

»»» OCTOBER 2025 «««

OUR NEWS



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Neighbourhood Watch annual conference 2025

This year our annual conference was hosted online. Featuring sessions on neighbourhood policing and crime prevention. We shared the charity's new strategy, and celebrated the volunteer recognition awards.

Thanks to everyone who joined, our speakers and our sponsors Era and SimpliSafe who made the event possible.

Find event slides and videos on our website.

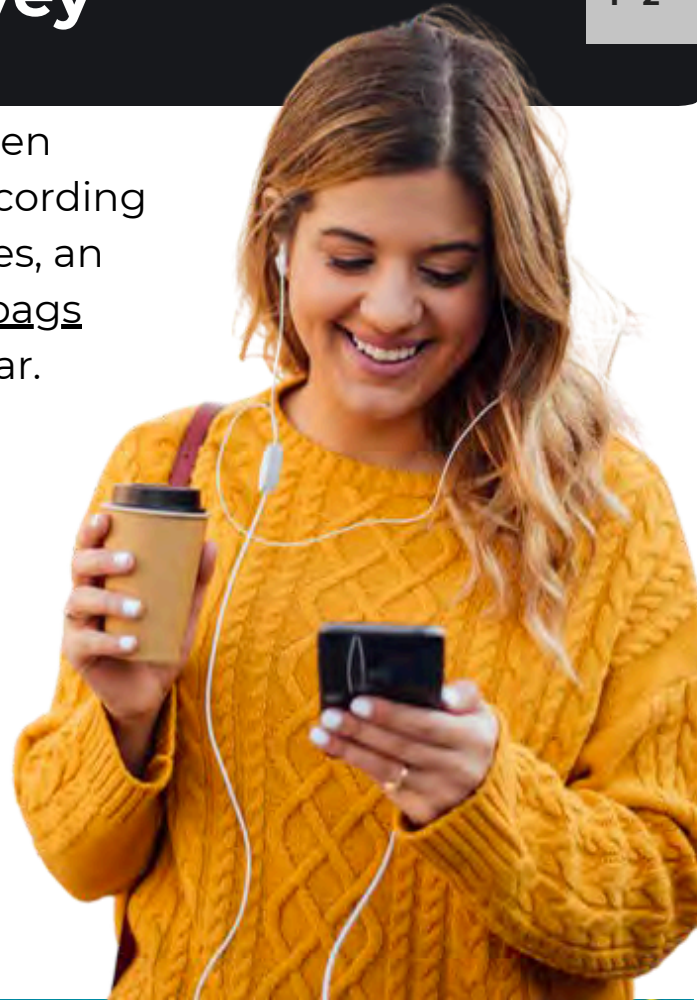


Mobile phone theft survey

Statistics show that phone thefts have been increasing, particularly in urban areas. According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales, an estimated 78,000 people had phones or bags snatched from them on the street last year.

That is a 153% increase on the number of incidents.

We are running a mobile phone theft survey to find out what your experiences and concerns are. Find out mobile phone [pages](#).



Do the survey

BURGLARY PREVENTION

STAY VIGILANT

Be cautious of unexpected cold callers at your door to avoid distraction burglaries. Don't let strangers inside your home, even if they appear to be from a reputable company.

SECURITY SYSTEMS

Consider investing in a home security system. Visible alarm boxes, security cameras, & video doorbells can deter thieves and alert you and your neighbours to suspicious activity.

LOCK UP

Before you leave the house, check that all doors and windows are closed and locked securely, even if you are only going to be out for a short while. Use additional locks and security devices where possible.

Most thefts are committed by opportunists who are looking for any weakness they can exploit. Prevention is key; with a few simple measures, you can reduce the chances of your home being targeted.

DON'T ADVERTISE YOUR BELONGINGS

Packaging from expensive purchases should be disposed of sensibly. Leaving packaging outside your home could potentially advertise desirable items at your property.

LIGHTING

Install outdoor lighting to increase visibility around your property. Timer switches on internal lights and radios give the appearance that someone is at home.

PLAN AHEAD

Make arrangements for your home to appear occupied when you are away. Cancel regular deliveries and ask a neighbour to check your letterbox remains clear. Consider letting a neighbour park on your driveway or outside your house.



Information provided
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PATLOCK™

Secure French doors and conservatories with PATLOCK

Patlock is the original, patented security solution for French doors, Patio doors and Conservatories, creating the ultimate visual deterrent against intruders.

Quick and easy to fit, Patlock simply slides over the existing door handles, securing in seconds with ratchet locking bars for instant security and peace of mind.

Securing internal handles to prevent external operation, keeping the door mechanism in the locked position, even if the lock is compromised.

- ✓ Instant French door security.
- ✓ The only French door lock recommended by UK Police Forces.
- ✓ No keys or number codes required.
- ✓ Easily fitted and released in seconds.
- ✓ Locks patio doors securely, designed to deter and stop intruders.

CLICK HERE  to purchase PATLOCK
at the Neighbourhood Watch
discounted price of
£42.50

Are you worried someone might be stalking you?

The Suzy Lamplugh Trust has an online [‘Am I being stalked?’ tool](#) which can help you understand your rights and take the next steps towards safety.

It can assist you with:

- Understanding the law on stalking and harassment in the UK
- How to document incidents
- How to report the behaviours to the police
- Accessing local services like advocacy, housing and mental health support

This tool can't confirm if you're being stalked, but it's a valuable first step to getting help. Reach out to the National Stalking Helpline for more guidance, support and personal safety advice on 0808 802 0300.



Victims of crime have received record compensation from criminal funds

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New figures released show that almost £50 million taken from criminals was returned to victims, a 165% increase on the previous year and the highest amount in over half a decade.

This comes as police recovered almost £300 million in criminal assets. Law enforcement agencies have robust tools to trace, seize, and recover assets acquired through illegal activities under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA). These assets can range from cash and property to vehicles and luxury items.

Criminal funds have also been reinvested to boost law enforcement's ability to secure our borders. This includes funding the cutting edge Multi Agency Cash Cell at the border, which brings together government and law enforcement agencies to disrupt the flow of criminal finance into the country. [Find out more.](#)

As the days get darker, stay one step ahead

Busy commutes. Crowded cafes. A meet-up with friends after work. As autumn sets in, it's easier than ever to lose sight of your bag – and that's exactly when thieves strike.

Meet AlarmID

A security tamper alarm that protects your handbag, laptop, or backpack from opportunistic theft. If someone tries to take your things – a loud siren instantly sounds alerting you (and everyone nearby).

Key Features:

- 🔴 100dB tamper-triggered alarm
- 👉 Arm/Disarm with your fingerprint
- 📏 2 metre cable to easily secure items
- ✈️ Lightweight and discreet - fits in any bag
- ✅ Trusted by students, commuter and travellers worldwide

UNIVERSITY | CAFES | PUBLIC TRANSPORT | CO-WORKING SPACES | OFFICES | EVENTS



Smart security for everyday life.

Exclusive Offer

£45 £38 >>>



B B C

Purple.

DOORBELL DETECTIVES



DOORBELL VIDEO AND HOME CCTV FOOTAGE WANTED!

BBC One's hit TV show is back, putting the spotlight on Britain's Doorbell Detectives capturing neighbourhood crime on their doorsteps... and we need YOU!

Has your smart video doorbell helped solve a crime on your street?

Have you caught footage of doorstep scammers or parcel thieves, or been alerted to late night burglars or criminals outside your home?

If so get in touch and share your clips and stories to:

E: doorbelldetectives@purpleproductions.co.uk

Or text/WhatsApp: 07386 695 758

Protecting your family through estate planning

When people think of estate planning, they often picture wealthy retirees with multiple properties. The reality is very different. Estate planning isn't about wealth - it's about protecting the people you care about most.

If you don't plan ahead, the law decides what happens to your estate, which may not reflect your wishes. This can leave families facing delays, legal costs, and disputes at an already difficult time.

Why a Will isn't enough

A Will is the foundation of an estate plan, setting out who inherits your assets, who will manage your estate, and who cares for your children if they are under 18. Yet life changes - moving house, marriage, grandchildren - mean that even if you already have a Will, it should be reviewed regularly.

A Will also cannot cover everything. For example, if you lose mental capacity, who makes decisions about your health, care, or finances? Without proper planning, your loved ones may need to go through the courts, which is stressful and expensive.

What estate planning includes:

- A Will - To set out your wishes clearly.
- Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs) - Appoint people you trust to make decisions if you're unable to.
- Guardianship - Ensure children under 18 are cared for by the right people.
- Organising assets - From pensions and insurance to digital accounts and sentimental belongings.
- Recording your wishes - Such as funeral preferences or personal messages.

Why it matters

Neighbourhood Watch members are committed to safety and looking out for others. Estate planning is the same principle - protecting your loved ones from risk and uncertainty in the future. Even without significant wealth, a clear plan:

- Prevents family disputes
- Protects partners and children
- Reduces legal costs and delays
- Ensures your values and wishes are respected

Exclusive offer for Neighbourhood Watch members

To make estate planning simpler, Future-Proof Estate Planning is offering Neighbourhood Watch members an exclusive 20% discount on their estate planning packages.

These packages let you create legally binding documents quickly and easily, while still having full support throughout the process. From start to finish, a team is available to guide you step by step, so you can feel confident that your wishes will be protected.

Planning ahead isn't about expecting the worst - it's about being ready for whatever life brings. Don't put it off any longer. [Click here to learn more and get started today.](#)

The Neighbourhood Watch Network offers community grants to support various community initiatives. Funding applications are now open, however grants are only for registered Neighbourhood Watch members who are representatives of a registered and recognised Neighbourhood Watch scheme, group, area or association in England and Wales.

This year there are two areas of focus for grant offers: The first is small funds to help groups who are needing a boost in recruitment amongst their neighbours. Apply to receive a coordinator pack from the Neighbourhood Watch shop with a mix of stickers, signs, pen, lanyard or your choice of items up to the value of £60.

We also have ten funds worth £500 available. These will be awarded specifically to support projects to tackle our key crime objectives: tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG), street theft, knife crime and cybercrime.

We only fund work or activities that are clearly defined as that of Neighbourhood Watch and that aligns with the charitable purposes within our constitution and with our values.

[Apply now](#)

Introducing our new team members

Mila Du is our new social and digital communications officer. Mila has considerable experience creating digital content, campaigns, and directing community outreach. Their previous role was Communications Officer at The Hangout CIC, a charity supporting young people, leading their communications across team members, volunteers, and partners. Mila's role will be to grow our social media presence by engaging with younger audiences online.



Emma Drozd has changed roles and is now our Income Generation Manager. Emma has a background in events, fundraising and volunteer management. After spending many years working with volunteers from charities of all sizes, she has gained a huge amount of admiration for the tireless dedication of the volunteer workforce. Emma hopes to be able to support their work and that of Neighbourhood Watch as a whole in bringing communities together.



Simeon Earnshaw is our Young People's Programme Manager. Simeon has over twenty years of Project Management experience gained working with young people, while managing staff and volunteers.



Landlines in the UK are going digital.



Are you ready?

The UK's landlines are getting an upgrade and soon most phone calls will be made over a broadband line. Don't worry, your landline is here to stay. Your phone number won't change, and over 99% of handsets work with the new system.

For most customers, the move to Digital Voice - BT's new home phone service - is as simple as plugging your phone into a router rather than the phone socket on the wall.

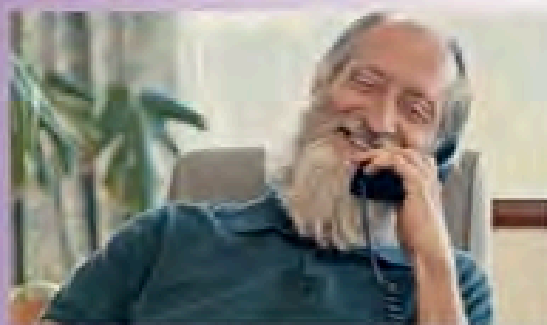
If you don't have broadband

Don't worry, BT will be offering a dedicated landline service, allowing customers to use their landline in the same way they do today.

Supporting customers every step of the way

If you identify as vulnerable or need additional support, please contact your phone company. BT customers can call **0330 1234 150**.

If you use a healthcare alarm or medical pendant which allows you to press for help in an emergency, or a burglar alarm, inform your phone company and check with your equipment provider about any needed upgrades before the switch.



For more information about Digital Voice, visit:
bt.com/digitalvoice



National Hate Crime Awareness Week runs from 11 to 18 October 2025. The main objective of National Hate Crime Awareness Week #NationalHCAW is to encourage the authorities (Government, Police and Councils), key partners (anti-hate crime charities, business and voluntary sectors), and communities affected by hate crime to work together to tackle local hate crime issues.

Hate crimes are any crimes that are targeted at a person because of hostility or prejudice towards that person's:

- disability
- race or ethnicity
- religion or belief
- sexual orientation
- transgender identity

They can be committed against a person or property. A victim does not have to be a member of the group at which the hostility is targeted. In fact, anyone could be a victim of a hate crime. This awareness week aims to spread an annual message of H.O.P.E.

H for raising Hate crime awareness,
O for improving Operational responses to hate crime,
P for Preventing hate crime, and
E for community Engagement.

[Find out more about this years H.O.P.E campaign.](#)

Neighbourhood Watch speaks to the London Assembly about the experiences of young people

[The London Assembly Police and Crime Committee](#) recently held a session examining neighbourhood policing and the experiences of young Londoners.

Our young people's programme manager Ashley Fontaine spoke to the committee with Jessica West Principal at Ark Walworth Academy and Omar Alleyne-Lawler Police Engagement Manager at Hope in Haringey.

They discussed how safe young Londoners feel and explored:

- How safe young people feel in their communities
- What the Met is doing to engage with young people and build trust in policing
- How the Met's operation in schools may be affected by cuts to Safer Schools Officers.

You can read [Ashley's reflections on the session](#) on our website and watch the full event online [here](#).