

»»» SEPTEMBER 2023 «««



# OUR NEWS

FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES



Durham & Darlington Watch's summer fayre

## What's happening this month?

### »»» Read more...

With summer drawing to a close and the darker nights creeping in, now is a good time to ensure your home is secure as possible. However, you don't need to spend a fortune to protect your home...

## How to protect your home as darker nights creep in

P3 & 4

### Read more... «««

Neighbourhood Watch offers Community Grants funding to support our passionate and dedicated volunteers who donate their time, skills and experience to help make their communities safer, more connected, and vibrant. We hear from local groups who've used their grants and share the impact!

## What impact have our Community Grants had?

P5 & 6

# Burglary prevention - think WIDE(N)

## »»» Guidance on protecting your home and preventing burglary

Want to protect your home? Think WIDE(N): Windows, Interior, Doors, Exterior, (Neighbours) to have the best possible protection against burglary.

Research\* shows that a set combination of security actions provides up to 50 times more protection for your home versus no security. A combination of WIDE actions is the most effective and recommended by police throughout the country. **Additionally, at Neighbourhood Watch, we believe neighbours keeping an eye out for each other is also key to preventing burglary.**

**Windows:** Lock your windows

**Interior:** Put your interior lights on a timer

**Doors:** Double or deadlock your doors

**Exterior:** Put your exterior lights on a sensor

**(N)eighbours:** Keep an eye out for neighbours

## »»» What are they looking for? How you can protect your home...

Opportunity plays a big role in enabling crimes to be committed, particularly burglaries. Criminals will look for homes that:

- seem unoccupied
- have little or no apparent security
- have doors or windows left open, or
- where they think they won't be seen.

As a general rule, if it looks like there is someone inside, the burglar is likely to go elsewhere. A home in a dilapidated state will seem easier to break into, so a simple deterrent might be **tidying up a garden**, or **repainting doors and window frames**.



## »»» Download our checklist

As with all types of crime, prevention is much better than cure. Taking simple measures, such as locking your windows, leaving indoor lights on a timer, double or deadlocking your doors, and having exterior lights on sensors, can significantly reduce your chances of being burgled. [Click to download our useful burglary prevention checklist](#) to double-check you have left your home safe when you walk out your front door.

**[Visit our website to learn more about protecting your home against burglary.](#)**

# How to protect your home as darker nights creep in

With summer drawing to a close and the darker nights creeping in, **now is a good time to ensure your home is as secure as possible.** However, you don't need to spend a fortune to protect your home. From affordable visual deterrents and low-cost gadgets, to taking simple and proactive steps, **leading home security provider, ERA**, shares its recommendations below.

# ERA

## Simple upgrades to your front door security



With 67% of burglars entering homes via a door\*, it is important to make sure your front door offers optimum protection. A simple and affordable way to improve the security of your front door is to update your existing locks with a high security cylinder.

ERA's British Standard 3\* Euro Profile Cylinder offers protection against picking, drilling, bumping, snapping, and extraction. It has also received Sold Secure Diamond status and has been accredited by Secured by Design's Police Preferred Specification scheme, so you can be assured that your front door has maximum resistance to forced entry.

## Consider a smart video doorbell



CCTV is one of the biggest deterrents for burglars, however, installing a full CCTV system can require significant investment. A video doorbell, such as the ERA Protect Smart Home Video Doorbell, provides a cost-effective alternative solution, allowing you to record footage from your front door, deterring potential intruders.

If you're looking to enhance your security further, ERA offer a range of pre-made smart security kits to suit your budget and property size, ranging from a 5-piece bundle, priced at £129, through to an extensive 14-piece bundle, which includes three cameras.

\*<https://www.theecoexperts.co.uk/home-security/burglary-statistics>

### ➤➤➤ Install door and window sensors

Window and door sensors provide a simple and low-cost solution to protecting the main entry points of your home. Priced at £24.99, ERA's Wireless Windows and Doors Alarm Sensor triggers an alarm as soon as it detects unauthorised entry, sending a notification to you via the smart phone app.



### ➤➤➤ Make it look as though someone is home

If your property is unoccupied, another trick to deter burglars is to make it look as though somebody is home, and one of the easiest ways to do this is by lighting the inside of your home. By using timers or smart plugs, you can set a small lamp to come on as the evening sets in, helping to light up the home but prevent wasted energy by leaving the lights on all day.

[Read more about our partnership with ERA here](#)

# Shut The Gate!

A self-close, locked gate is your first line of defence



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\*Warranty conditions vary according to gate or door application & usage. See full Warranty details & limitations on D&D Technologies' website.

## Job vacancy - apply now

We are currently looking for a **Project Manager** to be based in **Leicestershire**. This is a fixed term contract for 12 months.

The role, working with Leicestershire Neighbourhood Watch, will support communities to be better connected. The successful applicant will be an expert in managing and getting the best from our volunteers.

It would best suit someone looking for a development role as the next step in their career, working closely with our central team and partners.

**Closing date: 13 September 11.59pm**  
[Click here for more information & to apply.](#)

# What impact have our Community Grants had?

## ***Phil Flack, Kingswood Area Neighbourhood Watch: OUR SPRING FAIR***

“We spent our grant on the hall hire for our spring fair, as well as printing costs for flyers, plant stalls, the raffle and tombola, Bric-a-brac (donated), cakes, children's games, cards and crafts. Everyone enjoyed a cuppa and a natter with their neighbours, and also a local councillor, a local dentist, and of course the local P.C.S.O.'s who were also there to register and inform residents how to register their bicycles to a scheme. This project greatly assists in allowing us to send out our quarterly newsletter to 522 houses within our Neighbourhood Watch area. The newsletter contains crime stats within our area, plus advice.”



## ***June Geddes, Spofforth:***

### **CAFÉ CHURCH, A COMMUNITY PROJECT BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER**

“Our application was for help to hold a monthly coffee morning with cakes provided by volunteers, giving people the opportunity to come together for refreshments and chatter. We were also able to receive prayers from Rev. Barbara Ryan on topical subjects where prayers are needed.”

The Grant meant we could guarantee the day each month to get together - the numbers attending are growing month on month and we had over 30 at our April morning. Loneliness is one of the legacies of Covid, so encouraging our senior citizens to meet up is making a difference - maybe it's the chocolate cake which brings them back! We have been able to secure a monthly slot in the Village Hall thanks to your funding, and we believe that the numbers will grow now that we have started a collection service by car for those who have difficulty walking. It is good to hear the chatter and laughter - a real medicine for us all.”

# What impact have our Community Grants had?

## ***Cheryl R and Michelle G, Nether Heage: CORONATION PARTY, and PIE AND PEA SUPPER***

“We held a Coronation party with Jack Sparrow (or close enough!), LoupyLou, Diana B-Tease, Tubbys munch box, sweet retreat, Coronation cakes, goody bags for the children, and so much more. The event was a huge success thanks to the Community Grant, with over 100 people attending and even East Midlands TV and Radio Derby holding live interviews. Our [full thank you letter can be found on our Facebook page](#), but a few shout outs include...”

*“Ripley Town Council for our party night, Neighbourhood Watch Network for our party night, Neighbourhood Watch Network the pie and pea supper, Councillor Moss Derbyshire County Council for our party night, The Spanker, Nether Heage for their raffle for our party night, The Spanker for a donation from their race night for our party night, and Morrisons Belper Community Champion for donating a few bags of sweets for the children’s goody bags.”*

## ***Richard Asbury, Lower Halstow: WARM SPACE EVENTS, SOUP DELIVERIES AND FOOD PARCELS***

“Our mission was to provide a warm space and soup to anyone struggling with the cost of living. This developed into a real social event that was all inclusive and attended by a spectrum of people. In engaging with the community, there were people struggling with the cost of living but also people feeling the loneliness of winter and seeking company and conversation. The Neighbourhood Watch volunteer team bonded and were praised by all for everything they did. We even had additional volunteers supporting the events and wanting to be involved in the team.”



# Making a 'Better Place to Live'

A 'better place to live' is, of course, what we would all like to achieve – whether it be making new friendships, looking after our environment, supporting our neighbours, reducing isolation and loneliness, or working together to reduce fear of and opportunities for crime. Our Better Place to Live campaign supports you to **register your members, be more active** and **grow your group**.

## »»» Why register your members?

The strength of our charity is that we are volunteer-led and have been embedded within communities for over 40 years. But times have changed and how we process data has changed. Like any membership organisation, **we ask volunteers and members to register**. Registered members will receive a New Member Welcome Pack from us by email and regular crime prevention advice. They can opt to receive further information from local organisations, such as the police.

[Click here to register.](#)

## »»» Why be more active?

By being more active and vocal within your community, not only does our charity become more visible, but more importantly **active groups are more effective at preventing crime, reducing loneliness and isolation**, and **building a more resilient community**.

Being more active also means you can hear additional concerns within your community, and members of the group can support each other more.

[Read our tips on how to be more active as a member, volunteer or coordinator.](#)

## »»» Why grow your group?

The vast majority of our members said that we are effective in preventing crime, contributing to community health and wellbeing, supporting the vulnerable and isolated, and strengthening community spirit. But we wanted to delve deeper to understand some of the barriers as to why more people don't get involved.

**This is where you come in!** These barriers are all easily overcome by chatting with your neighbours. And there is no better time to invite people to join your group than now. Together, you are able to not only celebrate the good times, but also support each other through the times such as the cost of living crisis.

**[Watch our 'Making a better place to video' and be inspired!](#)**