



Newsletter



> THE E-NEWSLETTER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS IN SUFFOLK

Welcome to the December edition of our newsletter.

It's been another tough year but we hope that you can relax and enjoy your time with family and friends over the festive period.

Although preparations for Christmas are no doubt well underway, don't drop your guard when it comes to keeping your home safe and secure, and please look out for your neighbours, especially anyone who is vulnerable.

The Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association would like to thank you for all the effort and support you have given to Neighbourhood Watch in the last year, and we wish you all a very safe, secure Christmas, and a happy new year.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

The Executive Committee

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- News from County Policing and PCC **PG 2**
- Crimestoppers **PG 5**
- Members Benefits **PG 7**

- Suffolk Trading Standards **PG 3**
- Action Fraud **PG 6**

Have you got a story you would like to share?

Sharing your stories help give other schemes ideas that can help communities engage more. It's not always about crime and policing - but it's always about togetherness.



Send us your story via email to the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association Comms team: comms@suffolknwa.co.uk



Suffolk PCC: New Chief Constable



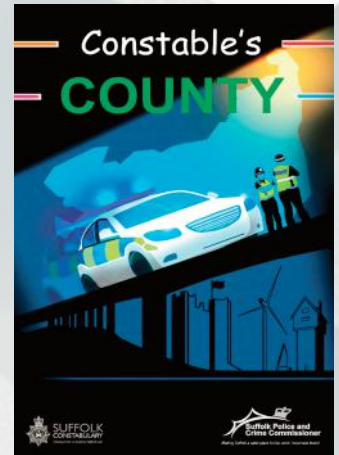
Suffolk Constabulary has a new Chief Constable. The formal appointment of Rachel Kearton was confirmed December 2nd 2022 at the Police and Crime Panel, held at Suffolk County Council's Endeavour House in Ipswich.



Suffolk Constabulary: Newsletters



The latest newsletter edition of **"Constables County"** with an update from from Safer Neighbourhood Teams across the East, West and South of Suffolk, and the very first edition of the **Rural and Wildlife Policing** newsletter (November 2022) are now available.



Suffolk Constabulary: Major Fraud Operation



Operation Elaborate is the UK's largest ever proactive fraud operation. The Met has led an international investigation targeting a website that enabled criminals to disguise their phone number and commit fraud, a practice known as spoofing.

<https://www.met.police.uk/elaborate>



SUFFOLK TRADING STANDARDS



www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk



REPORT IT, HELP OTHERS! #RogueFreeSuffolk

If you see a scam, an unsafe product, OR a Rogue Trader, report it via **0808 223 1133**.

Loan Sharks: Don't be a victim

Loan sharks are targeting vulnerable people seeking credit and trapping them into a cycle of debt with exorbitant interest rates and threats of violence.



A report published by the Centre for Social Justice estimated that 1.08 million people could already be in debt to an illegal money lender. This is over 700,000 more people than the most recent official estimate.

Experts have warned that unscrupulous lenders could try to cash in on the festive period as households struggle to cope with rising food, fuel and energy bills.

For more information visit the [website](#)

Local Council Calling: Telephone Scam

A Suffolk resident has received a call from someone purporting to be from Suffolk County Council, with the number displayed showing that they were calling from Brighton. The resident was suspicious of the call and hung up. A search of the number suggests it might be a scam with others reporting that the caller claims to be calling from their local Council or Housing Association, and goes on to ask information about their property.

As with any telephone call that you receive out of the blue, we urge you to be vigilant and take a moment to stop and think, especially if you receive a request over the phone or e-mail to make a payment from someone claiming to be from a trusted organisation. If you are in any doubt, contact the company or organisation directly using an email or phone number from their official website.

Impersonation scams occur when the victim is persuaded to make a payment to a criminal claiming to be from a trusted organisation. This could include the police, a bank, a utility company, or a government department.





NATIONAL
TRADING
STANDARDS

Scams Team

Get involved in SCAMnesty

Every day, countless people in the UK receive scam mail through their door. Criminals often target people who are aged over 65 in particular.

Throughout December, the National Trading Standards Scams Team are running a SCAMnesty campaign to ask everyone in the UK to look out for any scam mail and send it in for investigation.

Do you have any scam mail?

Send it 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



Suffolk Fire Service: Take care at christmas



A message from the fire service: If you have time to read this, then you have time to test your smoke alarms!

Push the button to make sure your smoke alarms are working!

Perhaps you can also help an elderly neighbour or relative test theirs?

#TestItTuesday



To help you have the merriest of Christmases keep fire safety at the very top of your Christmas list!

Ensure you place candles in suitable holders and away from your decorations, like tinsel, which can burn easily!



Suffolk Crimestoppers: Romance Fraud

In 2021, over £99 million was lost collectively to romance fraud

Adults between the ages of 18 – 45 are most at risk, and the average loss per person is around £10,000.

The Crimestoppers campaign aims to drive people to report what they know about the criminals behind romance fraud by using **their unique anonymous reporting service**.

Could you spot a romance fraudster?
Click here to find out how to report it

Crimestoppers.
0800 555111
100% anonymous. Always.





Marking your emails as "junk" or "spam" instead of just deleting them helps train your email inbox to recognise spam in the future



Advice on how to stay secure online from the UK's National Cyber Security Centre

Follow the National Cyber Security Centre guidance this last week before Christmas to make sure you have a #FraudFreeXmas
<https://ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware/home>

ActionFraud
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre
0300 123 2040



Action Fraud and the National Cyber Security Centre are urging our readers to protect their personal accounts, check before they buy, and use secure payment methods in order to stay ahead of the threat from criminals this shopping season. New data from the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) shows shoppers lost over £15 million to cyber criminals during the festive period last year, with an average loss of £1,000 per person.

Take these steps to ensure you are more protected during the Christmas shopping period.

- Protect your accounts: set up 2-step verification and use three random words passwords to prevent cyber criminals from gaining access to your shopping, bank or email accounts.
- Check before you buy: Research online retailers, particularly if you haven't bought from them before, to check they're legitimate. Read feedback from people or organisations that you trust, such as consumer websites.
- Pay securely: Use a credit card when shopping online, if you have one. Most major credit card providers protect online purchases and are obliged to refund you in certain circumstances. Using a credit card (rather than a debit card) also means that if your payment details are stolen, your main bank account won't be directly affected. Also consider using a payment platform, such as PayPal, Google or Apple Pay. And whenever you pay, look for the closed padlock in the web address bar – it means your connection is secure.

More information on the NCSC's Cyber Aware campaign and online shopping safety can be found on the NCSC website



Neighbourhood Watch Benefits



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