

OUR NEWS



FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES

Same charity, fresh new look

As an exciting start to a brand-new year, we are thrilled to announce that we have refreshed our branding.

We have adopted a new logo, termed the 'today' logo (top right hand corner) as an alternative to our 'traditional' logo (below right), which was refreshed in 2017.

This means we support two logos from 2023, and our members and supporters can choose to use either one.

Both logos have the same recognisable yellow roundel, proudly displaying our name Neighbourhood Watch. This has been untouched to ensure we retain our incredible 95% brand recognition across England and Wales.

The difference between the two logos is in what is displayed inside the yellow roundel. Our 'traditional' logo shows the fantastic relationship between the police and the community, which in some areas, Neighbourhood Watch groups are central to enhancing this special relationship.

The retro figures hint at the longevity of Neighbourhood Watch – which has been established

within communities for over 40 years. Some areas may prefer to continue to use this logo as it best represents their group.

Our 'today' logo was born out of overwhelmingly positive feedback from our temporary 40th-anniversary logo launched in 2022 for that year only.

It shows three figures in our refreshed core colours and represents a celebration of diversity. Since we began in 1982, communities across England and Wales have changed and will continue to do so.

No matter what the makeup of our communities is, we aim to be embedded within them all and nurture the incredible strength and uniqueness of each one.

To find out more about our refreshed branding and how to use and download our logos click [here](#).



NEW: Government Emergency Alerts system live soon

The UK government's new Emergency Alerts system will be live early this year, and you should expect to receive a test message. The system will enable people to be contacted via their mobile phone when lives are in danger.

It will be used to warn you in the event of emergencies, such as severe flooding. Emergency Alerts are sent to all compatible mobile phones within an area of risk. They don't track your location, need your phone number, or collect personal data.

Only the government and the emergency services will be able to send them. If you don't have a mobile phone, you'll still be kept informed through other channels.

If you get an Emergency Alert on your phone, you'll hear a loud, siren-like sound.

A message on your screen will tell you about the emergency and how best to respond. You'll be able to check an alert is genuine at gov.uk/alerts.

If you receive an alert, read the alert carefully and follow the instructions. You can opt out of receiving emergency alerts; for more information on how to opt out please go to gov.uk/alerts.

To find out more about Emergency Alerts, visit gov.uk/alerts.

Follow us... ourwatch.org.uk



Think WIDEN to keep your home safe

Want to protect your home? Think WIDE(N) (WINDOWS, INTERIOR, DOORS, EXTERIOR, (NEIGHBOURS) to have the best possible protection against burglary.

[Research](#) from Nottingham Trent University shows that a set combination of security actions provides up to 50 times more protection for your home versus no security.

A combination of WIDE actions is the most effective and recommended by police throughout the country. Additionally, at Neighbourhood Watch we believe neighbours keeping an eye out for each other is also key to preventing burglary. Click on each area to find out more:

- [WINDOWS](#): Lock your windows
- [INTERIOR](#): Put your interior lights on a timer
- [DOORS](#): Double or deadlock your doors
- [EXTERIOR](#): Put your exterior lights on a sensor
- [\(N\)EIGHBOURS](#): Keep an eye out for neighbours

As with all types of crime, prevention is much better than cure. Taking simple measures such as these can significantly reduce your chances of being burgled.



Find more burglary prevention advice [here](#) or click below to download our useful burglary prevention checklist to double-check you have left your home safe when you walk out your front door.

[DOWNLOAD OUR NEW BURGLARY PREVENTION CHECKLIST](#)

Protect your friends from romance fraud

Hey man, how's it going with that guy you met online? How was he IRL?

Great! He's so handsome and he thinks I am too, but he's working abroad, and his phone camera's broken.

No vid chat yet! Dude, are you sure he's for real?

Protect your friends from Romance Fraud.

[Click here](#) to find out how to report it

CrimeStoppers.
0800 555111
100% anonymous. Always.

Upgrading your home security? Look for 'Secured by Design'

A home's overall impression will influence whether a burglar targets it. As a general rule, if it looks like there is someone inside, the burglar is likely to go elsewhere. A home in a dilapidated state will seem easier to break into, so a simple deterrent might be tidying up a garden, or repainting doors and window frames.

But if you want to upgrade your home with better security products, remember, wherever possible to always ensure security products you purchase are [Secured by Design](#) or [Sold Secure](#) – these are good quality, independently tested products.

WHAT IS SOLD SECURE?

Sold Secure is the premier testing and certification house for security products. Security products tested and approved by Sold Secure provide you with the best in security, for a variety of applications. The range provides products to:

- enhance vehicle security
- secure leisure equipment
- secure your home or business
- protect your valuables.

WHAT IS SECURED BY DESIGN?

Secured by Design (SBD) is the official police security initiative that works to improve the security of buildings and their immediate surroundings to provide safe places to live, work, shop and visit.

Secured by Design is the only way for companies to obtain police recognition for security-related products in the UK.

SECURITY STANDARDS EXPLAINED

Secured by Design operates an accreditation scheme on behalf of the UK police for products or services that have met recognised security standards. Such products or services must be capable of deterring or preventing crime and are known as being of a 'Police Preferred Specification'.

Look for the 'Secured by Design' logo on the product packaging or when buying a product, ask whether it has been accredited by Secured by Design.



SECURED BY
PATLOCK

Patlocks
are Secured
by Design
approved

SECURED BY
PATLOCK

**SPECIAL
OFFER**

Providing a clear visible
deterrent for dark nights

NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH
1982 - TODAY

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEMBER OFFER

Order a Patlock for £42.50 at patlock.co.uk/neighbourhood-watch

How to avoid Amazon scams



No website is completely immune to scams, and Amazon is no exception. Amazon is a trusted global platform, and scammers take advantage of that. We look at the most common Amazon scams and how comprehensive security software like Avast One to help protect your online life.

Amazon phishing scams

Amazon phishing scams often send emails with graphics to make them look real. Amazon phishing emails come in several forms, and often include a link to a spoofed website where the victim is prompted to make a payment or enter personal details.

- **Update payment information** - these try to convince people that their Amazon payment information needs to be updated or has expired
- **You've won!** - dangling a prize in front of victims to trick them into clicking a link to a spoofed Amazon website
- **Order confirmation** – this can happen when customers receive an email or text message with an infected link asking them to verify a recent purchase
- **Amazon gift card scams** - Requesting an Amazon gift card as a form of payment is a common scam that pressures the victim into purchasing one and disclosing the activation code in the following ways:
 - **Urgent assistance** – the scammer poses as a friend/relative asking for urgent help in the form of an Amazon gift card.
 - **Tech support** - a person pretending to be an Amazon tech support agent convinces the victim that they need to upgrade a plan or purchase a service, using an Amazon gift card as payment.
 - **Survey reward** - Scammers offer Amazon gift cards as a reward in return for filling in a survey. They collect sensitive personal information in the survey responses.

- **Debt payment** - Victims usually receive a call claiming they have an unpaid debt — such as a tax penalty — and asking them to pay it using an Amazon gift card.

Outside of purchasing products on the real Amazon website, any individual asking for payment using an Amazon gift card is not legitimate. If you're unsure if a text or email about an Amazon gift card is real, check the phone number and registration link. Real Amazon gift cards come from the number 455-72, and the registration link should include amazon[dot]com/g/ followed by the claim code.

Beware of fake Amazon websites

Many Amazon scam messages contain links to web pages imitating the real thing. These pharming sites have almost undetectable differences from the real Amazon site.

How to protect yourself from Amazon scams

- Never provide personal information over the phone
- Always check URLs when visiting websites
- Don't click links in suspicious emails
- If it seems too good to be true, it probably is
- Use different passwords for all your accounts and use 2FA to log in to your accounts
- Don't pay individuals with a gift card
- Don't buy from a third-party website
- Install antivirus software
- Use 2FA to log in to your accounts

TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#).



Get powerful protection against online scams with Avast One

Amazon scams are far from the only danger lurking online. Installing all-encompassing cybersecurity software — such as Avast One — can nip scams in the bud while protecting you from a host of other threats.

By blocking viruses and malware, weeding out scam emails and phishing attacks, and providing extra security so you can shop online safely,

Avast One helps you ward off scams and the complications that come with them. Install it for free today.

[DOWNLOAD AVAST ONE PREMIUM WITH 80% OFF HERE](#)

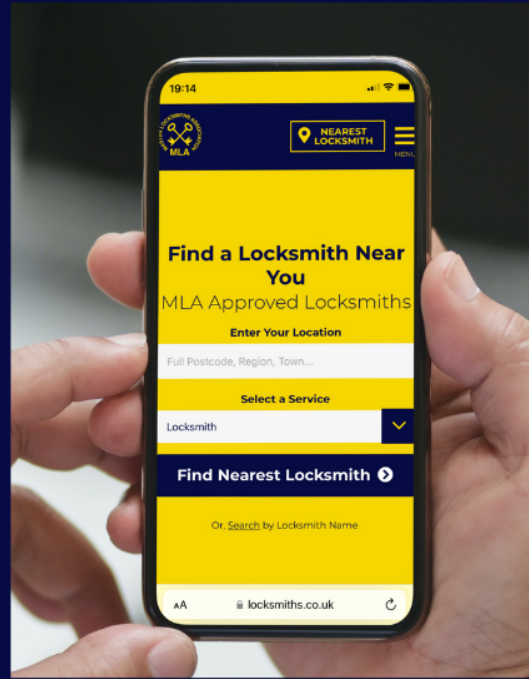
LOCKED OUT?



SAVE THE NUMBER OF
YOUR LOCAL LOCKSMITH



GET TO KNOW
THE MLA
LOCKSMITHS.CO.UK



Lost keys, broken locks – at one time or another a lot of people find themselves locked out of their homes.

In most cases the immediate response is to take to your favoured search engine and find your local emergency locksmith.

In many cases using a search engine to find a locksmith is a fine strategy, however the Master Locksmiths Association (MLA), are finding a growing trend towards consumers being left feeling overcharged for companies they have found a locksmith at the top of searches.

In 2022 they received well over 200 complaints from consumers that felt they had been misled into paying much higher bills than they should have to get back into their property.

Complaints vary but some customers have reported of emergency callouts costing significantly over £500 and one consumer who received a bill for £3,123.60 to gain entry, change two locks and cut some keys.

To help prevent being overcharged or getting shoddy work, they've compiled some top tips to avoid being caught out.

The red flags to look out for when hiring a locksmith are:

- 1. Very low price in an online advert** – It will normally be an advert rather than organic entry – top of the listing
- 2. False claims of 3rd party approval and accreditation** – always check any claims of being vetted/accredited by 3rd parties and check what they actually mean
- 3. Police claims** – false claims of being Police Recommended or Police Approved
- 4. Company name** – Generic name or no company name on the ad
- 5. National locksmith** – Claiming to be national locksmith company

More advice [here](#).

The best strategy to avoid paying more than you should is to do your research. Find your local trusted emergency locksmith and save their number into your mobile before you need them.

Perhaps a friend or relative can recommend one they have used. Alternatively visit Master Locksmiths Association at locksmiths.co.uk to find one of their approved companies.

They are a not-for-profit association and the locksmiths on their website have been vetted (DBS checked), have locksmith with an MLA qualification and are regularly inspected.





NATIONAL
TRADING
STANDARDS
Scams Team

What is scam mail?

Scam mailings are letters sent by criminals with the goal of getting **your money**. The criminals often lie or pretend to be somebody they're not.

These are some of the common types of scam mail:

lottery or prize draw scams

psychic or clairvoyant scams

health cure scams

investment scams

Criminals work hard to make their scam mail convincing. The letters often include the below features:

- They give you deadlines to respond, usually only a few days
- They ask you to pay in cash only
- They use your name throughout to make it feel personal

Get involved in the SCAMnesty campaign and send your scam mail free of charge to the National Trading Standards Scams Team to be investigated:

FREEPOST, NTSST, MAIL MARSHALS

The team will reply to those who send in their post using the Freepost address.

You can find out more about the SCAMnesty campaign and view the team's privacy policy on the website: www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk/Scamnesty

New research shows people avoid activities in the dark



Since the clocks went back in October, streets and public spaces have been plunged into darkness from as early as 4pm, meaning that many people find themselves doing every day activities such as commuting and exercising in the dark.

But a new report has revealed that millions will actively avoid certain places or change their behaviour in an attempt to feel safer when doing these sorts of everyday activities when it's dark.

The Creating Safer Spaces report from the UK's leading paving and building materials supplier, Marshalls, highlights a big difference between how people view spaces at different times of the day.

We're proud to be working in partnership with Marshalls to share these findings and encourage those that design public spaces to give more consideration to designing for the dark.

How safe do people feel in public spaces?

Overall, the report found that four out of five people feel more unsafe when it's dark in public spaces and are on average 12 times more likely to avoid such areas than in daylight hours.

The research found that, as a result, people commonly change their behaviour to improve their perceived levels of safety when out in public in the dark – including walking a longer route that is busier or better lit (64%), crossing the street to avoid others (58%), only wearing one earphone or listening at a lower volume (32%) and carrying a personal alarm (11%).

It also highlighted that 84% of women feel more unsafe when out and about alone compared with 44% of men, gay men are twice as likely to have safety on their minds compared with heterosexual men, and 43% of those with disabilities say they worry about their safety some or all of the time, compared to 27% overall... **Read the full story [here](#).**

We support Neighbourhood Watches across England and Wales with a tiny staff team of 9 people. It doesn't cost a penny to be a member of the movement. We rely on funding streams and your generosity so we can keep doing this. Any support you can offer us is greatly appreciated.

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for us with easyfundraising?


There are over 7,000 brands on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds. All you need to do is:

1. Go to easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/neighbourhoodwatch and join for free
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, the brand will make a donation to us at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and we will be really grateful for your donations.

Sign up and see
brands donate towards
our 2022 fundraising target



 easyfundraising You shop, brands donate to us