



OUR NEWS

NOVEMBER 2016 EDITION



What makes a good neighbour?

“This month I’ve been talking a lot about what neighbourliness really means. Our sponsor the Co-op Insurance has recently produced a report – *A portrait of the modern British community* - which received lots of media interest.

“During the many interviews I gave to support the Co-op’s report I was asked what makes a good neighbour?

“For me being a good neighbour is pretty simple. It’s taking the time to notice what’s going on in the place you live and caring enough to act on what you see.

“You don’t have to be best friends with your neighbours but taking in a parcel or pulling out a dustbin on collection day are small ways we can help show our neighbours that we care about the place we call home. Of course you don’t need to be a Neighbourhood Watch member to do this but joining a local scheme and showing it with signs and stickers shows you are doing your bit to keeping your neighbourhood a safe and good place to live.

“We’re delighted to have the support of the Co-op Insurance and our other sponsor ERA as we work together to make the Neighbourhood Watch movement more relevant in today’s changing society.

“Because our communities are changing as people lead busier lives, but people still care about the places they live. Everyone wants to live in a safe, friendly area and it starts with each one of us.

“It’s nice to be neighbourly, so give it a try, and get together. You might find out that you like them!”

Lynn

Chair of Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network

Take a peek inside this issue

Win ERA Wireless Video Door Intercom System

Reinvigorating NW in Wiltshire

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Co-op
Neighbourliness in Modern Britain.

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Do you know who's at your front door?

Whether it's door-step sellers or friends dropping by unannounced, it's always good to know who's on the other side of your front door. Our home security partner, ERA, has developed the ultimate doorbell that allows you to see exactly who's at the door, wherever you are in the house.

Simple to use and the perfect way to clearly see and talk to visitors without opening the door, we've got three ERA miChime CL3048 Wireless Video Door Intercom Systems to give away. With an outdoor camera and an indoor video handset, the intercom system enables you to see, hear and talk with whoever's at the door, conveniently and safely from within your home. As well as allowing you to have a two-way conversation with visitors to your home, for added security, the Auto Snapshot feature takes a photo of everyone who presses the doorbell.

With no wiring between the outdoor camera intercom/doorbell and indoor video handset, the miChime Wireless Video Door Intercom System is a quick and easy to install doorstep security solution.

To enter the prize draw to win one, visit:
www.erahomesecurity.com/NHWcompetition.



Secure your home this Christmas



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 house. 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.

ERA home security's innovative products have been keeping homes safe and secure in Britain for over 175 years. We are now looking for individuals to review our latest products and evaluate its features and benefits. If you're interested in reviewing our products please forward your details to info@erahomesecurity.com.

Event aims to reinvigorate NW in Wiltshire

Neighbourhood Watch in South Wiltshire is being given a new lease of life.

On Saturday, November 26, an open forum for people interested in finding out more is being held at the Five Rivers Leisure Centre in Salisbury from 2pm.

Mike Davidson, chairman of Wiltshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (WNHWA), said: "The theme of the forum is - Community Policing - Creating Safer Communities.

"We will be highlighting the importance of partnerships between our police, our councils and NHW members and coordinators in each community and we will discuss what our roles are to ensure safer communities.

"The police cannot ensure safe communities without the support of as many volunteers as we can reach through NHW.

"We will be talking about reinvigorating NHW in South Wiltshire and getting in contact with all the schemes that are being run in all the communities and opening new schemes with the help and support of the county association.

"We will also cover the most important initiative for



many years - the valuable and secure two-way email network of Community Messaging which is between the police and everyone that joins. It can be found at www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk."

The reinvigoration of Neighbourhood Watch has been timed to tie in with the roll-out of the new Community Policing Model.

"There are already volunteers within Neighbourhood Watch but we want to increase the level of activity by getting people to talk more to police and inform them on what's going on," Mr Davidson said.

"Anyone interested in taking part can come along to the forum, listen to the discussions, ask questions and hopefully get involved.

"We are looking for all age groups, particularly householders who have an interest in their own neighbourhood. Coordinators will receive support and advice from the association and there will be training courses available."

The WNHWA Open Forum for the South Wiltshire Police Area will feature Inspector Pete Sparrow as the main speaker explaining about the re-organised Community Policing Team.

Bake off delight in Derbyshire

Mary Berry eat your heart out!

Chesterfield & District Neighbourhood Watch baked delicious, home-made treats for those attending a multi-agency event in Chesterfield recently.

Pictured is Derbyshire Police & Crime Commissioner Hardyal Dhindsa sharing a lavender scone with Joye Dobbs, Project & Development Officer at Chesterfield & District Neighbourhood Watch.



New report from our partner the Co-op Insurance paints a portrait of neighbourliness in Modern Britain.



A new study from our partner Co-op Insurance has found that one in five Brits (19%) have been involved in a dispute with their neighbour in the last year. Almost half (46%) are still unresolved, whilst one in ten Brits have moved house to escape the dispute.

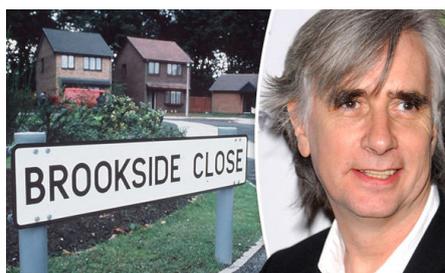
The report 'A portrait of the modern British community', provides a striking snapshot into neighbourliness and the changing shape of communities in 2016. Of those who have experienced nuisance neighbours, excessive noise was by far the biggest single cause of residential issues nationally, with over two fifths of Brits (41%) experiencing noise related issues, including stomping around the house, loud arguments and late night parties. Nearly one in four (22%) have suffered rude or abusive neighbours and a further 21% have had problems with barking dogs or wars over parking (19%).

Regionally, London and Birmingham has by far the highest number of neighbour issues, with a quarter (25%) of those questioned saying they have encountered some form of nuisance neighbour during the past year. The most harmonious place in Britain is **Milton Keynes**, with only 7% of those asked recording a dispute with their neighbour, compared with the national average of 20% - perhaps a legacy of its new town status? The research shows Brits' ideal neighbour would behave respectfully at all times and is the top trait that characterises a good neighbour (77%), followed by being tolerant and understanding of other residents' needs (75%). With 99% of the population having neighbours, you're almost sure to always find someone living next door, however nearly one in twenty (4%) Brits go a month without ever seeing their neighbour, whilst for 12% of Brits they wouldn't even know who their neighbours were if they bumped into them on their street.

Gone are the days when neighbours would have homely conversations over the garden fence or nip

round for a brew and a natter, as only one in five Brits (19%) have been invited round for a cup of tea. Surprisingly it's men who are most likely to have visited a neighbour's house, with over two-thirds (68%) admitting to stepping foot inside their neighbour's home, in comparison to 65% of females. A generation gap is also apparent as half of under 35s have never set foot inside a neighbour's house, in comparison to four out of five (77%) of over 55s who have.

We are of course a nation famed for our politeness but could our 'British reserve' actually be putting that polite reputation on the line? It would seem so, as less than 30% of Brits would go round and introduce themselves to new neighbours, with nearly half (48%) preferring to just bump into them, while one in six (16%) would do nothing and almost one in twenty (3%) would just ignore them completely. Although over 75s are more than twice as likely (48%) to introduce themselves compared to under 35-year-olds (20%).



Television producer Phil Redmond said: "When creating *Brookside*, *Hollyoaks* and *Grange Hill* each had at its heart

a sense of shared community, with *Brookside*, in particular, concentrating on how society was changing from the cosy 'coo-ee it's only me' world of neighbours popping into each other's houses for cups of sugar, as depicted by *Corrie* or *Emmerdale*. Life has continued to change and that cosy world has long gone, but unfortunately our soaps still seem to portray an outdated notion of neighbourhood life, as the Co-op Insurance research suggests British people are becoming increasingly isolated from their local communities, as more than half of the nation say they do not feel a part of a community."

*Research conducted by ICM Unlimited questioning 2,000 people in July 2016

Caring about our elderly neighbours

Fraud targeted at the elderly was among the main topics covered by Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne in her address to the Worthing Neighbourhood Watch Association at its recent AGM.



Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne pictured left.

She highlighted that with one in eight of us expected to reach 100 years of age by 2020, and one in six expected so to do by 2050, the percentage of elderly people within our communities will increase and it is they who are most vulnerable to criminal activity, especially as they are more likely to be better off. Research by the Sussex Elders Commission revealed that one in five elderly people were more afraid of the phone ringing than of being assaulted when outside their homes. Many older people are lonely and trusting. This makes it easier for fraudsters to “groom” them, via either telephone or the internet and the fraudsters are adept in the art of persuasion.

The meeting heard that one recent victim was a gentleman who held a PHD who was swindled out of his life savings of £500,000, which he was persuaded to invest in bogus mining operations and fake “fine wines”. He didn’t report the frauds and the police only found out about them through a neighbour and carer.

Kate Bourne revealed that on average 23,000 is being lost by Sussex victims and sadly people have been found at Beachy Head with the idea of committing suicide as a result of their losses. She went on to say that fraud against the elderly people is a form of elder abuse, which is defined as a single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person.

Katy Bourne is pressing for it to be made an aggravated offence, in line with racially or religiously motivated offences. She paid tribute to Neighbourhood Watch members in Sussex and said their help can help reduce the risk – a ten-minute chat on a regular basis with an elderly neighbour will go a long way towards achieving this.



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Are you ready for winter?

The cold weather of winter is coming. Are you prepared?

For some this can mean cosy nights in and walks in the countryside, but there are various risks that winter weather poses, and now's the time to plan ahead to make sure you're prepared.

New research by the Met Office found that a quarter of UK adults (23%) don't do anything at all to prepare for the weather changes and freezing temperatures, leaving millions of people vulnerable to accidents, and damage to their property and possessions.

They found that 76% of people didn't check their pipes are insulated (76%), whilst 66% did not have their boiler checked ahead of winter. And when it comes to travel, just 38% of people topped up the anti-freeze in their car.

And while it happens every year, more than nine out of ten adults (91%) underestimate just how cold British winters can be with the average minimum temperature in the UK in January being a chilly one degree Celsius. This may explain why 22% of adults confess to being inadequately dressed for the weather at least once a week during the winter months.

Cold temperatures can be harmful to your health and can lead to an increase in accidents. Four in ten



UK adults (40%) have had a winter-related accident which has caused injury. Most of those have injured themselves falling over during the winter but some have been blown over or hit by flying objects in high winds.

Winter can be a lonely and dangerous time for many – particularly those who are elderly or vulnerable. Just over a quarter (26%) of Brits already set a good example by checking in on older or vulnerable neighbours during winter, with others offering to clear paths or driveways in snowy conditions. Younger people are far less likely to check on elderly neighbours – just 13% of 18-24 year olds do, compared to 33% of those aged 55-64.

The Get Ready for Winter campaign aims to help raise awareness of the dangers posed by winter weather and provide tips and advice on how to minimise its impact. The campaign is run and implemented by the Met Office on behalf of a number of Government Departments with support from charities and other community based organisation.



To find out more about how to prepare for winter, including handy tips, head to the Met Office's Get Ready for Winter website: <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/get-ready-for-winter>.

Top tips for safe online shopping this Christmas

1. Use only reputable shopping sites which you know, or come recommended.
2. Remember that paying by credit card offers greater protection than with other methods.
3. Double check all details of your purchase before confirming payment.
4. Do not act on or reply to unsolicited emails from companies you don't recognise, don't click on links or open attachments in such emails.
5. Before entering payment card details on a website, ensure that the page is secure by checking that there is a padlock symbol in the browser window frame, the web address begins with 'https://' and the address bar or the name of the site owner turns green.
6. Do not make payment for goods when using an unsecured Wi-Fi connection, including those in public places like cafes, bars and hotel rooms.
7. Choose strong passwords and keep them to yourself.
8. Don't pay a company or individual not personally known to you by bank transfer, as if it's a fraud, the bank will not refund your money.
9. Always log out of shopping websites when you have completed your payment.
10. Keep receipts, and check credit card and bank statements
11. Always have effective and updated internet security software loaded and switched on.
12. Make sure new phones, tablets and other connected devices that you buy for yourself or as gifts, are protected by PIN, internet security software and if for children, parental controls.

If you do become a victim of fraud, report it to Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud reporting centre by calling 0300 123 20 40 or by visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk

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September issue
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