

»» SEPTMBER 2024 ««



# OUR NEWS

FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES

## What's in September's newsletter?

For many, September feels like a fresh start, which perhaps is a hark back to our school days. At Neighbourhood Watch, we're gearing up to one of the highlights of the year - our National Crime and Community Conference, taking place this year in Manchester. We look forward to sharing photos and stories from the event in October's Our News! In this issue, we're delighted to share Issue 8 of The Lookout and provide an update from our busy Youth Council. You can also read stories from ERA and Patlock, and find out how much our Crowdfunder raised towards our Volunteer Programme!

**Issue 8 of The Lookout is here, and we're focusing on student safety!**

P2

**Celebrating the funds raised towards our Volunteer Programme!**

P3

**Community Grants Fund - find out more on how you can apply!**

P4

**Our volunteer Robin puts Smart Home Security to the test with ERA**

P5

**PATLOCK offers security to student houses and those moving out for the first time**

P6



# Student safety and Issue 8 of The Lookout!

For many young people, September means a new term at school or university. For university students, those first few weeks and months should be fun and exciting, and might be the first time they've moved to a new city or house. This exciting period of change can also bring new challenges around safety and responsibility.

It is well known that young people (aged 16 - 24) are disproportionately more likely to be victims of crime. Despite this, statistics on campus crime are only patchily recorded by many UK universities and just a handful make the information available to would-be students. A recent article from UniFresher explores the "[top 10 most dangerous universities in the UK for 2023](#)" and looks at which are the most reported crimes on campus/ in student accommodation. Have a look at our [How students are affected by crime page](#) to learn more.

There's plenty that young people can do to keep themselves safe and aware, and plenty that we can do as Neighbourhood Watch to help them stay safe and enjoy their time at university! Our termly student magazine **The Lookout** is full of advice from other students, and provides a platform for young people's voices to be heard.



Issue 8 of The Lookout is a bumper Fresher's issue, with articles and illustrations from six talented students on hard-hitting topics including **harassment on campus**, the **safety and security of student housing**, and advice on **making the most of the first few weeks at university**.

**Keen to know what the NWN Youth Council have been getting up to? Look no further!**

Since the first Youth Council meeting in May, twenty 16-24-year-olds have been busy exploring, analysing, and problem-solving the community, crime, and safety issues that matter to them. From concerns around antisocial behaviour, grooming, shoplifting, safety at night, and hate crime, the Council is currently in the thick of actively influencing 'on-the-ground' social change in communities across England and Wales, plus youth strategy within NWN.

If you want to find out more about the Youth Council or work on a community action project with them, email **Ashley**, our Young People's Programme Manager: [ashley.fontaine@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:ashley.fontaine@ourwatch.org.uk).

[Read The Lookout and visit our Young People's Hub for more advice on student safety!](#)

# Thank you to those who have supported our Volunteer Programme!



**A huge THANK YOU to our supporters who contributed to our Crowdfunder with SimpliSafe, and raised a brilliant £658 towards our Volunteer Programme!**

Communities are at the heart of everything we do, and the lifeblood of our work is our volunteers. With SimpliSafe's generous help and support, we've been raising funds to make our Volunteer Programme more effective, efficient, and rewarding for our 60,000 active community volunteers.

Neighbourhood Watch has one of the largest volunteer bases in England and Wales, and we are so grateful for their dedication, hard work, and galvanising role within their communities and neighbourhoods. We could not achieve all the great work we do without our volunteers.

## **They help us achieve two overarching goals:**

- 1) raising awareness of evidence-based crime prevention techniques and helping communities to take action using them, thereby helping to reduce crime and reduce the fear of crime
- 2) fostering community cohesion and reducing isolation through asset-based community building, inspiring communities to work together to support each other and create inclusive, friendly, and vibrant places to live.

The money raised will go towards making many of our objectives of the Volunteer Programme a reality, including: to **continue involving current volunteers** in helping co-design and shape the programme; to **develop a national Volunteer Framework** to **outline volunteer management best practice** for all our groups nationally; to **develop our syllabus of orientation, training and support access** for different tiers of volunteers; to **better identify the best routes for recruitment of volunteers**, and much more!

# Community Grants

*Empowering Communities to Create Safer Neighbourhoods*

Our Community Grants Programme is a popular (and much anticipated) initiative, designed to support local communities in enhancing safety and well-being. By providing funding, we empower residents to do more of their important work.

The Grant programme offers funding for a wide range of community projects. This time, we have set out the kind of activity that we are keen to fund:

- Tackling Antisocial Behaviour - Improving the community environment
  - **Examples:** Litter picks – equipment and publicity, planting a community area to try to reclaim an area from ASB
- Increasing membership of local watches
  - **Examples:** Purchasing and utilising NW merchandise to increase memberships of watches or associations
- Addressing crime through Community Cohesion
  - **Examples:** Crime prevention event, meet the local policing team, find out more about NW in your area, Community Crime Audit
- Tackling loneliness in our Neighbourhood Watch communities
  - **Examples:** Outreach activity – contacting isolated or elderly people in the community to invite them to events, or to join a watch

## Before you start ...

- Think about your idea carefully and develop a clear and well-thought-out project plan that addresses the specific needs of the community and outlines the proposed activities and outcomes.
- Create a detailed budget that outlines the expected costs associated with the project, including materials, equipment or renting/hiring space

## Ready to apply?

[Simply visit the website and complete the form](#) - use the guidance we have provided to stand the best chance of succeeding!

## Previous successful applications:



First Aid for Kids



2023 Coronation party



Coffee & Croissants



Onslow Womblers

# Putting Smart Home Security to the test with ERA

## Neighbourhood Watch champion, Robin Sutton, puts ERA Protect's Smart Universal Door Handle to the test.

Giving Robin personalised access to his home, ERA Protect's smart door handle features an advanced fingerprint panel, as well as encrypted key cards and personalised geolocation technology.

Coupled with ERA Protect's Smart Home app homeowners can control, track, and revoke access to their property from anywhere in the world via the WiFi connection hub, as well as access a Smart Report which provides valuable insights into your home security.

Self-confessed DIY dabbler Robin easily secured the retrofit device to his front door, in just under an hour – with no locksmith or electrician in sight. Robin said *"This is such an easy to fit - and simple to use - smart lock. I can see so many useful applications for the Neighbourhood Watch community. It's ideal for anyone looking for a product to help with personalised access to an elderly or vulnerable relative's home, for people who work away, or for those who like to travel and keep tabs on their home while they are away. Or anyone whose kids are always losing their house keys!"*

**[Click to watch Robin's video review here!](#)**

For more information, visit: <https://www.eraprotect.com/smart-universal-door-handle>.



# ERA



## First Home/Student House Security

It's an exciting time when you move into your first home or student accommodation. However, it's easy to forget the simple things which can help protect yourself and your hard earned belongings. Below are a few things to consider:

- Dispose of packaging carefully – don't advertise new purchases to would-be thieves
- Keep all valuables in a safe place away from windows
- Keep doors and windows locked at all times, even when you are in the house
- Only share social media posts about your new home with family & friends
- Get to know your neighbours and look at joining a local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
- Never leave keys in the door – keep house & car keys out of sight in a drawer or cupboard
- If possible, invest in an alarm and outside security lighting to deter potential thieves
- Avoid advertising on social media when you're going on holiday and that your home will be unoccupied

The simple solution for securing French doors is to fit a PATLOCK. PATLOCK has no keys or combination lock and is quick and easy to fit with ratchet locking bars that secure in seconds.

**It's as easy as.... Push, Click, Secure.**

- ✓ **Instant French door security**
- ✓ **The only French door lock recommended by UK Police Forces.**
- ✓ **Locks patio doors securely, designed to deter and stop intruders**

**[CLICK HERE to buy PATLOCK at your NW](#)**  
**Member discounted price of £42.50**