.

The take up of volunteers for the roll out of the BT digital switchover gains momentum, and we are very grateful for those that have helped us deliver a number of events so far. Details of event dates and the continued call for volunteer support will be shown on our website and in this and forthcoming newsletters. Hope you can take part.

We hope you find the various articles in this newsletter useful, and please do share with your communities.

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”.

In between our newsletters you can always check the news page on our website where you will find other stories and useful information updates.

Happy reading!

*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](mailto:comms@suffolknwa.co.uk)



Thank you to all the schemes that send us their newsletters. You can send yours to [comms@suffolknwa.co.uk](mailto:comms@suffolknwa.co.uk)

If you would like them uploaded to our website, just let us know!



## GARDEN SECURITY TIPS



Now that it is staying lighter for longer and the evidence of Spring is emerging and we are all outside much more, it is time to consider home security around your garden and outbuildings.

Garden equipment and DIY tools are often expensive but can be vulnerable and also used to break into a property. Here are some crime prevention tips:

- Keep sheds and garages locked and don't leave tools lying about. Return them to a secure location after use.
- Ensure ladders, when stowed in outbuildings, are secured to a fixed point with a heavy-duty bicycle lock.
- Mark expensive equipment with paint, permanent marker, an engraver or UV pen with your house number and postcode.
- Make visibility into outbuildings difficult by using blinds, nets or two-way film.
- Ensure doors and windows, and their frames are secure.
- Consider installing a shed alarm or extending your home alarm to your outbuildings.
- Be clear on what your insurance policy covers in your garden and outbuildings.
- Install exterior lighting on a movement sensor, timer or dawn to dusk set-up.
- Secure your wheelie bins to a fixed point so to prevent them being used by intruders as climbing aids.
- Consider using prickly hedges, plants and trellis, and keep walls, fences and hedges high on a boundary which is not overlooked.
- On boundaries which are well overlooked by passers-by or neighbours, ensure there are no areas where would-be burglars could be hidden when attempting a break-in
- Consider using gravel for paths and driveways to make it harder for would-be burglars to get about unheard.
- If you are planning a holiday, ask neighbours to watch over your home and to ensure that post is pushed completely through the letterbox.
- Better still, set up a local Neighbourhood Watch scheme to build safer homes and communities!
- Don't forget to take a look at our [home security checklist](#) for even more suggestions



## Take Five Campaign: Impersonation Fraud



TO STOP FRAUD™



**People under 35 are more likely than older age groups to have been targeted in an impersonation scam and be swayed to provide personal or financial information, according to a survey carried out by the UK's Financial Take Five campaign**

When criminals con you into believing they're someone else to steal money or information, it's fraud!

Stop & Think. If they claim they're the bank, call your bank on the number on the back of your bank card. If they claim to be the police, call 101.

If someone pretends to be someone they're not to trick you into giving them money or information, that's impersonation fraud 🕵️

If you're contacted out of the blue, call the organisation back on a number you trust 📞

[Find out more about the campaign here](#)

**Action Fraud:** Look out for the vulnerable



**Fraudsters deliberately target older and vulnerable people**

**Do people know the caller IS who they say they are?**

**ActionFraud**

National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre

0300 123 2040

NEVER ASSUME A PHONE CALL IS AUTHENTIC JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE KNOWS THEIR BASIC DETAILS SUCH AS NAME AND ADDRESS.



**Neighbourhood Watch Network: BT Digital Voice switchover – Rolling on!**

# DIGITAL VOICE IS COMING TO YOUR TOWN

Listed below are the next four events being rolled out

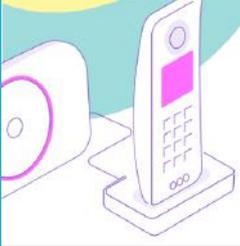
Pop along to find out more about how the digital switchover may impact on you.



### Digital Voice is coming to your town

Neighbourhood Watch volunteers will be running free information sessions for residents about the BT landline switch over.

Just drop in and find out more:



**The Stables Community Café**  
65 High Street,  
Newmarket  
CB8 8NA

**Friday 24th January 2025**

**Drop in anytime between 10am and 2pm**

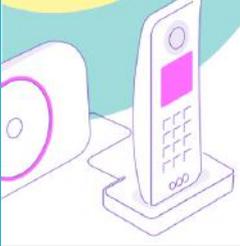
Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, charity no: 1173349



### Digital Voice is coming to your town

Neighbourhood Watch volunteers will be running free information sessions for residents about the BT landline switch over.

Just drop in and find out more:



**Hadleigh Library**  
29 High St, Hadleigh,  
Ipswich IP7 5AG

**Tuesday 4th February 2025**

**Drop in anytime between 09:30am and 12:30pm**

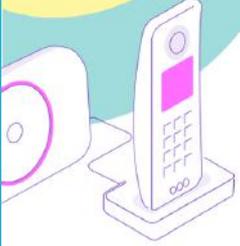
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### Digital Voice is coming to your town

Neighbourhood Watch volunteers will be running free information sessions for residents about the BT landline switch over.

Just drop in and find out more:



**Halesworth Library**  
Bridge Street, Halesworth, IP19 8AD

**Monday 17th February 2025**

**Drop in anytime between 10:00am and 01:00pm**

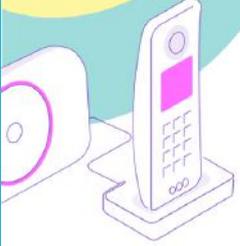
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### Digital Voice is coming to your town

Neighbourhood Watch volunteers will be running free information sessions for residents about the BT landline switch over.

Just drop in and find out more:



**Gt Blakenham Parish Room,**  
Stowmarket Road,  
Great Blakenham  
IP6 0LJ

**Thursday 27th February 2025**

**Drop in anytime between 12:00am and 16:00pm**

Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, charity no: 1173349

As this is a rolling programme, we are still reaching out for volunteers at future events.

[More details here](#)



## Crimestoppers: Drug Gangs

If you know drug activity is happening in your community, you can contact the Crimestoppers charity and stay 100% anonymous. Always.

The kind of information needed is: names and/or nicknames, descriptions of those involved and any distinguishing features e.g. tattoos, addresses and/or transport used e.g., car make, model and registration.

Alternatively, pass this intelligence on to your police community team, or use the 101 call service.



**Drug gangs exploit vulnerable people by taking over their homes.**

Tell us what you know.  
100% anonymously.

We'll pass it on.  
No-one will know you contacted us.

**Crimestoppers.**

**CrimeStoppers.**

**0800 555 111**

100% anonymous. Always.

## Crimestoppers: Domestic Abuse



**Worried someone you know is a victim of domestic abuse?**

An abusive relationship can feel like slowly sinking into an abyss.

**If you know someone affected, tell us.**

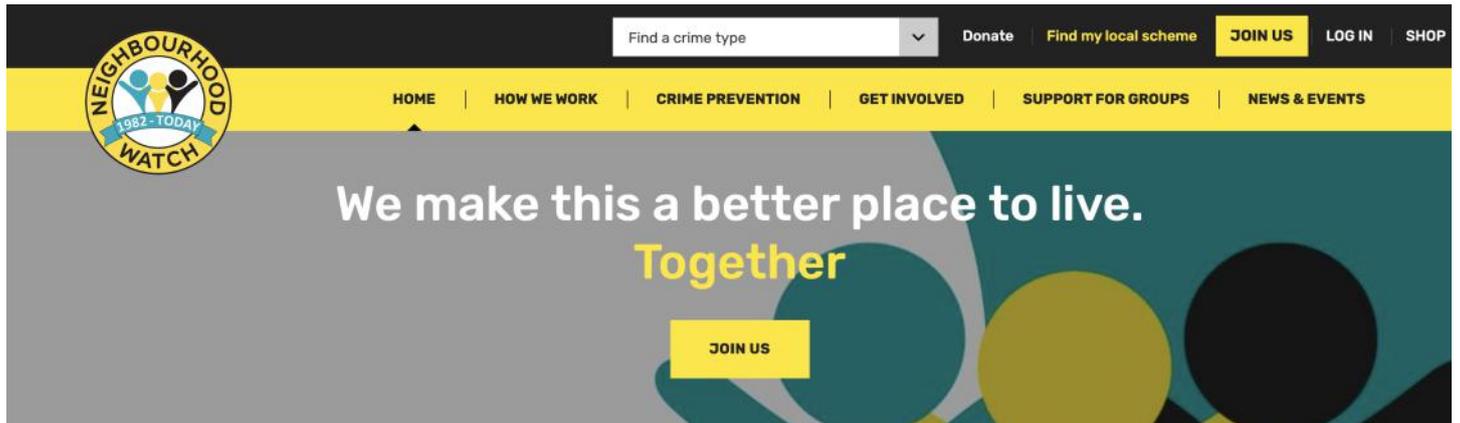
Many vulnerable people are in abusive relationships, living with their abusers with nowhere else to go. Anyone can become a victim of domestic abuse. Often the children who are living in households are the unseen victims, who carry this trauma throughout their lives.

[Find out more](#)

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



## Scheme Coordinators: Registering on the national database



We are now mapping all neighbourhood watch schemes in Suffolk to align with the National NW database. This enables the public to search for Neighbourhood Watch schemes on the national website as well as our own website.

Starting in February, the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association (SNWA) will “pre-register” all scheme coordinators and deputies that have not yet registered on the national database. As part of this “pre-registration process” you will receive an email from the Neighbourhood Watch Alert system, asking you to verify your details and complete the registration process.

All Suffolk schemes registered on the national database are approved and validated by the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association.

The Benefits of registering as a member:

Members can expect to receive monthly newsletters from both the national organisation and the Suffolk Association.

Members can also access a range of training workshops, seminar sessions, and varying forums offered by the national organisation.

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

The SNWA will assist Scheme coordinators to help set up their scheme on the system, which will then allow coordinators to invite existing and future neighbours to join their scheme online.



# Our neighbours

ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN ONLINE AT

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



## Suffolk Fire Service: Fire and Safety in the home

**With the colder nights, wood burners and open fires are being used even more.**

It is so important for residents to take even more care, especially by those who have thatched properties.

Please take a look at the fire service leaflets, offering invaluable advice to keep you and your property safe.

[Find out more here](#)



## Police and Crime Commissioner: Council Tax Precept Survey

The Police and Crime Commissioner have recently launched the council tax precept survey.

We encourage all our Neighbourhood Watch community to complete this survey .

**The deadline for completing is 9am on January 30th.**

[COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT SURVEY](#)



## Suffolk Constabulary: Pop Up events

All Community policing Teams hold regular “pop Up” events, to engage with their local community.

You can find out details of events in your area mainly through social media channels.

As examples, Newmarket have a regular Pop-up at the Guineas shopping centre every Tuesday between 10 and 12, and PCSO Bill Butchers always attends this. You can contact bill for more information via email: [William.Butcher@suffolk.police.uk](mailto:William.Butcher@suffolk.police.uk)

Brandon also have a town centre pop-up and the next is with PCSO Anne-Marie Powel on Thursday 13th February.

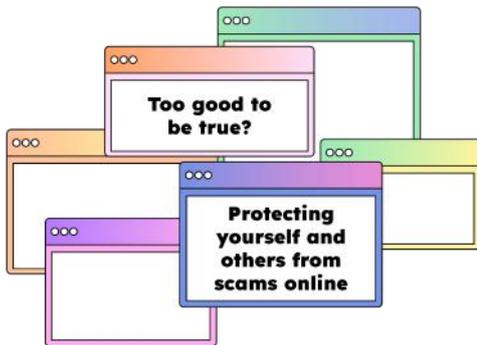
For more information on this and future events, Anne-Marie can be contacted via email: [Marie.Powell@suffolk.police.uk](mailto:Marie.Powell@suffolk.police.uk)



Together for a better internet



## Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online



Safer Internet Day 2025 will take place on the 11th of February 2025, with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2025>

## 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.

