



MAY 2024



# OUR NEWS

FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES

## What's in May's Our News?

We're counting down the days and weeks to celebrate this year's Neighbourhood Watch Week - read on for more about this year's theme and how you can join in! Milton Keynes Neighbourhood Watch was joined by a very 'hoppy' guest over Easter; we continue to share resources and information on tackling hate crimes; Avast shares information on cyber-trauma and its impact on victims of cybercrime; Patlock helps you get ready for summer and secure your home; and ERA celebrates a big birthday.

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# 1 month to go until Neighbourhood Watch Week!

This year's NWW theme is **“local efforts, big impact”**, an 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, and photos from your community events - email [comms@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:comms@ourwatch.org.uk)! You can [read more about previous NWW's on our website](#).

## LAUNCH OF THE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS 2024!



Nominations for this year's Volunteer Recognition Awards will open on **Monday 3rd June!**

Every year, we love receiving hundreds of nominations from our supporters, all of which celebrate the hard work and commitment of our volunteers from across England and Wales. This year, the categories for awards are...

**Innovation and Reach**  
**Crime Prevention**  
**Community Health and Wellbeing**  
**Young Volunteer of the Year**  
**Special Recognition Award**

**You can read more about our Volunteer Recognition Awards and last year's winners on our website!**

# A very 'hoppy' new volunteer joins Milton Keynes Neighbourhood Watch

Members of the Milton Keynes & District Neighbourhood Watch team attended a Family Information Day at the Moorland Primary School in the city just before the school holidays.

*"I'm very pleased to say we found a new volunteer to help us at the event!", says Nick King of Neighbourhood Watch. "This was the first time the team from the nearby Moorlands Family Centre have run a Family Information Day. It was excellent and well organised. Our new volunteer was undoubtedly the star of the show and we enjoyed the opportunity to promote the values of Neighbourhood Watch to the local parents and school staff."*



*Pictured is our new volunteer with Steve Lazell and Nick King from the district Neighbourhood Watch team.*

**If you've got a story from your community, whether that's a street party, new volunteer (like this one!) or something different, click here to let us know!**

# Farewell to Kevin Sproston



**Kevin Sproston has been a part of our team since 2022, joining us as Project Manager in the South West of England. We now bid him farewell as he leaves Neighbourhood Watch to embark on a new adventure, and reflect on some of the hard work he's done over the past two years with us below.**

Kevin joined our team as a Project Manager in 2022 and was responsible for three areas in Devon; Paignton, Pinhoe, and Beacon Heath. His role was to support the implementation of the Community Safety Charter, increase engagement within the community and to support and build Neighbourhood Watch in those areas.

It was soon apparent that Kevin had his work cut out, and the focus was more towards Paignton and Torbay areas in terms of need. Kevin became a regular at Paignton Library and built community contacts with Health Watch, community organisers, local police, and CrimeStoppers. He brought to the role a sound knowledge of Neighbourhood Watch and how it could support a local community, as he is also the lead in Keyham Neighbourhood Watch. Along with his friendly style and his empathy with people, Kevin quickly became part of the furniture in our team!

Kevin supported a local event attended by our CEO, John, and was delighted to present maybe one of our eldest (yet most enthusiastic!) volunteers, Eileen, with a special recognition award for her work in her community and for Neighbourhood Watch.

After the initial project period ended, Kevin's focus moved to Redruth and Cambourne in Cornwall, and Plymouth and Paignton in Devon. During this time, Kevin built up new relationships and partners in the area, and installed himself as the Neighbourhood Watch contact in these areas.

One of the last events that Kevin organised was at the old library in Cambourne where, within two hours, we had five new Neighbourhood Watch Schemes set up! The event had representatives from the council, local community groups, police, the community safety team for Devon and Cornwall, and the Mayor in attendance, with the OPCC's office filming the event. Each person was given a real Cornish pasty too, a hit with the locals!

**It is clear that Kevin has made a real positive impression in the communities within Devon and Cornwall, and of course in our team. We wish him the very best in his new role and want to say a huge thank you to him.**

# Show us your road sign!



As the countdown to **Neighbourhood Watch Week** continues, we want to celebrate local groups and the impact you have in your communities across England and Wales - that's why we're asking you to show us your road signs! If you've got a Neighbourhood Watch road sign, window or bin sticker, get yourself on the map and let us know. Simply take a photo of you or a fellow NW member (with their permission!) next to your sign and send it to [comms@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:comms@ourwatch.org.uk), for a chance to be featured in next month's Our News newsletter. **We can't wait to see your photos!**

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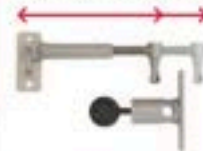
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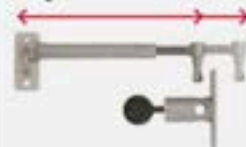
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# Understanding and addressing cyber-trauma



**In an age where digital technology permeates every aspect of our lives, the concept of trauma has expanded beyond physical events to encompass virtual experiences as well. From cyberbullying and online harassment, to exposure to violent or disturbing content, individuals are facing a myriad of challenges in the digital realm that can profoundly impact their mental health.**

Being hit by a cyberattack, whether it's a phishing scam, ransomware threat or a computer virus can be a traumatic event, affecting not just your security, but also mental health and wellbeing.

Cyber-trauma can manifest as a result of various incidents, including but not limited to:

- Cyberbullying
- Romance fraud
- Online scams
- Online harassment
- Exposure to graphic content
- Digital exploitation
- Online grooming

## **What is being done about it?**

Efforts to address cyber-trauma require a multi-faceted approach involving various stakeholders, including government, charities, and technology companies. Key strategies include: education and awareness, prevention and intervention, mental health support, digital literacy, and collaboration with technology companies.

## **Conclusion:**

As our lives become increasingly intertwined with digital technology, the need to address cyber-trauma has never been more pressing. By raising awareness, implementing preventive measures, and providing support services, we can mitigate the negative impact of digital experiences on mental health and create a safer, more inclusive online environment for all.

**Free resources available from Avast/Norton: click below!**



# ERA celebrates 185 years of keeping Britain safe

**Founded in 1838, ERA has grown from a one-man locksmith business to a national home security provider with more than 185 employees. Last year, ERA celebrated its 185-year anniversary of helping to keep families and communities across the nation safe and secure.**



ERA started life when John Reynolds began his own locksmith business in Willenhall, the heart of the British lock-making industry since the 16th century. Fifth-generation locksmith Ralph Morris joined the business in 1939, playing an important role in ERA's future.

ERA has a rich legacy; helping to keep Brits safe for centuries. A real expert in the field, door and window fabricators, installers, locksmiths, and police authorities across the nation have looked to ERA as security experts for many years, with their innovative locks, handles and hinges providing peace-of-mind for generations of British homeowners. Today they also provide smart security systems.

## It's not all about locks...

ERA has been a supporter of Neighbourhood Watch since 2016, working closely together for over seven years to help members enhance their security through product innovation, alongside providing Neighbourhood Watch members with exclusive advice and access to ERA's top of the line security products; all tried and tested deterrents from burglaries and antisocial behaviour.



ERA Protect is a recommended Neighbourhood Watch product which has passed BSI Security standards, meaning it provides homeowners with the ultimate confidence in its performance.

For more information on ERA's mechanical and smart security products, expert advice, or to find the right security solution for you, visit [eraprotect.com](http://eraprotect.com).

## DID YOU KNOW?

*ERA appeared in the Guinness Book of Records 1974 for the World's Largest Padlock!*

# #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.

Continuing on from last month's focus on **racist** and **disability-based** hate crimes, in May we will be sharing information and resources on supporting victims of **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](#).





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# Holiday Security

With the holiday season approaching, it's important to make sure that you secure your property before heading off, and for those of you who own a holiday home, it's equally important to ensure that they remain safe once it's time to head home.

Why not [download the handy Neighbourhood Watch Home Security Checklist to help!](#)

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.

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**[CLICK HERE to buy Patlock at your NW member discounted price of £42.50](#)**

# Tackling Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) in Chorley, Lancashire

Operation Centurion is a dedicated operation delivered by Lancashire Constabulary's Neighbourhood Policing Teams, supported by the force's newly established ASB, Prevention and Problem-Solving Command, to deliver targeted foot patrols in areas identified as ASB hotspots.

These extra patrols, provided by £2m of Government funding from the ASB Action Plan, and secured by the Police and Crime Commissioner, provide additional visible policing hours across the county to deal with ASB, tackle offending and deter further incidents.

## Mr ZEE's Takeaway, Chorley



Local analysis identified an ASB hotspot area in Chorley which was affecting local businesses and causing disruption to the bus service, as well as in the local bus station.

Mr ZEE's takeaway was at the centre of all this, with a 40.5% increase in ASB incidents after opening, and had already required two Dispersal Orders to be authorised to try and tackle the problems in a short period of time.

To add to this, the owner of Mr ZEE's was also supplying illegal vapes to children and young people. He had developed an unhealthy friendship with young people in the area, enticing and encouraging antisocial behaviour, loitering, and regular disruption to others.

Members of the area's Community Safety Partnership worked closely together to address the problems surrounding Mr ZEE's. It was decided that Chorley Council would take the lead alongside Lancashire Police to gather and provide the evidence and supporting information needed to secure a closure order on the property. This partnership approach proved successful and a closure order for the premises was granted.

Following the closure of Mr ZEE's, the owner returned to the area the following day attempting to sell vapes in the street. He was immediately stopped from doing so, along with another male, thanks to police officers patrolling the area as part of Op Centurion.

Since then, as part of Op Centurion, officers have continued to patrol the area on foot for many weeks to provide continued reassurance and support to affected parties including the bus station, local business owner, and the public.

The Constabulary has received acknowledgements and thanks from business owners who have previously complained regarding a perceived lack of action. ASB in the area has reduced significantly as the legacy and influence of Mr ZEE's has dwindled.

**Inspector Mike Moys, Local Policing Inspector for Chorley and South Ribble:**

*"Antisocial behaviour is a blight on our communities and makes people feel unsafe in their homes and on the streets. The support we have given Chorley Council in securing this closure order displays our commitment to working closely with partner agencies to tackle all forms of ASB."*

**Councillor Alistair Bradley, Leader of Chorley Council:** *"We won't stand by while one business lets down everyone else working hard to make our town centre safe and welcoming. The order comes after our officers have attempted other options to come to a resolution, but unfortunately the business operators were not willing to work with us."*

*"I am pleased that we have been able to take decisive action by serving the order and thanks goes to the police for their support. I want to make it clear that we will not tolerate anti-social behaviour in any of its forms in our borough and we will do what we can day in and day out working with partners to make sure our community is safe."*

Visit our  
NW Shop!



**Have you been to our Neighbourhood Watch shop yet?**

If not, [click here](#) to see what official NW branded goodies you could buy for you and your neighbourhood!

From road signs, window and wheelie bin stickers, to mugs and lanyards, there's plenty you can buy to proudly show off that you're a supporter of our charity.