



# OUR NEWS

FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES

**Hello! Welcome to the December edition of OUR NEWS.** As we gear up for the Christmas break, we still have lots going on in these last few weeks of the year. We are pleased to be hosting our final webinar of 2021, **Counter-Terrorism Policing and Community Vigilance: Action Counters Terrorism**, on 9th December. The webinar is now fully booked, but we encourage you to visit [ourwatch.org.uk/webinars](http://ourwatch.org.uk/webinars) to watch recordings of previous webinars that you might have missed. We will be hosting more informative webinars in 2022, so keep an eye out!

Our **Volunteer Hub** is going from strength to strength, with more Coordinators signing up and enjoying the benefits of easy-access support, resources, training and forums. We've been receiving great feedback from Coordinators throughout England and Wales.

We are making great steps forward in our commitment to ensuring **young people** are represented in the Neighbourhood Watch movement and that we are a key link for how they connect with their community and address issues

around crime that matter to them. We ran our first Student Council in partnership with Co-op Insurance, involving 10 students from across the country; launched our first edition of [The Lookout](#) magazine on university campuses; and are currently recruiting for a [Young Person's Development Worker](#).



After what has been another challenging year, I hope the current concerns are well managed and that you can enjoy the festive period with your loved ones. With next year being our **40th anniversary**, I am especially looking forward to a better, or even a great, 2022.

All the best,

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

## DID YOU KNOW...

Since 2015, Neighbourhood Watch supporters have bought 6,530 **Patlock** products, which has raised **£45,710** for Neighbourhood Watch.

Most of this has been passed on or ring-fenced for local Associations. Going forward, money raised will be used for the **Neighbourhood Watch Community Grants Fund**, which Associations and groups can apply for.

The current Autumn round is now open, with a **deadline of 17th December 2021**. If you have a project that you'd like to apply for, please visit [ourwatch.org.uk/communitygrants](http://ourwatch.org.uk/communitygrants) to read all the application criteria and guidance.

**Many thanks to Patlock for this generous support. To order a Patlock at the Neighbourhood Watch discounted rate of £42.50 go to [www.patlock.co.uk/neighbourhood-watch](http://www.patlock.co.uk/neighbourhood-watch)**

## NEIGHBOUR OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2021

We were inundated with nominations for this year's Neighbour of the Year Awards and, together with Co-op Insurance, we would like to say a huge heartfelt thank you to everyone who nominated their special neighbour or community.

The **quality of entries was outstanding** and the judges had a hard time choosing who should be crowned the winners. We will be **announcing our winners in our Christmas message!**



Neighbour of the Year Awards 2021

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## ERA and Neighbourhood Watch celebrate 5 year partnership

**We are proud to announce that we are continuing our relationship with ERA, one of the UK's leading home security and fenestration component providers, into 2022.**

Having renewed our partnership with ERA as our primary smart security sponsor, we demonstrate our vital role in making communities safer. Through their committed support, ERA continues to show their dedication to helping homeowners enhance their security through product innovation, improving standards, and expert advice and support.

Since 2016, ERA has supplied homeowners with a range of Neighbourhood Watch supported products, including window and door security hardware, alongside the intelligent ERA Protect ecosystem of smart alarms, security cameras, video doorbells and accessories.

John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch, commented: *"With over 180 years' experience in manufacturing traditional mechanical security solutions and now smart security systems, ERA has provided us with exclusive support and insight over the last five years into how we can help homeowners improve their security to ensure local communities feel safe and secure.*

*"We are delighted to announce the extension of our partnership with this leading British brand*

*and over the next year, we will be working closely to ensure members and homeowners have access to the very best crime prevention and security advice."*

Helen Downer, UK and Ireland President of ERA's parent company, Tyman plc, commented: *"Neighbourhood Watch has unparalleled reach with communities across England and Wales, and we are extremely proud to be supporting them by providing members with exclusive advice and access to innovative security products that offer maximum protection and peace of mind.*

*"ERA has been developing total security solutions that deliver on both quality and functionality since 1838. The continued partnership with Neighbourhood Watch reflects our ongoing commitment to increasing awareness of crime prevention and equipping homeowners with the products and knowledge to live in safer communities."*

Throughout 2022, ERA will be working in close collaboration with us as it expands its ERA Protect smart security ecosystem, a new customer-facing website, and introduces new locking and hardware solutions.

Visit [eraprotect.com](http://eraprotect.com) to find pre-Christmas deals on products.

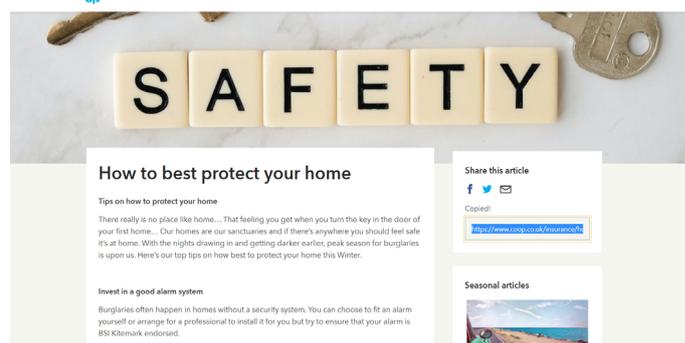
# ERA

## Co-op and ERA join forces to best protect your home

**We are thrilled to have introduced two of our key partners, Co-op Insurance and ERA, in our mission to help you and your neighbours better protect your homes.**

From burglary prevention advice to security products and home insurance, Co-op and ERA are as committed as Neighbourhood Watch to keeping you and your community safe and protected.

Co-op and ERA have published a joint blog piece on HOW TO BEST PROTECT YOUR HOME. To read it in full [click here](#).



## Scamnesty is back throughout December

Due to the success of last year's campaign, the Friends Against Scams team are once again running a Scamnesty campaign throughout December!

**Scamnesty is a scam mail amnesty with the aim of encouraging everyone in the UK to have a chat with their loved ones about scams and to send any scam or unwanted mail into the team, free of charge!**

The National Trading Standards (NTS) Scams Team investigate postal, telephone and doorstep scams. They also run an initiative called 'Friends Against Scams', which aims to raise awareness of scams through online sessions.

If you, or someone you know, receives a scam or nuisance mail, the NTS Scams Team Investigators want to see it! They already use the mail that

they receive from Scam Marshals to great effect through their disruption techniques, but the team would like to see more and put a stop to these mailings landing on consumers' doorsteps.

For more information about Friends Against Scams and how you can get involved in taking a stand against scams, head to [friendsagainstscams.org.uk](https://friendsagainstscams.org.uk).

**Send any scam post to: NTSST, FREEPOST, MAIL MARSHALS (no stamp needed)**



## Which streets do you feel unsafe in?

**Are there streets near you where you don't feel safe? Do you avoid an alley or pathway at night because of poor lighting or encroaching bushes blocking the view? Does the sight of graffiti or abandoned vehicles in a particular area make you feel unsafe? Has the behaviour of others in an area caused you concern, e.g. being followed or verbally abused?**

Even if a crime has not been committed, your safety and wellbeing is being affected. Now you can report it, anonymously, via StreetSafe, so that something can be done about it.

StreetSafe is a service provided across England and Wales by the Police on the [police.uk](https://police.uk) website, to enable you to report streets in your neighbourhood where you don't feel safe, and identify the reasons for concern.

Using the reporting webform is simple and quick. All reports in a particular area can be accessed by your local police team, who will liaise with the local council, where necessary, on the actions to improve street safety. Street lighting can be added, overgrown hedges can be cut back, or the police can set up foot patrols at particular times of the day or night.

StreetSafe is not for reporting an actual crime – it is for **reporting your concerns** about your local environment or the behaviour of groups or individuals in a particular area and its impact on your wellbeing and the safety of you and other residents.

To access the service visit [police.uk/pu/notices/streetsafe/street-safe/](https://police.uk/pu/notices/streetsafe/street-safe/).

To learn more about the service watch our [StreetSafe webinar recording](#) or a [short video from Martin Stillwell, Chairman of Surrey Neighbourhood Watch Association](#).



#ShopKind this season



'tis the season  
to #ShopKind

CrimeStoppers.



This Christmas we are supporting the #ShopKind campaign which urges kindness to shopworkers and consumers in stores, as new polling reveals that over one third of shoppers (38%) have witnessed violence and abuse against shopworkers.

The #ShopKind campaign urges the public to be mindful of shopworkers' essential role serving the public, and emphasises that workers should be treated with respect, kindness and gratitude. Over 86% of shoppers recognise

that shopworkers face a much higher workload during the Christmas period, but there remains a minority of people that are aggressive and, in the worst cases, physically violent towards people working in shops.

If you have any information about someone who is abusive or violent towards retail workers, please let Crimestoppers know 100% anonymously on freephone 0800 555 111 or by completing a simple and secure anonymous online form at [crimestoppers-uk.org](https://crimestoppers-uk.org).



#ShopKind is supported by...



## Park Hall Area Neighbourhood Watch (PHANW) are the eyes and the ears of their community



The group now has more than 1,000 of its members using six coordinated WhatsApp groups set up to allow residents to communicate with each other.

Members are often at the scene within seconds of a message flashing up on their phones to provide reassurance for fellow residents as well as gathering vital information for the police.

The group, who made national headlines in May 2018 when they helped chase down and catch a suspected burglar, rushed to support Councillor Waheed Rasab when raiders smashed their way into his home taking thousands of pounds worth of jewellery and cash.

[Read the full story here.](#)

Bally Sohal and Amit Verma of PHANW

## Knowledge Hub a success

The Knowledge Hub is an online platform, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, providing induction, support, training, forums, and other resources for active Neighbourhood Watch volunteers.

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators in most areas have been invited to apply for access to the Knowledge Hub. We will have over 500 people using the Hub by the end of 2021.

We are excited that so many of our volunteers have responded to this opportunity, and we'd love to see even more! We're aiming to launch the Hub to Coordinators in all remaining areas by the end of January 2022.

If you are a Coordinator and you would like to see if the Hub is available in your area, go to [ourwatch.org.uk/knowledge-hub](http://ourwatch.org.uk/knowledge-hub), where you'll see a list of the areas which have been invited so far. If your area is on the list, you should have received a message inviting you to apply for access via the Alert system. Please check your junk mail if you haven't yet seen it!

You can also sign up directly using the link on the same page. Please note that if your area is not yet on the list, you'll get an email asking you to be patient for a little longer until we get to you.

Get in touch with [volunteer@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@ourwatch.org.uk) if you have any questions.

*"The Knowledge Hub is an excellent source of information and support, empowering those involved in Neighbourhood Watch to maximise its' potential."* Coordinator, Avon and Somerset

*"I am especially glad to see how the different groups work together. Thank you."* Coordinator, Gloucester

*"Really good, its simple, easy to navigate and well laid out. For an engaged Neighbourhood Watch Volunteer this is perfect - freeing up the general website"* Coordinator, Norfolk

*"It's clear and easy to navigate. Lots of potential help not just from the support teams but from other Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers. Looking forward to seeing it grow."* Coordinator, Greater Manchester



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



## #AllMenCan - Ending men's violence against women

Neighbourhood Watch is proud to be supporting White Ribbon Day - an annual campaign led by the charity White Ribbon UK – as part of a global movement to end men's violence against women.

White Ribbon Day was on 25th November and is being followed by 16 days of action – so there's still time for you to get involved.

We are asking you to come together in your communities, organisations and workplaces, to say 'no' to violence against women and make the White Ribbon Promise **to never commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women.**

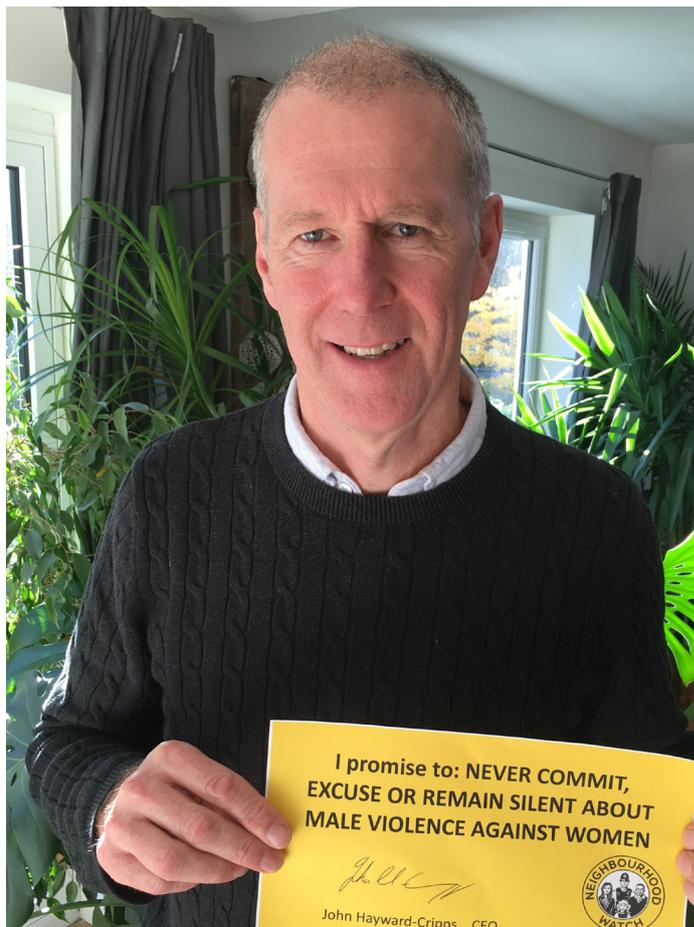
#AllMenCan is the leading message for this year's campaign, developed in March when the murder of Sarah Everard brought women's experience of men's violence to the forefront of everyone's minds and opened up conversations about men taking personal action and making a stand. In particular, as many men as possible are being asked to think carefully and make the White Ribbon Promise.

### Ways you can support the campaign:

- **Make the promise** and share a picture of you holding the printed signed promise
- Encourage your friends, family, colleagues and neighbours to **make the promise**
- **Put an article** in your local community newsletter about the campaign
- **Be active on social media.** Follow White Ribbon UK and spread the word using #WhiteRibbon #AllMenCan #MakeThePromise and share the digital campaign resources until 11th December. These can be downloaded [here](#)
- [Display the White Ribbon Promise Poster](#) (available in English and Welsh)

Do let us know what you are doing by emailing [enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk) and share on social media.

To make a longer term commitment and find out more about becoming a White Ribbon accredited or supporter organisation [click here](#).



*Our Chief Executive, John Hayward-Cripps, makes the White Ribbon promise*

Having a safe online Christmas is about much, much more than just shopping. Read our top tips.

#safechristmas



[www.getsafeonline.org/safechristmas](http://www.getsafeonline.org/safechristmas)

## Christmas Plus One

We are supporting Together UK's first ever Christmas Plus One campaign. This year, can you (within Covid-19 guidelines) reconnect with someone who might be feeling lonely, a neighbour you haven't met yet, or someone you helped during lockdown and give them a Plus One to your Christmas plans?

Let's celebrate #ChristmasTogether. Find out more at [together.org.uk/christmasplusone](https://together.org.uk/christmasplusone).

Bring a PLUS ONE this Christmas



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# Ransomware, scams taking advantage of new habits, and fleeceware among the top threats of 2021

The pandemic has changed nearly every aspect of everyone's lives, and that includes the cybercrime world too.

Attackers' methods are becoming more sophisticated. They are using techniques that make their campaigns harder to spot. They are also carrying out more personalised attacks while adding new spins on tried-and-tested techniques, like social engineering. Here our Cyberhood Watch partner, Avast, takes a look at the most prevalent cyberthreats of 2021.

## Ransomware, Sextortion and Scams

Cybercriminals used the pandemic to their advantage throughout 2021, spreading scams and phishing campaigns to exploit people's new online habits, responsibilities, and eagerness for Covid-related updates and information on vaccine rollout programmes.

They also launched ransomware attacks targeting consumers and critical infrastructure, including hospitals. Globally, Avast observed a 38% increase in ransomware attacks targeting consumers between June and October compared to the first five months of the year (January-May).

In early 2021, Avast researchers saw a surge in sextortion scams, blocking over 500,000 attacks. These scams took advantage of the increased use of video conferencing services during the Covid-19 pandemic, falsely claiming to have accessed user devices and their integrated cameras.

People in several countries also received SMS messages linking to a banking Trojan called "FluBot", which impersonates parcel delivery companies in order to steal credentials and other personal data. Tech Support Scams (TSS), delivered as pop-ups or websites, were also widespread. TSS trick victims into believing their computer has been infected by malware and that they must call a technical support hotline to resolve the issue. However, these hotlines are run by cybercriminals who attempt to gain remote access to the device with the goal of stealing financial information.

In general, phishing attacks continued to increase during 2021. Consumers remain the primary target, with the chances of encountering an attack growing by 20% between June to October.

## Mobile threats continued to spread and diversify with lockdown restrictions

Adware is still the most significant threat on Android phones and tablets. Globally, 54.7% of mobile threats detected from January to September were adware. Fake apps came in second at 10%, banking Trojans in third at 9.6%, followed by downloaders (7.5%) and spyware (2.3%).

Fleeceware apps also proved to be a serious concern to users in 2021. Avast discovered more than 200 new fleeceware applications on the Apple App Store and the Google PlayStore. These apps promised free trials but ended up extracting money from their users through subscription services.

## Looking back

Michal Salát, Threat Intelligence Director at Avast, says "Cybercriminals kept up many of their tricks this year, using social engineering to spread malware to get their hands on people's money, abusing technology such as stalkerware to violate people's privacy or deceiving vulnerable audiences into paying for fleeceware apps or unneeded tech support."

Michal concludes "We are seeing increasing online harms that affect how people experience the digital world. Attackers' methods are becoming more sophisticated and everyone is being targeted, from everyday users to hospitals and oil pipelines to food companies globally. We hope by raising awareness around what we observed this year, we can help prevent people from falling victim in 2022."

To find out more about Neighbourhood Watch and Avast's joint programme, Cyberhood Watch, to tackle cybercrime, visit [avast.com/uk-cyberhood#pc](https://www.avast.com/uk-cyberhood#pc).



# Avast