



JUNE 2024



# OUR NEWS

FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES

## What's in June's Our News?

It's the Month of Community this June! This issue is jam-packed full of opportunities to get involved with your local Neighbourhood Watch group, meet new neighbours over a BBQ, or even dip your toe into volunteering for the first time. From **Neighbourhood Watch Week** to the **Big Lunch**, and from **Small Charity Week** to **Loneliness Awareness Week**, there are so many ways that you can get involved and feel more connected to your community. Read on for some **special Neighbourhood Watch Week announcements!**

**It's Neighbourhood Watch Week - check out the week's programme**

P2

**What's it all about? The Month of Community with Eden Project Communities**

P3

**Nominations for the Volunteer Recognition Awards 2024 are open**

P4

**Issue 7 of The Lookout is here!**

P5

**The Our Watch website is getting a new look - visit from 6th June**

P6

**Patlock offers an exclusive extra discount for members during Month of Community**

P7

**Hear from our Lottery winners and find out how you can play and win**

P8

**SimpliSafe's top home security tips for summer**

P9



# It's Neighbourhood Watch Week 2024!

This week we're kicking off the Month of Community with our very own Neighbourhood Watch Week! This year's theme is **Local Efforts, Big Impact**, when we'll be celebrating the positive impact that your local events, activities and efforts have in your communities, across England and Wales. Throughout this week, we want you to **share your photos** from Neighbourhood Watch Week with us, including photos from your community events like the **Big Lunch, Have a Grow**, and the **Big Help Out** in the second weekend of June.

Whether you're meeting new neighbours or saying hello to ones you've known for years, NWW is the perfect time to remember why you joined Neighbourhood Watch in the first place, what you love about being connected and making a difference in your community, and what you're excited to do in the future!

Email [comms@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:comms@ourwatch.org.uk) to share your stories and photos from **NWW and the Month of Community**, so we can share them on our social media channels and on our website. From cups of tea over garden fences to big street parties with cakes and confetti, we want to see it all!

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEEK 2024

Saturday 1st &  
Sunday 2nd June



Monday 3rd June



*Nominations  
are open for  
our Volunteer  
Awards!*

Tuesday 4th June



*24 hour  
sale on  
select NW  
Shop  
products!*

Thursday 6th June



*Our Watch  
launches a  
new look!*

Friday 7th - 14th June

**SimpliSafe**  
Home Security

*60% NW volunteer  
discount with  
SimpliSafe!*

Friday 7th June



# The Month of Community with Eden Project Communities

The Month of Community is a time to come together to celebrate everything that makes our communities great. Millions of people take part every June to cheer volunteers, connect with their neighbours, welcome refugees, support carers, raise awareness of loneliness, or simply to say thank you.

This year, there is so much going on throughout June, and we're keen to support as many of these activities as we can - you can get involved too!

**[Click here to visit the Eden Project Communities website to learn more about each organisation's activities during Month of Community...](#)**



*Partners involved in Month of Community 2024 events, celebrating at this year's launch!*

# Nominations for our *Volunteer Recognition Awards 2024* are open!

Our volunteers are the lifeblood of Neighbourhood Watch's work, and our Volunteer Recognition Awards celebrate volunteers and groups who go above and beyond for their communities. We want to recognise the hard work and commitment of all our volunteers, who make this a better place to live. **Together.**

We have introduced two additional categories to the Volunteer Recognition Awards, meaning this year's ceremony will be packed full of even more celebrations and cheers than the last.

The Volunteer Recognition Awards categories are:

- **Innovation and Reach**
- **Crime Prevention**
- **Community Health and Wellbeing**
- **Young Volunteer of the Year**
- **Special Recognition Award**

**NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN (3RD JUNE)**

**- CLICK HERE TO VOTE!**

Who doesn't love an award ceremony? This year, our Volunteer Recognition Awards ceremony is sponsored by our partner SimpliSafe, and will take place during our annual National Crime and Community Conference on **Monday 23rd September**, in Manchester.

**Nominations will close on Sunday 30th June** - make sure you don't miss out on casting your vote! Information about each category is available on our website, and should help you decide whether you know a volunteer or community group who deserve recognition with one of our Awards.



# Issue 7 of *The Lookout*, our student magazine, is here!



In this issue of *The Lookout*, four talented student writers give us the lowdown on...

- spotting the signs of coercive control
- navigating uni life as a student with disabilities
- pathways to sober student life
- avoiding burnout

## READ IT

## HERE!

Our work with 16-24 year olds is thriving. Each issue of the magazine brings fresh perspectives and insights from students across the country, exploring topics from safety on nights out, to the power and benefits of community action for young people.

We're pleased to say that this issue of *The Lookout* is funded by the City Bridge Foundation!

We would love for you to **share *The Lookout* with your network** - whether that's a youth group you work with, a university or college, or simply your family and neighbours. If you'd like to support our work with young people, please email us at: [youngpeople@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:youngpeople@ourwatch.org.uk).

### Welcome to our Young People's Programme Manager, Ashley Fontaine



Ashley has joined Neighbourhood Watch Network to shape and strengthen the charity's engagement with youth social action.

Having worked in programme-project management, strategic communications and youth advocacy across the VCSE sector since 2019, she hopes to make a real impact on the mission to 'amplify youth voices in their communities'. Ashley firmly believes that young people should have a say on the crime, community, and safety issues that affect them.

You can email Ashley at:

**[ashley.fontaine@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:ashley.fontaine@ourwatch.org.uk)**

# Launch of *Our Watch* website's new look this week

**The Our Watch website is getting a refreshed look this month, with a few changes to how the website looks, and where you can find information. Visit our website from 6th June to enjoy the new look!**

All of our crime prevention information and resources will stay in the same place, but lots of the resources for volunteers will be moving to the Knowledge Hub.

The new look includes a more streamlined menu, designed to provide a smoother journey for visitors. Information on crime prevention, community wellbeing, and safety should be easier to find, thanks to our intuitive search bar, and cleaner homepage layout. We've used a wider range of colours from our brand palette, and have run several accessibility tests during the design process to ensure that people can enjoy a smooth experience when visiting Our Watch. We've highlighted impact stories from communities across England and Wales, demonstrating the brilliant work of our volunteers, and have given greater focus on opportunities for new partners and organisations to work with our charity. We rely on voluntary donations to support the work of our volunteers in their communities, and so we have made it easier for people to donate.

As with every website re-launch, there may be a few teething problems. If you think something is missing, or you notice a broken link, please let us know. You can send an email to [comms@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:comms@ourwatch.org.uk) – your feedback will be invaluable!

**For members and volunteers**, our new Members area will have information on how you become a volunteer, an MSA, a Coordinator and so on. It will include guidance on how to register to, and use, the **Knowledge Hub**, which is where volunteers can access further resources and toolkits.

There'll also be clearer information on the structure of Neighbourhood Watch and our membership models.

**Volunteers** can get involved with our crime prevention campaigns. access resources for growing and strengthening your local group, and share your community experiences with other volunteers on the **Knowledge Hub**.

Our **brand toolkit**, including logos, will be available on the **Knowledge Hub**. as well as information on **managing member data** and much more.

**PATLOCK ARE OFFERING AN EXTRA NW MEMBER DISCOUNT TO CELEBRATE THE MONTH OF COMMUNITY, FROM 24TH - 30TH JUNE!**

[CLICK HERE](#) to enjoy a member's only extra **12% discount**, bringing the price price down to **£37.40** during this week!

**OFFER ONLY AVAILABLE FROM 24TH – 30TH JUNE**



PATLOCK is the Secured by Design accredited home security product and visual deterrent for French doors and Conservatory doors.

Designed to deter and stop would be intruders, the Patlock provides extra security and instant peace of mind for the homeowner.

PATLOCK is suitable for double doors fitted with 2 horizontal handles and works by holding the internal door handles secure, meaning the external handles cannot be operated. This ensures that the door mechanism remains in the locked position, even if the locks are snapped or removed.



# Neighbourhood Watch Lottery winner stories

**From just £1 a week, supporters who play our lottery can win up to £25,000 while also donating to a great cause!**

Being part of the Neighbourhood Watch Lottery means that with your support we can continue to help communities thrive and support our dedicated volunteers in their work. The lottery provides invaluable sustainable funding - we couldn't do it without you.

Buying a weekly ticket means that we can continue to grow and provide our services, such as volunteer training, community engagement events, and crime prevention resources. So whether you buy 1 ticket or 10, thank you!

Hear from some of our recent Lottery winners on why they play, and how they've spent their winnings...

## **C.B. in West Yorkshire won £258**

*I play the Lottery with NW because "I think that communities supporting neighbours and police is a worthy cause... I like that NW empowers residents to help prevent local crime."*

*"I loved the thrill of winning, it's nice to get something back! I bought a new shower and heated towel radiator."*



# **Play along here!**

## **J.W. won £334**

*"I decided to play the NW lottery as it seemed more personal than the big national lotteries, also for the charity side. It isn't expensive which is a good thing in today's climate! When I won I couldn't believe it as I don't usually win anything, so I was over the moon. I used it to pay for my car insurance, a little boring I know but it was a big help when I needed it!"*

## **R.F. in Worthing, won £239**

*"I wanted to play the Lottery with NW to show support as a local Coordinator, and I feel charmed to have won! At my age, 76 years old, I don't think I will struggle to enjoy the money."*



# SimpliSafe



## Six home safety tips for summer

Summer is the season of relaxation, for spending time with family and friends and holidaying to your favourite destinations. Whilst these things are great for the soul, you'll want to ensure home security doesn't slip your mind.

Here are our top six home security tips for summer so you can enjoy the warmer months and have extra peace of mind.

1

### Install a home security system

Don't have one yet? A home security system is your first port of call. Your security system doesn't have to be grandiose, particularly if you're on a budget, but it's something you could build and maintain over time to keep your home safe in the summer.

2

### Check the integrity of doors and windows

Are the locks on your doors and windows working correctly? Any loose screws or misaligned pieces could make your entry points vulnerable to a break-in, so get those fixed as soon as possible. It goes without saying that if you plan on going out for the day, ensure all of your windows and doors are locked properly - it never hurts to double or triple-check!

3

### Don't neglect your garden

To reinforce garden security, check out the hedges, fencing, tools, and shed (if you have one). Is your shed locked? Are tools stowed away so they can't be used to break into your home? Are your hedges high enough to put off people peering into your property? Can I cover blind spots or get a bigger picture view with an outdoor camera? These are all questions you can ask yourself to ensure your garden is as safe as possible.

4

### Keep parcels and letters in check

A build-up of parcels and letters at your home is a surefire way to advertise no one's home. Instead, you could arrange for parcels to be directed elsewhere, such as a place of work or to a trusted family member. You could even ask a Neighbour to keep an eye out for your delivery. Alternatively, you could rebook your delivery for a time you'll be home.

5

### Be careful what you post on social media

If you have a public account and post snaps on holiday, you're essentially advertising that you're not home. Or, say you are home, but you've posted a picture that shows where you might live. A criminal could use this insight into your social media life to target your home. Be mindful of what and when you post, or you could also change your social profile's privacy settings. However, joining a local community or Neighbourhood Watch Facebook group could be a great way to keep an eye on what's happening in the local area, especially if you're on holiday.

6

### Practice barbecue safety

If you're the chief griller on the barbecue, be extra careful with safety for yourself and your home this summer. For example, keep your barbecue away from flammable materials such as wooden sheds or fencing and dispose of coal and ash once it has cooled, not right after you've finished barbecuing.

**[Click here to access SimpliSafe's exclusive NW member 50% discount!](#)**