

»»» JANUARY 2024 «««



# OUR NEWS

FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES



## Happy New Year to all our supporters!

Welcome back to a new year at Neighbourhood Watch! We hope everyone had a restful break and are ready for a busy and exciting 2024. January can be a difficult month after the festivities of December quieten down, and so ahead of Blue Monday (allegedly the 'most depressing day of the year') on 15th January, we'd like to remind of the services available to those who may be struggling. Charities including [Samaritans](#) and [Mind](#) will have their website and phonelines open.

It may only be January, but we're already looking ahead and have a few key dates to highlight for you!

**Neighbourhood Watch Week** will be taking place from the 1st - 7th June, and we would love to hear what you have planned for this. This is always a celebratory week, where we take time to recognise the hard work of our members and volunteers across the country. **Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) Awareness Week** will be taking place a month later, from 1st - 7th July, and we will run a series of webinars during this week on the topic. Don't forget to watch this space for more information on our **Volunteer Recognition Awards 2024**, which promises to be an even bigger event than 2023's Awards!

# Do good and be in with a chance of winning with our lottery!

Our fundraising lottery has gone from strength to strength since it started in the summer of 2022. **In total we have raised £57,300** – an amazing amount that enables our core services to keep going and for us to keep improving how we serve communities and support our volunteers and members, with training, resources and events. **Thank you to all our players – you are incredible!**

The lottery runs weekly and on offer is the jackpot prize of up to £25,000 (available to all players across all charities that take part), a bonus prize that changes seasonally, and a weekly cash prize available just to Neighbourhood Watch players that increases based on the number of Neighbourhood Watch tickets sold.

**2023 saw a total of 54 Neighbourhood Watch players win a grand total of £15,734 cash between them, plus two special bonus prizes** (a year's subscription to HelloFresh and a £500 travel gift card). We spoke to some of the winners to find out more about why they play Neighbourhood Watch's lottery and how they spent their winnings!

## **E.S won £325.20 in May 2023 - and had a lovely spa day!**

### **What made you join the Neighbourhood Watch lottery?**

I came across this lottery in one of the Neighbourhood Watch newsletter and love the fact that part of the money was going to a good cause.

### **What do you like about Neighbourhood Watch and the work we do?**

Very useful information on what is happening in the community and on how to protect ourselves (burglars, scams, security system...).

### **How did you feel about winning?**

I was very surprised and I had to read the email 3 times before believing it!

### **How do you plan to use your winnings/or how have you use your winnings?**

I treated my family to a nice meal and I went to a spa day with friends.



**P.B from Buckinghamshire won £355.92 in January 2023**

I joined the Neighbourhood Watch lottery because I strongly believe in the positive impact that Neighbourhood Watch has on our local community. Supporting initiatives like Neighbourhood Watch is essential for creating a safer and more connected neighbourhood.

**J.W won £334.56 in March 2023**

I decided to join Neighbourhood 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!

If you would like to help support our work and be in with a chance of winning some great prizes like those above, **you can join our lottery starting from just £4 per month**. 50% of every ticket sold is donated to the charity, 25% goes to the prizes and 25% to administration of the lottery by Gatherwell.

**CLICK**  
**HERE TO**  
**JOIN!**

**SCAN**  
**ME!**



# Protect your Pa\$\$w0rds - start the new year securely!

**Home security doesn't just mean locking your doors and windows - protecting your digital devices with strong passwords is also important to keeping yourself and your personal data safe.** Perhaps you received a new phone or laptop this Christmas, or you want to help keep your family members digitally safe. Why not make one of your new year resolutions to build strong, secure passwords for your devices?

Creating a strong password doesn't need to be complicated. There's endless information available around how to best protect yourself online - these are the quickest and most important things that you can do to avoid hacking, online scams and information theft through weak passwords:

## Create a separate password for your email account(s)

Your personal email account contains lots of important information about you and is the gateway to all your other online accounts, including banking, social media and online shopping. If your email account is hacked, all your other passwords can be reset, so it's important to use a strong password for your email, that is different to all your others.

### PROTECT YOUR Pa\$\$WORD IN 3 EASY STEPS



**1 CREATE A SEPARATE PASSWORD FOR YOUR EMAIL ACCOUNT**

**2 USE 3 RANDOM WORDS**

**3 TURN ON TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (2FA)**

SHARE THESE 3 STEPS WITH 3 FRIENDS

[ourwatch.org.uk/passwords](https://ourwatch.org.uk/passwords)

Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales. CIO No. 1173349

## Use 3 random words to build your password

Using three random words is the recommended way of generating passwords, as it's easier to remember and takes trillions of years for a computer algorithm to crack. The [National Cyber Security Centre \(NCSC\)](#) recommend using three random, non-associated words, such as planegiraffetable. Do not use words that are associated with you, for example names of pets or surnames, as these are easy to identify if you are someone who uses social media.

## Turn on two-factor authentication (2FA)

Two-factor authentication is a free security feature that gives you an extra layer of protection online and stops cyber criminals getting into your accounts - even if they have your password.

2FA reduces the risk of being hacked by asking you to provide a second factor of information, such as getting a text or code when you log in, to check you are who you say you are.

**[Visit our website for more guidance on creating strong passwords!](https://ourwatch.org.uk/passwords)**

# Help for Households - support available across the country

**The UK Government is helping households with the cost of living. Find out what support you could get at: [gov.uk/helpforhouseholds](https://gov.uk/helpforhouseholds).**

We're all worried about rising prices and the pressure that puts on household budgets. The government is providing a range of extra support which will be paid to eligible individuals automatically, including the Energy Price Guarantee which limits the amount you can be charged per unit of electricity and gas, and the £300 Pensioner Cost of Living payment, which will be paid with Winter Fuel Payments to all pensioner households across the UK.

Depending on where you live in the UK, there are additional different schemes that could help support your household finances:

- **Help with your bills:** such as low-cost home internet and phone packages available from providers through social tariffs, hardship schemes from water companies, and the UK Government funded Household Support Fund available from local councils to help with essential costs.
- **Help with childcare:** £2,000 a year of tax free childcare is available to eligible families to help with the cost of childcare.
- **Help with housing:** council tax support available from local councils and housing benefits are available from the UK Government.
- **Help with your income:** personalised job support is available through Job Help, tax relief and work-related expenses can be claimed from HMRC
- **Help with managing finances:** [MoneyHelper.org.uk](https://MoneyHelper.org.uk) offers impartial guidance and a range of tools to help make your money and pension choices clearer.

Find out what support you are eligible for at  
[gov.uk/helpforhouseholds](https://gov.uk/helpforhouseholds)

Help for  
Households

# Choosing a smart security system that works for you

**There are several benefits to incorporating a smart security system into your home. Not only does it act as a strong visual deterrent to potential intruders, it also allows you to keep an eye on your property from wherever you are. But what do you need to consider when choosing a smart security system?**

# ERA



Sumier Foster-Shah, Product and Customer Support Manager at ERA, discusses the options available and shares his expert advice...

## **Components of a smart security system**

Individual households will require different levels of protection, depending on factors such as the size and location of your home and how often you will be there.

If you're looking for a basic level of home security, you may look to choose a smaller security kit, such as the [ERA Protect 5-piece kit](#). For those looking for an additional layer of security, the [ERA Protect 9-piece kit](#) is a great option.

The ERA Protect alarm hub integrates with up to 96 alarm accessories, and an unlimited number of camera products from the ERA Protect range, so you can create a security system that works for you and your home.

Security cameras are a core element of a security system, allowing you to monitor your property day and night. They are also a great option if you have pets, allowing you to keep an eye on your furry friends when you're out. ERA offers a range of reliable, high-quality cameras, including a [floodlight camera](#), allowing you to see and hear what's happening in and around your home whenever you need.

Motion sensors are another key component of a smart alarm system, helping to secure your home by picking up heat and movement when the alarm is armed. With ERA Protect, a notification is sent to your smartphone when motion is detected, alerting you to any activity on your property. It's also pet friendly too, so you can avoid any triggers from your pets moving around at home at ground level.

Additional security products that you may want to consider include door/window sensors, as well as a wireless keypad to arm and disarm your system.

### Installation

Many smart security products can be installed by a competent DIYer, however as wiring is required for some products, you may choose to work with a professional to set up certain elements of your security system, such as outdoor cameras.

### Staying connected

Internet connection is often required to enable you to be able to control and access footage remotely and be notified of any motion at your property. Therefore, you may want to opt for a system that will stay connected in the event of an internet outage.

ERA offers a range of additional cover plans that offer enhanced security measures, including activation of the built-in 4G SIM card in the Hub, which utilises dual path cloud and roaming sim technology to connect to the strongest 4G network and keep the alarm system online even when the internet is unavailable.

### Protecting your data

When selecting a smart security system, it is also important to ensure that your data is secure and encrypted. ERA Protect offers the highest level of protection, storing data and recordings on a UK-based cloud platform, using bank-grade data encryption. The ERA Protect alarm system has also been accredited with the BSI Internet of Things kitemark, which means it has been through rigorous testing to achieve an independent badge of trust, allowing you to feel at ease that both your property and data is protected.

**For further information on  
ERA's products visit:  
[www.eraprotect.com](http://www.eraprotect.com).**



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## A VISIBLE DETERRENT

Entry to French doors fitted with standard handles and locks can be forced in less than 30 seconds. Most forced entry burglaries are committed through the weakest point at the rear of the property, usually the patio or French doors. The modern white design of the PATLOCK provides a clear visible deterrent throughout the day and when you need it most, at night.

## WHAT IS A PATLOCK?

PATLOCK is the Police approved home security product for French doors, patio doors and conservatories.

PATLOCK is suitable for double doors fitted with two 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.

PATLOCK has been awarded the Secured by Design accreditation and is recommended by Police Forces and Crime Prevention Associations throughout the UK to help you feel more secure.

