



OUR NEWS

DECEMBER 2016 EDITION



It gives me a huge amount of personal pleasure to be able to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year as the chair of this great organisation.

Your service to our movement is tremendous and we appreciate everything you do to help keep our communities safe across England and Wales.

This year we have been fortunate enough to welcome our sponsors the Co-op insurance and ERA Home Security who share our values and vision. With their help we have been able to issue half-a-million copies of our new **Members' Guide** and half-a-million new window stickers too! We were also delighted to see the work of NW volunteers credited in the new **Modern Crime Prevention Strategy** that the then Home Secretary the Rt. Hon Theresa May launched in the Spring.

And although crime is changing and new crime threats are emerging our key work of keeping homes and communities safe remains so important and will continue. So we have had a busy year and, together, we have made a difference in communities across England and Wales.

A quick word about keeping safe this Christmas. Please take special care of your purse or wallet when out shopping. Lock your purchases in the boot of your car and make sure you don't have them on display at home either. This is a great time for potential burglars, so make sure you don't make it easy for them! I know that many of you already look out for your elderly neighbours to see that they're ok and I'm sure they appreciate your efforts.

The Co-op Insurance has launched a new initiative that will see £10 from every new home or car insurance policy taken out by new customers, go to support the British Red Cross to help tackle loneliness and social isolation across the UK – a marvellous campaign that I know members will welcome. See page 3 for more details!

Thank you for all you do and best wishes for a great Christmas and a safe and happy 2017.

Lynn

Take a peek inside this issue





Secure your home this Christmas



Lock snapping is a growing trend in the world of crime. Sadly, it isn't just hype. If your door cylinder doesn't have a visible Kitemark then it may be vulnerable. Snapping is as straightforward as it sounds – an intruder simply 'snaps' your cylinder allowing them to insert a tool to unlock your door. What's worrying is this form of break in is virtually silent. Similarly, bumping and drilling are equally as fast and unlikely to alert a neighbour.

Our home security partner ERA, have worked with experts to develop a solution called the ERA Fortress 3* Cylinder. It can't be snapped, bumped or drilled and is designed to give ultimate protection. 3* BS Kitemark approved and certified as Sold Secure and Secured by Design, you can trust in these cylinders to protect your home.

Even better, using an ERA Approved Master Locksmith, they can fit new cylinders quickly around your home and your keys can be 'keyed alike', eliminating the need for lots of different keys around your home.

To find your nearest ERA Approved MLA Partners that can complete your free home security survey, visit:
www.erahomesecurity.com/home-security-survey.

Keep burglars at bay this Christmas with a FakeTV



FakeTV from ERA has taken the market by storm this year – this nifty little gadget is a welcome addition to any home this Christmas. It's cheap, simple to use and with 90% of intruders being put off entering a property if they think it's occupied – ERA's FakeTV is a security must-have.

FakeTV is so simple, it creates the illusion from outside that a TV is on. Placed near a window, when dusk falls FakeTV will switch itself on and simulate the appearance of an active television set using super bright multi-colour LED lights. It's so realistic!

FakeTV is fully portable and quick and easy to use – just plug in and it's ready to go and is safer and cheaper than setting a real TV on timer. The ultimate security addition, especially if you're away for a few days.

Listen out for Santa Safely!



Whether you're listening for Sleigh bells, Reindeers running on the roof, Elves playing outside or even Santa's Ho Ho

Ho... when you and your kids have the window open this Christmas, do it safely with the ERA Safety Locking Restrictor.

The ERA Safety Locking Restrictor has been designed to go way beyond the minimum standard and is the only restrictor on the market that offers Grade 3 impact resistance and meets the highest British Standard. Available in a range of finishes for PVCu, timber and aluminium windows and doors, the ERA Safety Locking Restrictor will make a fantastic permanent addition to your windows.

Be sure to enjoy this Christmas time with your family and keep safe.



We've got **FIVE** FakeTVs to give away to Neighbourhood Watch scheme members. To enter our free prize draw, visit www.erahomesecurity.com/NHWcompetition.



News from our sponsor the Co-op Insurance



Exclusive Co-op Insurance offer

As you know, we're working together with Co-op Insurance to help make communities safer, and they have made a pledge to help us set up 30,000 new schemes over the next couple of years.

As a member of Neighbourhood Watch, you'll already be doing your bit to keep your local community safe, and, to thank you, and to mark our partnership, Co-op Insurance have an exclusive offer for all our members – an exclusive 10% off home insurance policy for the first year. You'll need to take the policy out direct on the phone by 31st December and policies have to start by 31st January 2017. (This offer cannot be used with any other discount codes and applies to customers who purchase Buildings or Contents insurance or where Buildings and Contents insurance are purchased together).

And, up until 28th December, for every new home (or car) insurance policy bought, Co-op Insurance are giving £10 to their charity partner the British Red Cross*. To get a quote for your home insurance, simply call our contact centre on: 0800 781 1390 and quote the code: **NHW10**, terms and conditions apply**.

Co-op Insurance offers the following advice to keeping your home and belongings safe throughout the festive period:

- **Close your curtains when you have the lights on inside**, in the dark winter months it is easy to tell when a house is unoccupied and burglars can use this to their advantage.
- **If you're out for the night**, leave a light on inside to look like the house is lived in, perhaps use a timer switch.
- **Whilst Christmas shopping** don't let your handbag out of sight and make sure it is secure, as in busy crowds you can be an easy target for pickpockets.
- **Be sure to leave your presents out of sight** and well hidden, away from a window, and if you're out Christmas shopping in your car be sure to leave them out of view and locked in the boot.
- **Be careful what you post on social media**. As tempting as it is to show your friends what Santa's bought you for Christmas, think carefully who will be able to read your posts, and make sure you check your privacy settings to see who can and who can't read them.
- **After the mania of present opening**, discard your cardboard packaging in your bin outside or better still take to your local recycling centre, don't leave on show outside for thieves to see what presents you've got.
- **Fairy lights can be a fire risk**, consider buying new ones to ensure they have a good standard of safety, make sure you turn them off when unattended and don't leave them on overnight.
- **Check your insurance policy**, presents kept in your home will be covered by your usual contents insurance, but if you've bought big ticket items as gifts they may need to be listed separately. Typically, the limit for single items ranges from £1,000 to £2,000, so check your policy and call your insurer if you've purchased anything above your limit.
- **Also check to see** your insurance policy covers accidental damage cover, for any breakages to new items such as laptops, or wine spillages over the Christmas period.



Help keep children safe on their new gadgets this Christmas.

As children across Britain open shiny new smart-phones, tablets and computers this Christmas our partner Get Safe Online is encouraging families to think about internet safety for children.

As we see the delight in their faces opening their new technology we might not want to think about the darker side of being online but it's more important than ever. None of us – of whatever age – is immune from encountering problems online, as a look through the Get Safe Online website or the daily news will tell you. Our children are at a more vulnerable stage in their lives ... naturally more trusting than adults and hopefully having been less exposed to the darker side of the internet. They are also not as well equipped to deal with such issues – or their consequences.

Get Safe Online has prepared some simple and helpful checklists to help you keep your kids safe online that are appropriate to their age group. [Click here](#) to find out more.

Some of the potential issues they could encounter on-line include:

- ✓ Inappropriate contact: from people who may wish to abuse, exploit or bully them.
- ✓ Inappropriate conduct: because of their own and others' online behaviour, such as the personal information they make public, for example on social networking sites. Unfortunately, children can also become cyberbullies, especially when encouraged by others.
- ✓ Inappropriate content: being able to access or being sexually explicit, violent, extremist or other harmful material, either through choice or in error.
- ✓ Commercialism: being the targets of aggressive advertising and marketing messages.
- ✓ Gaining access to your personal information stored on your computer, mobile device or games console, and passing it on to others ... or using your financial details such as payment card information.
- ✓ Enabling viruses and spyware by careless or misinformed use of their or your computer, smart-phone, tablet or games console.



Get Safe Online also has a free suite of Neighbourhood Watch branded leaflets that you can download from their website that any Neighbourhood Watch member can use.



Dark night danger for cyclists

Derbyshire Police has released a new video to highlight the importance of cyclists wearing reflective gear in the dark winter months.

The video asks viewers to time how long it takes for them to spot a cyclist wearing reflective gear and one who isn't.

The clip shows two takes of a cyclist riding along a poorly-lit road, and is filmed from the perspective of a car travelling on the same route.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DFiTOIG0q8>

In one take, the cyclist is wearing a highly reflective jersey and in the other, the cyclist is not wearing any reflective clothing or equipment such as bike lights.

The two clips, when shown side-by-side, highlight



how important it is for cyclists to equip themselves with the right equipment, particularly in the winter months and darker nights.

It also shows the benefits of other reflective items such as reflective spoke clips.

Chief Inspector Andy Palmer, head of Derbyshire Constabulary's roads policing unit, said: "The video highlights just how important it is for cyclists to make sure they can be quickly and easily seen by other road users. The cyclist who is not wearing any reflective gear is almost invisible until the car is right behind him, whereas the cyclist with the jersey can be seen immediately.

"Many cyclists take great pride in their bikes, and we want to encourage them to treat their own safety as seriously and invest in proper reflective equipment."



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**The Neighbourhood & Home Watch
Network office in Leicester will be
closed from Saturday, December 24
and will re-open on
Tuesday, January 3, 2017.**





PROTECTING THE THINGS AND PEOPLE YOU LOVE

Buy the Neighbourhood Watch Patlock at our exclusive discounted rate of £42.50* (including VAT and delivery) at: www.ourwatch.org.uk

*£64.00 at www.patlock.co.uk

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