



OUR NEWS

JANUARY 2017 EDITION

Message from our chair *Lynn Farrar*

Well it's another year and one with lots of possibilities, so I hope you are all making the best efforts, like me, to keep your new year resolutions!

So how about we all make a resolution to keep safe by doing a few simple things to start the year off.



- ✓ Change your login passwords and update your security on your laptop or PC.
- ✓ Put a light on a timer to come on when you go out at night.
- ✓ Check your carbon monoxide alarms and fire alarms are in full working order.
- ✓ Double check your locks and make sure that your doors and windows are locked at night before you go to bed.

They are some of the simplest – but most important – things you can do this year to stay safe.

We've still got February and March to get through this winter weather-wise so keep warm and wrap up when you go out. Now's the time to help your elderly and less-able neighbours clear the snow – if we get any this winter - as well.

You might want to check on them from time to time if you can. It's good to know that someone is looking out for you and there may be a time in the future when you will be grateful of having such good neighbours too.

Lynn

Take a peek inside this issue

Protect your home
with ERA 3*
Fortress Cylinder

Flood Advice from
our sponsor Co-op
Insurance

Surprise award for
Cleveland's Mike

Patron Peter
James supports
police officers and
their families

Get Safe Online
recommends tips
for safe online
dating

Crime might be down, but don't rest on your laurels!



Surprisingly, the ERA Home Security Survey revealed almost half of UK householders don't routinely lock their front door when they leave their home. As a member of the Neighbourhood Watch, you're already security-savvy when it comes to protecting your own property – but you can always do more – call it belts and braces, or going the extra security mile, these simple tips will ensure that any chance burglar will give your property a wide berth!

- **Burglary types are changing all the time** – we recently heard about an older lady in Loughborough who was duped into thinking that a man was from the water company, while he distracted her an accomplice ransacked her house, stealing precious belongings and cash. If you have a vulnerable neighbour or family member, talk to your local Master Locksmiths Association Approved locksmith about installing additional security measures, things like a Door Intercom will give peace of mind knowing they can check who's at the door before opening it.
- **Copy-cat Keys!** ERA's survey revealed that we all have multiple keys, many of us don't even know how many of our house keys are in circulation. If you've moved into your property in the last few months – change your locks – past cleaners, gardeners, next door neighbours might all have access to your house without you even realising.
- **Cylinder Caution** – the British Standard that applies to the cylinder on your front door has changed a lot in recent years – the best security for your front door to guard against cylinder bumping, snapping, drilling and picking is certified to British Standards and will have 3 stars on it and will look like this:

It takes a few seconds to look at your cylinder on your front door, if you don't have three stars – make it a priority job to change your cylinder. You can watch the ERA 'how to change a door cylinder' video here, or if you're not sure contact your local MLA Approved Locksmith who can offer you professional advice on a replacement and in a short amount of time you can protect your property from a common break in.

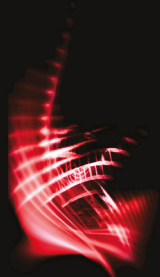


This month we've got **TEN ERA 3* British Standard Fortress cylinders** to give away to Neighbourhood Watch Scheme members. To enter our free prize draw, visit www.erahomesecurity.com/NHWcompetition.

Our home security partner ERA has teamed up with the Master Locksmiths Association to offer free home security surveys nationwide

Securing Britain's homes since 1838, ERA is working with the Master Locksmiths Association to give homeowners across the UK access to security experts who can make an assessment of individual properties and give advice tailored to each and every home. Members of the Master Locksmiths Association work within the very latest home security guidelines and every member is vetted, inspected and qualified to come into your home.

To find your nearest ERA Approved MLA Partner that can complete your free home security survey, please click to visit the ERA website.



News from our sponsor

Co-op Insurance



Flood Advice

Earlier this month thousands of people were being evacuated from homes and properties along the eastern coast of England amid severe flood warnings due to a storm surge, whilst many more are preparing for challenging weather conditions. Our partners Co-op Insurance were proactively contacting customers who were at risk during the warnings.

Jonathan Guy, Head of Claims at Co-op Insurance, says:

“If a flood does happen, we would urge people not to do anything that puts them personally at risk, such as trying to drive in flood waters.

“Possessions can be replaced, but people can’t.”



Co-op Insurance’s advice on what to do before a storm:

- If you have been told to evacuate, ensure that you do so and remove yourself from potentially life threatening situations
- Make sure you have emergency contact numbers in a safe place i.e. insurance claims number and policy number, local authority and utility company contact details
- If you are in a flood risk area, if possible move your car to higher ground where flooding is less likely – don’t drive as the flood hits as this is potentially dangerous
- Move any valuable or essential items in your property upstairs
- Unplug all your electrical items in case of any power surges
- Know where to switch off your utilities at the mains – gas, electricity and water
- Back up computers and switch them off to avoid losing any sentimental items e.g. photographs
- If you lose power, have a torch at the ready instead of candles as these could pose a fire hazard
- Have a storm kit ready including any essential items such as blanket, torch, water and easy to eat non-perishable foods
- Keep pets warm and indoors



News about our sponsor Co-op Insurance



10% off Home Policies for Neighbourhood Watch Members*

As you know, our sponsor Co-op Insurance is working with us to help make our communities safer and has pledged to help create 30,000 new schemes between now and the end of 2019.

As a member of Neighbourhood Watch you'll already be doing your bit to keep your local community safe and, to mark our partnership, Co-op Insurance has an exclusive offer for all active Neighbourhood Watch members – 10% off home insurance policies for those who are new customers.

To get a quote for your home insurance, simply call the Co-op Insurance contact centre on 0800 781 1390 and quote the unique code NHW10. Terms and conditions apply.*

Bags more...



£50
of Co-op
Food vouchers
when you buy a
combined buildings
and contents policy.
T&Cs apply**

And, as well as the exclusive 10% offer for Neighbourhood Watch members between 20th September 2016 and 31 March 2017, all new customers buying a combined home buildings and contents policy directly from Co-op Insurance can benefit from their Bags More offer. Terms and conditions apply.**

*Neighbourhood Watch 10% Discount Offer - General Terms

All new Co-op Insurance customers who are active members of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and purchase a home insurance policy directly from Co-op Insurance over the phone before 31 March 2017 will receive a 10% discount for the first year of their policy. Policies must start on or before the 30 April 2017. In order to claim this offer you will need to telephone our customer contact centre for a quote, and give the adviser the unique code. A new customer is someone who has not had another home policy with Co-op Insurance for the same address within the last 12 months. An active member of a valid Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is someone who is designated as such by Neighbourhood Watch. The terms and conditions of this promotion do not alter or vary the terms and conditions of any Co-op Insurance home policy which may be purchased. Applications are subject to our normal terms and conditions including our underwriting criteria. We reserve the right to decline any application for any insurance policy in our absolute discretion and we are not obliged to disclose any reason for rejection. The Promoter reserves the right to withdraw, modify or terminate this offer in whole or in part in the event that it is necessary to do so. Please see [Exclusions and Limitations](#) for full terms and conditions.

** Bags More - Terms and conditions

£50 worth of Co-op Food vouchers available to new customers who purchase a home combined buildings and contents insurance policy direct from Co-op Insurance between the 29/12/2016 and 20/04/2017. Policies must start before the 20/05/2017. One set of vouchers per policy, vouchers are redeemable in any Co-op Food store. Policies from price comparison sites and cashback sites are excluded. Customers who have had another policy of the same type from Co-op Insurance within the last 12 months are not eligible to receive this offer. Your policy must be in force for a minimum of 30 days in order to qualify for the offer; you should expect to receive your vouchers up to 90 days after your policy start date. For full terms and conditions and details of how to redeem, visit coop.co.uk/bagsmore. Promoter: Co-op Insurance (29999R), registered office: Miller Street, Manchester, M60 0AL.

Surprise award for Cleveland's Mike

A Neighbourhood Watch coordinator from Cleveland has been honoured by his local Police and Crime Commissioner.

Mike Barnes (right) was presented with a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator of the Year award from Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, Barry Coppinger (left).

Mike was busy chairing the AGM of Cleveland Neighbourhood Watch Association when Mr Coppinger surprised him with a visit and presented Mike with his award.

"I couldn't go to the awards ceremony which was held at night but was surprised and delighted to be recognised. It's fantastic but it's not really about me but the many other people involved in Neighbourhood Watch locally who have done so much to help."

Mike who is 73 and married to wife Nancy, is coordinator for Loftus and East Cleveland and he also chairs the Cleveland Neighbourhood Watch Association.

The annual Cleveland Community Safety Awards were presented to police officers, staff and members of the public at a recent ceremony for their outstanding dedication and commitment to looking after their communities.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, Barry Coppinger said: "The awards give us the chance to come together and celebrate the success of those making a real difference for others and recognise the contribution of people that are working tirelessly every day to keep our communities safe and these awards are our opportunity to recognise their outstanding achievements."

Mike's citation for the award reads: "The nomination from Redcar and Cleveland goes to a dedicated and conscientious Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, who gives his time freely in order to promote the safety of his community. He attends numerous community events to provide crime prevention equipment and neighbourhood watch information to local residents and can always be relied upon to spread the word regarding crime prevention in the local community. He has recently taken on the role of Chair of the Cleveland Neighbourhood Watch Committee and works tirelessly to promote Neighbourhood Watch across the local area."



Has your area received an award for its good work? Share your good news with
Our News email: lisa.parker@ourwatch.org.uk

Patron Peter James supports police officers and their families in Sussex

Neighbourhood Watch Patron and best-selling, crime thriller writer Peter James is making a real difference to support police officers and their families in Sussex.

Peter presented a cheque for £10,000 to Ch Supt Di Roskilly chair of the Sussex Police Charitable Trust earlier this month.

Peter said: "All year round I raise money for a number of charities I support, through donating my fees from events I do, and occasionally auctioning names in my books on behalf of the charities.

"Sussex Police has always been enormously supportive to me, and I try every year to give something back to them, in any way I can. Our police do an extraordinary and often difficult job, and I believe they are a major part of the glue that holds civilised life together. We need them more than ever in the difficult times our world is facing."

The Trust offers a helping hand to Sussex Police officers, staff, special constables, pensioners and dependant family members in their hour of need.



Peter, is best known for his international best-selling *Roy Grace* titles which have sold 16 million copies worldwide as well as stand-alone titles such as *The House on Cold Hill* and *Perfect People*. His novella, *The Perfect Murder* has been adapted for the stage and is currently touring the UK.

Peter said: "Almost every police officer I have ever met has told me at some point in his or her career, their life has been on the line. They are not highly paid and they are not superhuman, and they sometimes go through the difficult times and personal tragedies as we all do. I am very proud to have been made co-patron, along with the Chief Constable, of this wonderful organisation, the Sussex Police Charitable Trust, which does incredible work for our local police."



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With Valentine's Day approaching it's worth taking a minute to remember that "romance fraud" is a modern menace for those looking for love.



While the shops may be filled with hearts and chocolates, online dating fraud in the UK cost victims a heart-breaking £27 million in 2015 according to Neighbourhood Watch partners Action Fraud and Get Safe Online.

Thousands of online dating related crimes were reported to Action Fraud last year with the average loss standing at £10,000. However, the actual number of crimes is thought to be considerably higher, with victims not reporting many cases owing to embarrassment.

City of London Police's Commander Chris Greany, the Police National Coordinator for Economic Crime said: "Romance fraudsters are using every method available to exploit people looking for love - including dating websites, social media and direct emails. These heartless criminals will specifically target those who they deem to be vulnerable and most likely to fall for their scams. Our intelligence tells us that people aged 50-59 are the most likely to become a victim of dating fraud and therefore need to be especially careful when going online in search of a partner.

"Key advice to follow which will help you stay safe includes never sending funds to someone you have never met. If you're in two minds always consult with a trusted friend or family member who will be able to view the situation objectively and provide another opinion on the situation.

He added: "It is also very important that if you think you are being targeted or have been a victim of dating fraud to report to Action Fraud. Sharing this information will help us identify and track down these heartless criminals who have absolutely no regard for people's emotional or financial well being". Almost two thirds (62%) of all victims are aged between 40-69 accounting for £16 million of the total losses. People aged between 50-59 are the most likely victims accounting for a quarter of all frauds and losing just over £6 million.

Almost two thirds (64%) of all romance scams originated on dating sites, followed by social media (25%) and 10% via email. Only 2% of reported dating frauds originated via contact made on dating apps.



Tell-tale signs your online date may be a fraudster:

- They want to communicate with you through instant messaging and texts, rather than through the dating website or chat room where you met.
- They ask you lots of questions about yourself, but don't tell you much about themselves.
- They don't answer basic questions about where they live and work.
- Their profile picture is too perfect – for example they look like an actor or Miss World titleholder.

They start asking you to send them money using a number of different scenarios such as:

- Claiming to be military personnel based overseas who require funds for flights home or early discharge from the forces
- Citing medical related issues they need money for such as a sudden need for surgery, either for the fraudster or the fraudster's family member
- They've arranged to visit you but need money to pay travel costs

Get Safe Online recommends the following tips to make sure you're safe dating online:

- ✓ Trust your instincts - if you think something feels wrong, it probably is.
- ✓ Choose a site that will protect your anonymity until you choose to reveal personal information and that will enforce its policies against inappropriate use
- ✓ Do not post personal information, such as phone numbers, on dating sites.
- ✓ Never send money or give credit card or online account details to anyone you don't know and trust.
- ✓ Wait until you feel comfortable with an individual before telling them things like your phone number, place of work or address.
- ✓ Be extremely wary about removing clothes or doing other things in front of your webcam that could be used against you - even if you think you know the other party.
- ✓ Use a dating site that offers the ability to email prospective dates using a service that conceals both parties' true email addresses.
- ✓ Set up a separate email account that does not use your real name.
- ✓ Pick a user name that does not include any personal information. For example, "joe_glasgow" or "jane_liverpool" would be bad choices.
- ✓ Finally, meet for the first few times in a safe place with plenty of people around, and tell a family member or friend where you are.

To report a fraud and receive a police crime reference number, call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or use their online fraud reporting tool. For further advice on how to stay safe online go to www.GetSafeOnline.org.



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*£64.00 at www.patlock.co.uk

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