

AUTUMN 2021

# Our Watch

## Canford Heath Neighbourhood Watch



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### **Hello again from your Neighbourhood Watch Team!**

We hope that you have all been keeping safe and well and enjoyed a lovely summer. The nights may now be drawing in and the first dry leaves falling from the trees but autumn is set to be an exciting time for us and we would love you to be part of it.

Our first **Keep Safe on Canford Heath** event is drawing ever-closer. We would love to see you on Saturday 2nd October 2021 at Limelights in Learoyd Road (10am to 12.30pm). We have some excellent exhibitors, prize raffle, refreshments and special guest, David Sidwick, the new Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset.

Since our summer newsletter, we have been keeping busy on our social media accounts. Why not give us a follow? It's a great way to keep in touch with us.

**Facebook: Canford Heath Neighbourhood Watch**

**Twitter: @CanfordHeathNW**

With best wishes from your Neighbourhood Watch Team!

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### **Your Neighbourhood Watch News**

**Come and join us** – We would love more residents to join us. It's FREE! Contact Jenny [jennychnw@gmail.com](mailto:jennychnw@gmail.com) or for a paper copy of the joining form, call Sandra on 01202 388418.

#### **Keep Safe on Canford Heath event**

As mentioned above, we're holding our first Keep Safe on Canford Heath event on Saturday 2nd October 2021 from 10am to 12.30pm at Limelights in Learoyd Road. Everyone is welcome!

#### **Webmaster wanted!**

Are you hot with HTML or perhaps you are a whizz on WordPress? We are still looking for a volunteer to maintain our website. Please contact Jenny in the first instance if you feel you would like to help.

#### **Our Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

Due to the challenges of the pandemic, we have taken the decision to postpone our AGM until spring 2022. Please look out early next year for details of the date, time and venue.



## Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue – Safe and Well service

Safe and Well is a completely free service offered by Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue to help to keep our community safe in their home, offering fire safety advice and helping you to identify fire risks at home, identifying any equipment that may be required in your home, or any other support you may need.

Initially, they will arrange a telephone appointment with you, before visiting you at home at a convenient time to install any equipment.

To request a FREE Safe and Well telephone appointment, contact 0800 038 2323 or visit: [www.dwfire.org.uk/safe-and-well-visits/safe-and-well-referrals/](http://www.dwfire.org.uk/safe-and-well-visits/safe-and-well-referrals/).

## Safety in Neighbours

At Neighbourhood Watch, our vision is a community where neighbours come together to create safer, stronger and active communities. In today's ever-advancing world, it is increasingly more convenient and accessible to connect with our neighbours online and to help to keep your neighbourhood safe.

Do you know if your street has a WhatsApp group? If not, why not set one up! It's a free and easy way to stay in touch and look out for one another.

If you'd like to know more, here's a guide written by a fellow Neighbourhood Watch about how their WhatsApp group worked for them: [www.ourwatch.org.uk/starting-neighbourhood-watch-whatsapp-group](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/starting-neighbourhood-watch-whatsapp-group)

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## Keeping safe after dark

It is that time of year, summer has been and gone, and winter is fast approaching. Whether it be walking the dog, popping to the shop or visiting friends and family, many of us will find ourselves needing to leave our homes after dark.

Undeniably it's important to stay safe and be cautious at all times of the year. But it is particularly true at this time of the year.

We have compiled a list of top tips on how to stay safe during the darker evenings:

1. **Try not to travel alone.** Safety in numbers.
2. **Know your route.** Be sure you know where you are going and stick to well-lit paths.
3. **Plan ahead.** Wear visible and warm clothing. Consider packing a torch.
4. **Stay in touch.** Ensure someone else knows when you are setting off, where you are going and what time to expect you. Try to carry a mobile phone if possible and know how to activate its SOS mode.
5. **Be alert.** Avoid things that may distract you such as listening to music. Keep valuables out of sight.





## Neighbour Of The Year awards 2021: Voting now open!

From the 14th September, people across the UK are being invited to take part in Neighbourhood Watch Network's annual hunt for the UK's 'NEIGHBOUR OF THE YEAR' – a nationwide search undertaken in partnership with Co-op Insurance.

Do you know someone close-by who makes a real difference to the lives of others in your neighbourhood?

### More Info here:

[www.ourwatch.org.uk/NOTY](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/NOTY)

### Nominate a neighbour here:

[www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/NOTY2021/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/NOTY2021/)



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## Cyberhood Watch

Cybercrime now feels like more of a threat than physical crime for a rising number of households across England and Wales, with more people either falling victim personally, or knowing someone who has been a victim of online theft, according to research from over 14,000 Neighbourhood Watch members.

The research, carried out in conjunction with Avast, a cybersecurity leader in the UK, found that those who believe cybercrime is less of a threat than physical crime are firmly in the minority (15%).



Additionally, over a third (34%) believe cybercrime is now a bigger threat than physical crime, and half (50%) think the threat level is similar. In response, Neighbourhood Watch Network and Avast are working together in a partnership called 'Cyberhood Watch' to tackle these fears, and providing online cybersecurity awareness courses to help to inform and protect 2.3 million households across England and Wales.

Avast's support will include a range of services to help Neighbourhood Watch members to become more informed and less at risk of falling victim to cybercrime. This will include a training and accreditation scheme for local Neighbourhood Watch representatives, local informative events, downloadable guides and resources, and ongoing sharing of information about relevant emerging threats. You can even download a free version of Avast's antivirus software!

**For more information and access to the various resources Cyberhood Watch are offering, please visit the following website: <https://www.avast.com/uk-cyberhood>**



## How to contact Dorset Police

Following an article in our summer issue about the online services offered by Dorset Police, here's a reminder of the different ways you can contact the Police.

Please remember that social media such as Facebook and Twitter are not an effective means to report crime to the Police.

## Report Crime Online

Report Crime Online is an easy way to give information to Dorset Police or report an incident or crime via their website. Staff within the contact centre will receive the form, record the crime, and provide you with a crime reference number. Report Crime Online here: [www.dorset.police.uk/reportcrime](http://www.dorset.police.uk/reportcrime)

## Make an enquiry, request a call back or report anti-social behaviour

'Do It Online' is a selection of online services offered by Dorset Police, helping you to report a non-emergency crime or incident, pass a message to an officer or request a call back, make a complaint or give compliments/feedback, submit a Freedom of Information request, or report lost property.

'Do It Online' here: [www.dorset.police.uk/do-it-online/](http://www.dorset.police.uk/do-it-online/)

If you would prefer to use the telephone, you can call 101. Contact centre staff are available to answer your calls day or night. However, making use of the online services also helps to reduce the demand on the 101 telephone service, making it quicker and easier for people to speak to a call handler for more complex or urgent issues.

**Remember, in an emergency, when a life is threatened, if people are injured, offenders are nearby or immediate action is needed, always dial 999.**

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## And finally... Did you spot us out and about in Canford Heath over the last few weeks?

Our committee team were set up in Adastral Square and The Neighbourhood Centre on a couple of Saturday mornings in September. It was great to chat to residents, help with their queries ranging from speeding to keeping safe online and raise awareness of the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch. Photos below!



**We hope you enjoyed the read!  
Next issue: Winter 2021**

**We hope to see you at our  
event on Sat 2nd October!**