

# OUR NEWS



FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES



Hello and welcome to our bumper February issue of Our News.

There is a wealth of information this month including the results of the **Neighbourhood Watch Crime and Community Survey 2021**, information about the **40th Anniversary Community Grants Fund** to enable more activity locally, and the new and exciting **Volunteer Recognition Awards 2022** that we are running as part of our 40th Anniversary.

There is no current record of volunteers' length of service locally or nationally, so we really need your help with the **Volunteer Recognition Awards**, to ensure we are able to recognise all long-standing volunteers at Neighbourhood Watch.

We are also pleased to announce the topics and dates for our **Coordinator Workshops** that will be delivered this month. Find out more about this on page 6.

Last, but certainly not least, we are proud to be participating in **Race Equality Week** from 7th to 13th February, which will unite thousands of organisations in action to address race inequality.

If you are a volunteer and you have not yet signed up to the Knowledge Hub, you can do so [here](#).

Keep safe.

**John Hayward-Cripps,**  
CEO, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NETWORK

## Neighbourhood Watch Crime and Community Survey 2021 findings

We ran our second **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CRIME AND COMMUNITY SURVEY** between 20th October and 16th November 2021, to help us better understand: the impact of Neighbourhood Watch on levels of crime victimisation; fear of crime and feelings of safety; neighbourliness, community cohesion and loneliness; and the current reach and diversity of Neighbourhood Watch membership.

The full findings can be see in our [report here](#). Below we highlight some of our key findings:

### CRIME CONCERNS DIFFER NATIONALLY AND LOCALLY

One-fifth (20%) of over 14,000 people surveyed had been victims of a crime in the last year. Shockingly one-third (34%) of those had been harassed, threatened, or verbally abused in

the street. Despite these being the crimes that most victims experienced, most respondents saw them as more of a national concern than a local concern.

Almost three-quarters (74%) of respondents thought that violence against women and girls was a national concern yet only a quarter (24%) thought it was a local concern. Similarly with street harassment (72% v 32%), modern slavery (65% v 13%), hate crime (64% v 19%), domestic abuse (63% v 18%) and child exploitation (65% v 15%).

There was a clear difference between how people viewed crimes locally and nationally, suggesting people don't think certain crimes, such as modern slavery, child exploitation, hate crime, domestic abuse and violence against women and girls, happen in their area.

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## Neighbourhood Watch Crime and Community Survey 2021 findings

These crimes are often hidden from public view or significantly under-reported, but they occur in most communities.

Additionally, knife crime or other serious violence is seen as much less of a concern locally than nationally (36% compared to 80%). However, the biggest disparity was found in how respondents view terrorism - three-quarters (74%) see terrorism as a national concern yet only 10% see it as a local concern.

**At Neighbourhood Watch, we are calling for people to be more aware of the signs and symptoms of these crimes and speak up when they are concerned or affected. By challenging unacceptable behaviour and/or reporting your concerns you can help reduce incidents and potentially save lives.**

John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Network, said *“Our research shows a significant disparity between the concern about crime on a national and local level. Since 1982 we have been supporting communities to keep safe. Now, in our 40th year, we are calling for people to talk more about hidden and under-reported crimes in their communities rather than only those we have traditionally worried about, such as burglary and car crime. We are asking people to look beyond their own personal safety and consider what is happening on their streets and behind closed doors.*

*Hate crime, harassment, modern slavery, child exploitation, violence against women and girls, terrorism, knife crime – these are all crimes that happen around us – wherever we live. Let’s not turn a blind eye. Learn the signs and symptoms, and keep vigilant. If you see something, or suspect something, speak up.”*

### **POLICE**

The percentage of people who think that the police in their area do an excellent or good job shows a significant reduction from the 2020 survey results, reducing from 42% to 33%.

However, the more respondents think crime has decreased the better their satisfaction with police. 56% of those who think crime has decreased think the police do an excellent or good job, compared with just 19% of those who think crime has increased.

### **WHAT OUR MEMBERS TOLD US**

Our research showed that our members are more likely to be satisfied with their personal safety than non-members (70% vs 62%), and we believe this is down to the tools, resources, and connections we provide to local communities.

Our research also shows that we are a trusted organisation, with 90% of Neighbourhood Watch members sometimes or usually acting on the advice they receive from us.

Neighbourhood Watch also enhances the vital role that community inclusion and cohesion plays in helping people feel safe and well. Members are more likely to be very satisfied or satisfied with their local area than non-members (92% vs 88%).

Neighbourhood Watch members (90%) are more likely than non-members (85%) to perceive their neighbourhood positively, in particular feeling that, if they needed help, people would be there for them. However, the fact that this figure is high across both groups demonstrates the strong bonds and support that neighbours have built over the past year.

**Find out more about crimes, visit [ourwatch.org.uk](https://ourwatch.org.uk).**

The Times reported on our survey findings in *Neighbourhood Watch find faith in police falling* article on 31st January 2022. Read it [online here](#) (subscription required).



**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEEK**  
**30th MAY - 5th JUNE 2022**



**CELEBRATING  
40 YEARS  
WITH 40 ACTIONS**

[ourwatch.org.uk/nweek](https://ourwatch.org.uk/nweek)

Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales. CIO No. 1173349

**#LetsStayConnected**

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COMMUNITY GRANTS FUND**

**Our Spring 2022 Community Grants funding round will focus on 40th Anniversary activities.**

During the Spring 2022 funding round, **100%** of available funds will go towards activities or one-off development projects that help your group promote and support Neighbourhood Watch's 40th Anniversary. To help you with this, we will soon be sharing a 40 Years, 40 Actions guide. All 40 activities link to these funding priorities:

- crime prevention
- community cohesion
- enhancing the role of volunteers
- improving the community environment and wellbeing
- proactively engaging/involving people underrepresented in NW e.g. BAME, LGBTQ, people with disabilities, or young people's voices (will require relevant safeguarding procedures)
- building or enhancing local networks and relationships

All applications must address at least one of these areas and reference how the activity or project links to the marking of Neighbourhood Watch's 40th Anniversary, as part of a clear, forward-thinking plan for how your group makes/will make a difference in your community.

The size of grants for the Spring 2022 round will range between **£100 - £250**. Groups can only hold one grant at a time, and can only hold one grant in each financial year. Groups are defined as: schemes, areas, districts or associations, e.g. several schemes can hold grants within an association, and that association can also hold its own grant, but all projects or applications must be clearly defined and separate from each other.

**The Spring round focusing on Neighbourhood Watch 40th Anniversary will be open for applications from 1st March until 31st March 2022.**

**For full guidelines, criteria and application form, visit [ourwatch.org.uk/communitygrants](https://ourwatch.org.uk/communitygrants).**

If the Community Grants Fund is not for you, take a look at other routes for seeking local funding on our [fundraising page](#).

## Neighbourhood Watch's 40th Anniversary

### Volunteer Recognition Awards 2022

During our 40th Anniversary year we wish to celebrate and thank all Neighbourhood Watch volunteers!

We will also be holding a special Awards to recognise those volunteers who have dedicated more than 5 years working in their communities with us.

**TO DO THIS WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

We want to know whether you or someone else has volunteered with Neighbourhood Watch for 5 years or more.

# VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS 2022



To nominate yourself or someone else, please visit:

[ourwatch.org.uk/volunteerawards](https://ourwatch.org.uk/volunteerawards)



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



Simply visit [ourwatch.org.uk/volunteerawards](https://ourwatch.org.uk/volunteerawards) to submit a form by 13th March 2022.

#### What happens next?

Our team will work with Associations to verify the nominations. All verified nominees will receive a special award certificate and can opt-in to be listed on our special recognition website page to be launched during Neighbourhood Watch Week, 30th May - 5th June 2022.

### The Big Jubilee Lunch

Since 2009, The Big Lunch has been bringing millions of people together to share food and fun in a nationwide act of community friendship on the first weekend in June every year.

As you know this year, [The Big Jubilee Lunch](#) will be part of the official celebrations for HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, 2nd - 5th June. Communities across the UK are invited to save the date for The Big Jubilee Lunch in their diaries, [order your free Big Jubilee Lunch pack](#), and start chatting with neighbours to help get this party started.



If you held a Big Lunch last year or are planning to this year, please let us know by emailing [deborah.waller@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:deborah.waller@ourwatch.org.uk).

Follow us... [ourwatch.org.uk](https://ourwatch.org.uk)



# Book your place now on our Coordinator Workshops

Last month we asked Coordinators to let us know what they would like to see from our Coordinator Workshops.

We had a great response. An overwhelming majority wanted to know how they can be a 'community that cares' by reducing the fear of crime and supporting the vulnerable, and how they can use our online crime prevention toolkits to raise awareness about specific crimes.

As such we are proud to offer the following Coordinator Workshops running from 21st February to 4th March on Zoom. Click on the date to book your place.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## HOW CAN WE BE A COMMUNITY THAT CARES

- [Monday 21st February 2022  
2pm-3.30pm](#)
- [Monday 28th February 2022  
7pm-8.30pm](#)

## USING CRIME PREVENTION TOOLKITS

- [Wednesday 23rd February 2022  
2pm-3.30pm](#)
- [Wednesday 2nd March 2022  
7pm-8.30pm](#)

## LISTENING EVENT - ENGAGING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

- [Friday 25th February 2022  
2pm-3.30pm](#)
- [Friday 4th March 2022  
7pm-8.30pm](#)

## DID YOU KNOW...

Rules for all types of road users have been updated in [The Highway Code](#) to improve the safety of people walking, cycling and riding horses.

There are 8 changes that you need to know about.

1. Hierarchy of road users
2. People crossing the road at junctions
3. Walking, cycling or riding in shared spaces
4. Positioning in the road when cycling
5. Overtaking when driving or cycling
6. People cycling at junctions
7. People cycling, riding a horse and driving horse-drawn vehicles on roundabouts
8. Parking, charging and leaving vehicles

[Click here](#) to learn more

## Are you a Coordinator that wants to connect with other Coordinators?

- Unique offer for volunteers
- Role specific pages
- Get connected on forums
- Online resources
- Training courses
- Early access to event tickets
- Use it on desktop, table or mobile



Join the Knowledge Hub

[ourwatch.org.uk/knowledge-hub](https://ourwatch.org.uk/knowledge-hub)

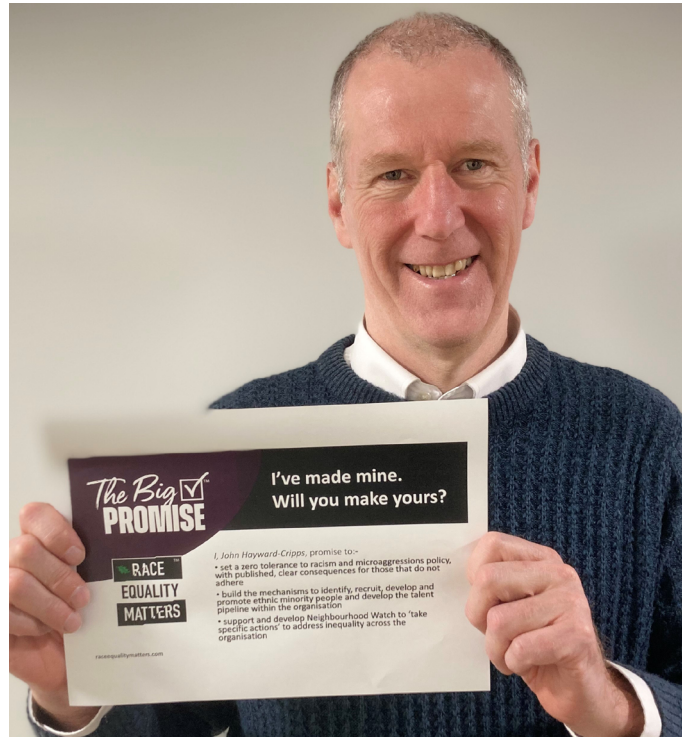
## Neighbourhood Watch participates in Race Equality Week

We are pleased to announce our participation in Race Equality Week (7th to 13th February 2022), which will unite thousands of organisations in action to seriously address race inequality.

Neighbourhood Watch is committed to ensuring that more people have the information and support necessary to keep themselves and their communities safe from crime and to remove barriers to inclusion. Race Equality Week gives a focus for all our Coordinators and volunteers to engage with people from minority ethnic communities and organisations, to help us to better understand how we can adapt to meet different needs and encourage greater involvement and representation.

Race Equality Week gives us the opportunity to promote the role of Neighbourhood Watch to a wider audience and share the variety of ways that people can get involved to help keep individuals and their communities safe and connected.

We are keen to encourage all our volunteers and supporters to make a **Big Promise** - a commitment to create positive change and inspire others to do so. Share your promises on social media using hashtag #ActionNotJustWords.



Here's John Hayward-Cripps, our CEO, making his Big Promise.

You can make your promise and access resources to help you to get involved on the [Race Equality Matters website](#).

## New Government resource to help keep children safe from sexual abuse

It's estimated that one in ten children in England and Wales will experience sexual abuse before they turn sixteen. That's equivalent to three in every classroom.

Most children won't tell anyone at the time of their abuse. That's why it's important for everyone to know how to spot the potential signs of child sexual abuse and where to go for support if concerned. The Government's new [Stop Abuse Together \(stopabusetogather.campaign.gov.uk\)](#) website can help you learn to spot the signs, and have regular conversations with your child which can help keep them safe, and know when it's right to reach out for more support.

If you feel something's not right, you can call the NSPCC helpline on 0808 5800 5000. No matter what's happened, there's always someone who will listen to you and take what you say seriously.

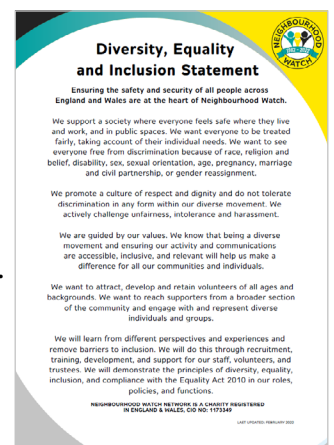
All children have a right to be safe from sexual abuse, and we all have a role to play in keeping them safe. Let's stop abuse together.

## DID YOU KNOW...

We have announced our [Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Statement](#).

This statement sets out our intention to become a **more inclusive, diverse network** and our commitment to remove barriers to inclusion for people from all backgrounds regardless of race, religion and belief, disability, sex, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy, marriage and civil partnership, or gender reassignment.

[Click here](#) to read the full statement.



## Struggling with mental health? You are not alone

Feelings of anxiety and depression can affect us all. The NHS can help you get your feet back on the ground.

NHS mental health services are free, effective and confidential. Support can be offered in a number of ways including self-help work books with therapist support, over the phone, one-to-one or in a group. You can refer yourself or your GP can refer you.

Go to [nhs.uk/help](https://www.nhs.uk/help).



**NHS**

The NHS is  
here to help

Mental  
health  
matters  
Help us  
help you

## The British Empire Medal awarded to Gail and Carol

**Congratulations to Area Coordinator, Gail Steed, and Coordinator, Carol Lister, who have both been awarded The British Empire Medal in the Queen's New Year Honours List for services to the community of Cheddington, particularly during Covid-19.**

Gail and Carol have been involved in Neighbourhood Watch for **over 25 years**, and through their dedication and hard work **86% of residents** in their community are now members.

Some of the amazing achievements Gail and Carol can be proud of are running a successful Communities That Care project to keep the elderly and vulnerable aware of scams, and linking in with two local food banks to support residents without a referral and start a monthly food bank collection. Communities that Care and the tri-monthly Food Bank Collection still continue today.

At the start of lockdown they asked for volunteers to help support the elderly. They received 98 responses who together supported 160 households calling it Chedd-eroo!. The group of volunteers delivered medication from several GP surgeries, did shopping, gardening, cashed cheques, chatted on doorsteps, shared homemade Christmas day meals, and gave out Christmas Cards from children and grandchildren.

**Congratulations Gail and Carol. A marvellous achievement in your community of Cheddington - a well-deserved honour!**

*Right: Gail Steed and Carol Lister*



## Worried about burglary? Look out for our campaign launching soon

**Our Crime and Community Survey 2021 findings revealed that most respondents (67%) worry about burglary happening to them more than any other crime.**

But did you know there are simple, tried and tested ways to reduce your risk of being burgled?

To help people be and feel safer we joined forces with our sponsors, ERA Home Security, to develop a joint burglary prevention campaign highlighting the most effective measures we can all take to protect our homes.

The campaign will be shared with members by email on 1st March and will run on our social channels throughout the month.

Our website burglary page will provide you with **clear actions** you can take that don't break the bank. We also have helpful downloads you can display in your community or share with your neighbours.

For more information, look out for our launch email on 1st March, follow our social channels, and visit our website.

### FREE tickets to the National Homebuilding Show

**For expert advice, impactful masterclasses and innovative home products book two free tickets to the National Homebuilding & Renovating Show.**

Book two free one-day tickets and visit the National Homebuilding & Renovating Show at the NEC Birmingham between Thursday 24 and Sunday 27 March. Try out thousands of products for the home from over 400 exhibitors or get all the building and renovation advice you need from the experts.

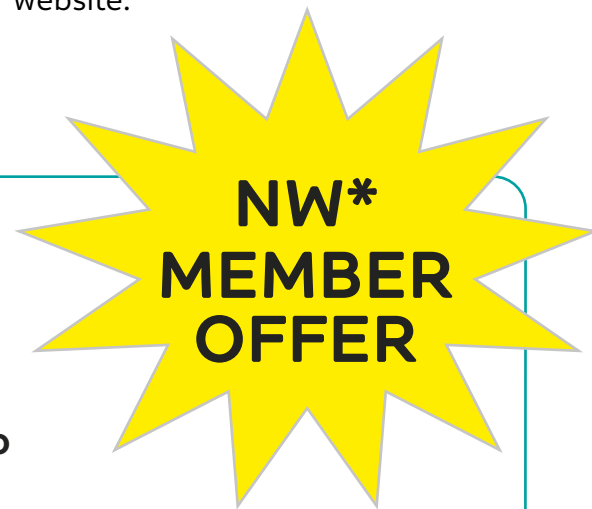
Find out about **smart home systems and renewable energy** at the Masterclass Theatre. Advice on interior design, kitchens, bathrooms, renovations and extensions is at the Home Improvement Theatre. The Self-Build Theatre addresses in-depth topics from a beginner's guide to renovation to how to manage tradespeople. And drop by for free DIY advice from hanging doors to skimming walls from the tradesmen at DIY Doctor.

Get free one-on-one advice from property experts Michael Holmes and Jason Orme; eco expert David Hilton; design expert Allan Corfield, builder Andy Stevens and planning expert Sally Tagg at the Advice Centre.

Or book two free one-day tickets to Homebuilding & Renovating Shows in

- Surrey (25-26 June)
- London (30 September – 2 October)
- Harrogate (4-6 November)
- Somerset (19-20 November)

using this link: <https://national.homebuildingshow.co.uk/neighbourhood-watch>



**Homebuilding  
& Renovating  
Show**

\*For Neighbourhood Watch members or those living in a Neighbourhood Watch area





# Beware of Financial Requests for COVID-19 Booster Vaccines

Criminals are sending text messages, emails and making phone calls, pretending to be from the NHS, to steal money, financial details and personal information relating to the COVID-19 booster vaccine.

- ✔ The COVID-19 Booster Vaccine is **FREE**
- ✘ The NHS will **NEVER** ask for payment or any financial details relating to the COVID-19 Booster Vaccine
- ✘ The NHS will **NEVER** arrive unannounced at your home to administer the COVID-19 Booster Vaccine



Do not respond to requests for money or important personal information such as bank details or passwords.



Be alert to links and attachments in unexpected text messages or emails.

For information on how to book or manage a booster dose of the coronavirus vaccine visit

[nhs.uk/CovidVaccination](https://nhs.uk/CovidVaccination)

## Further guidance and support



National Cyber Security Centre

If you receive a call and suspect it to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email, forward it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk). If you are suspicious about a text message, forward it to the number **7726**, which is free-of-charge.



National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre  
[actionfraud.police.uk](https://actionfraud.police.uk)

If you believe you are the victim of a fraud, please report this to Action Fraud as soon as possible by visiting [actionfraud.police.uk](https://actionfraud.police.uk) or calling **0300 123 2040**.



If you have any information relating to NHS COVID Pass or vaccine certificate fraud you can stay 100% anonymous by contacting Crimestoppers online at [covidfraudhotline.org](https://covidfraudhotline.org) or phone on **0800 587 5030**.