

>>> SEPTEMBER 2025 <<< OUR NEWS



Join us for our 2025 Neighbourhood Watch Conference

The Neighbourhood Watch 2025 Conference, will be taking place online via Zoom on Wednesday 24 September 2025, from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

We would love for you to join us for the whole event or just the sessions that matter most to you. This year's conference promises to be inspiring, informative, and a true celebration of our community. Highlights include:

- ✦ A first look at the new Neighbourhood Watch strategy for 2026-2030
- ✦ Celebrating coordinator stories and experiences from across the network
- ✦ Interactive sessions and a Q&A with the Central Support Team
- ✦ Volunteer Recognition Awards - connect, learn, and celebrate together.

👉 Register your place today: **[Click here to register](#)**

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New Deputy Crime Commissioner in Derbyshire

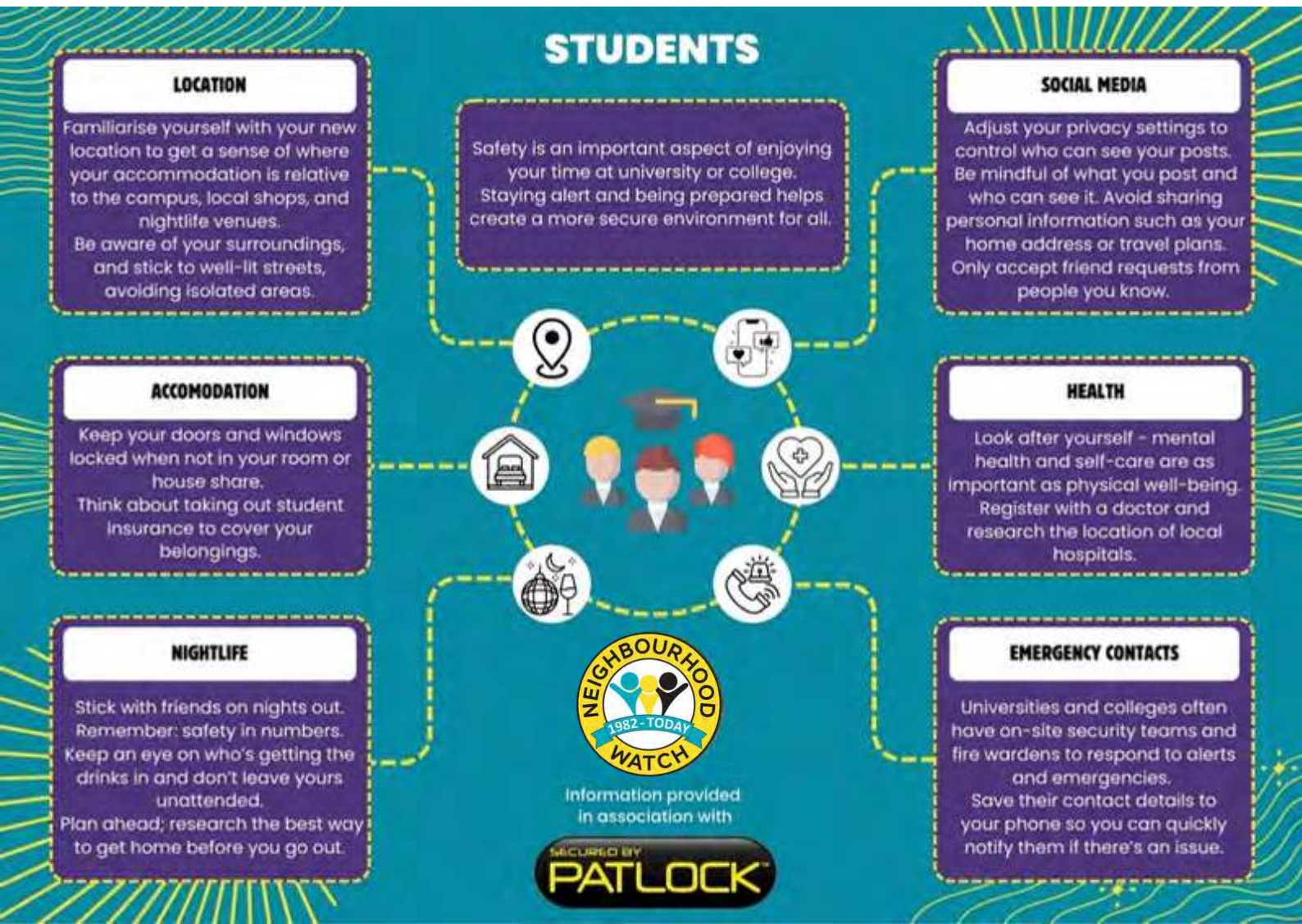
Congratulations to Dr Fatima Eltinay, who is Chair of the Derbyshire Neighbourhood Watch Association Trust and a community coordinator for the Castleward area.

She was recently appointed Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire. She was selected by the Police and Crime Commissioner Nicolle Ndiweni-Robert who said:

“Dr. Eltinay is a highly accomplished medical professional with a strong background in public health, safeguarding, and trauma-informed care. Her clinical and academic expertise, particularly in the areas of inclusion, health equity, and vulnerability align directly with the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan, especially in relation to supporting victims and addressing the root causes of crime.



“Her leadership as Chair of Derbyshire Neighbourhood Watch Association Trust has demonstrated her ability to build trusted relationships with the police, local authorities, and community groups. She has shown a deep commitment to community safety, regularly engaging with residents, supporting local initiatives, and advocating for early intervention and prevention.”





The UK government is testing the Emergency Alerts system on Sunday 7 September 2025 at 3pm.

Your mobile phone or tablet will vibrate and make a loud siren-like sound, even if it's set on silent. The alert message will confirm this is a test and that you do not need to take any further action. Regular testing ensures the system is functioning correctly, should it need to be used in a life-threatening emergency. Find out more at gov.uk/alerts.

You can opt out of the Emergency Alerts, including the national test, but you should keep them switched on for your own safety. Emergency Alerts will warn you via your mobile or tablet if there's a life-threatening emergency nearby. Only the government and the emergency services are able to send them.

There are simple and effective steps we can all take to be more prepared for an emergency. Visit gov.uk/prepare for advice on how you can prepare.

Coming to the Neighbourhood Watch online conference? Ask Era about smart security.

Want to know how to choose the best smart alarm system for your home? Interested in smart locks, but not sure where to start?

We will be hosting a Q&A with Sumier Foster-Shah from ERA, one of the UK's leading home security providers at our digital conference on 24 September. Send questions to eraqanda@hroc.co.uk to join the conversation.

You can find out more and register for the conference [here](#).



ITV reports crime reduction in areas where police work with Neighbourhood Watch

The National College of Policing shared data with ITV news that areas where police work closely with Neighbourhood Watch groups see a significant reduction in crime. Neighbourhood Policing focussed on reducing anti-social behaviour, burglary and car crime.

Several Neighbourhood Watch representatives spoke to ITV to share their views on why their local partnerships were proving so successful.

The story included interviews with Steph Good, project manager in Devon and Cornwall, Graham Penn in Rotherham and Dr Fatima Elltinay in Derbyshire.

You can check out some of the interviews on our [Youtube channel](#).



Working for a Safer Suffolk

[Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association](#) is celebrating after receiving National Lottery funding for its innovative new **Working for a Safer Suffolk** project.

The Association will use the funding for a new project that develops stronger partnerships between Neighbourhood Watch, the police and District/Town/Parish Councils, as well as reinvigorate the Association's 500 volunteer-led schemes. The Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association Committee said:

"The National Lottery funding is wonderful news! It provides the foundation for our new project, including closer work with the police and statutory councils, but it will also allow us to boost the support we can give to our current and new members. We know that living and contributing to a safer community is really important to them and their families. With this funding Neighbourhood Watch can help and play a big part."



Met Engage launched in London

Over 50,000 people have signed up to receive updates from Neighbourhood Watch, as a result of Met Engage being introduced in London.

The platform uses the same database as Neighbourhood Watch, Get Safe Online and Action Fraud and will enable London residents to be better in touch with their local policing teams and local and national Neighbourhood Watch.

Historic England in Norfolk

Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch has been working with Norfolk police and Historic England to help protect the rich heritage in the county.

From shipwrecks, local churches and historic houses, the local Neighbourhood Watch members are looking out for these important historical sites. This is part of the long-standing partnership between Neighbourhood Watch Network and Historic England.



Wildlife Crime in Kent

Peter New, a coordinator from Kent, appeared on BBC Breakfast on Wednesday 6 August to talk about the epidemic of Wildlife Crime in his area.

The programme was reporting an increase in weapons (specifically catapults) being used to harm or kill wildlife and damage property. Officers wanted to identify four children who had been shooting pigeons, and a man had allegedly been shot in the face with a catapult. Peter worked with Kent police to help encourage reporting. He described how police had been liaising with schools to spread the message to parents and pupils alike.

The force, which currently receives an average of 14 reports of catapult use per day, said it will take offenders to court if necessary.

Chief Inspector James Ross of Kent Police said: "We understand that [catapult] incidents are likely to be under-reported and are therefore committed to tackling this issue head-on."



Landlines in the UK are going digital.



Are you ready?

The UK's landlines are getting an upgrade and soon most phone calls will be made over a broadband line. Don't worry, your landline is here to stay. Your phone number won't change, and over 99% of handsets work with the new system.

For most customers, the move to Digital Voice - BT's new home phone service - is as simple as plugging your phone into a router rather than the phone socket on the wall.

If you don't have broadband

Don't worry, BT will be offering a dedicated landline service, allowing customers to use their landline in the same way they do today.

Supporting customers every step of the way

If you identify as vulnerable or need additional support, please contact your phone company. BT customers can call **0330 1234 150**.

If you use a healthcare alarm or medical pendant which allows you to press for help in an emergency, or a burglar alarm, inform your phone company and check with your equipment provider about any needed upgrades before the switch.



For more information
about Digital Voice, visit:
bt.com/digitalvoice



Mobile phone theft

It is reported that a mobile phone is stolen every hour in some areas of the UK. With this in mind, we have put together some top tips to help keep your mobile safer. Our mobile phone's value is more than just monetary, they contain our personal data, our social account, our banking details and our treasured photos of our loved ones. Priceless.

1. **Stay aware in public spaces**

- Thieves often target people who are distracted (e.g. texting while walking or standing by bus/train stops).
- Keep your phone out of sight in crowded areas like high streets, public transport, or outside bars/clubs.

2. **Use secure carrying methods**

- Avoid keeping your phone in back pockets or loosely in your hand.
- Use a zipped bag or front pocket, ideally with the opening facing inward when in a crowd.

3. **Enable security features**

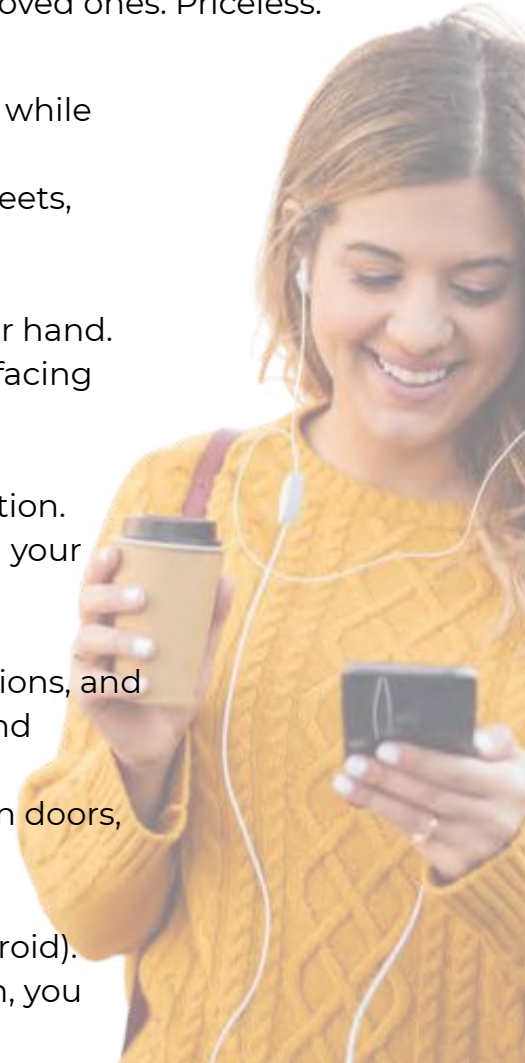
- Set up a strong PIN, password, fingerprint, or facial recognition.
- Register your device's IMEI number (by dialling *#06#) with your network provider; this makes it easier to block if stolen.

4. **Be cautious at hotspots for theft**

- Phone theft is common near transport hubs, tourist attractions, and busy nightlife areas in UK cities like London, Manchester, and Birmingham.
- Avoid displaying your phone when standing near open train doors, escalators, or while cycling.

5. **Use tracking and backup services**

- Activate "Find My iPhone" (Apple) or "Find My Device" (Android).
- Regularly back up important data, so if your phone is stolen, you won't lose personal information.



Central support updates

Volunteering opportunities with RVS

Part of the work we do is to support local people to volunteer. We have teamed up with the [Royal Voluntary Service](#) (RVS), who help grow the nations' volunteer community and run services to support people's health, wellbeing and connections. In the coming month's a new platform from the RVS will enable us to advertise both local and national volunteering opportunities, keep an eye on the Knowledge Hub for updates.

Free training for businesses

We are developing some free training modules for business owners and retailers, to protect their staff and keep their premises and communities safe. Watch this space!