

Ferring Neighbourhood Watch



*Over 40 years of building community spirit,
safety in numbers
and working together
to reduce crime and the
disproportionate fear of crime*

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Neighbourhood Watch Newsletters Delivery

Our resident volunteers deliver to over a thousand homes in Ferring in hard copy and by email. If you no longer require a hard copy or wish to switch to the email version please email Robin Saunders, your Area Coordinator, at saundersrobina@hotmail.com

Do You Have Young Relatives Just Starting Out At University?



Students' lives, especially freshers', are often very busy. So busy that when they're online – almost certainly quite a lot of the time – they may not think about whether what they're doing is safe and secure. Might any new student you know who is living away from home for the first time benefit from some simple reminders about protecting themselves from harm they might encounter in new, exciting surroundings?

●**Fraudulent texts, emails, DMs and calls** claiming to be from the bank, student loan provider, HMRC and other trusted organisations are commonplace. Not thinking before clicking could cost well money or identity, or both.

●**Banking and other financial details need to be kept private.** Any online money transfers are best made safely via an official bank app. It's prudent to get to know their Student Money Adviser. Check out any new accommodation in person, and make sure the advertiser is authentic before paying any money. Avoid payment by bank transfer to an unknown person or company for deposits, fees or other costs. Using a card is much safer, but NEVER disclose the pin number.

●**Buying** Any website's legitimacy can be checked at [Get Safe Online](https://www.getsafeonline.org/) the UK's leading source of information and advice on online safety and security.



●**What goes online stays online.** Financial and other confidential details, including passwords, should be kept private. Intimate images shared innocently can fall into the wrong hands. Location settings on phones and apps should be checked to help protect physical safety. Avoid freebies and prize draws asking for confidential data.

●**There's no place online for any kind of abuse**, hate speech, forcing views on others or criminal activity. In a recent survey, 70% of the employers who responded said they believe every company should check job applicants' social media profiles.

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- **Gambling** For some students, betting can become a bad habit. There's a fine line between gaming and gambling.
- **Clever coders and gamers** are sometimes recruited by cybercriminals wanting their skills for malware coding or hacking
- **Protect phones, tablets and laptops** at all times. If activity is confidential or financial, avoid using Wi-Fi hotspots - there's no guarantee they're secure. Be wary of location services on apps too.
- **Dating** Use a reputable app or site and keep conversations on its messaging platform. Not everyone is who they claim to be. It's easy to block or say no.
- **Students are favourite targets** for non-existent jobs or illegal get rich quick schemes; jobs that are too good to be true; using their bank accounts to 'process payments'. Money muling or laundering could well result in a criminal record, even if done innocently.

Help Me Angela is a personal safety service, available to everyone. This is an example of how it works:- One Friday night, [REDACTED] was travelling home by train when two drunk men began making sexually aggressive comments towards her. When she moved carriages, they followed her, and when she got off at her stop, they did too. Feeling intimidated, she clicked the 'help me' button' on the app to get immediate help from a Personal Safety Specialist. Using the optional GPS service, the team were able to guide [REDACTED] to a nearby supermarket and call a taxi for her, while the two men decided to walk away. The next day, Help Me Angela contacted [REDACTED] to check in and offer her follow up support. Visit <https://helpmeangela.com> to learn more about keeping safe.

Genius



Online scams are becoming more sophisticated and harder than ever to spot, perpetrators are increasingly devious, targeting individuals through social media, using web scraping tools, cheap cloud connectivity, and recent advancements in generative AI. A new innovation from Norton, the anti-virus software provider, is a real-time AI-powered scam detection tool, called Genie. *This easy-to-use, fast, free app is in an early access phase, and Neighbourhood Watch members are being offered the chance to be among the first to experience and use it.* Early access phase here means that it is being 'soft-launched', allowing Norton to collect user feedback. And it also means that Genie is still learning. So, every time you use the app, you are helping it to get smarter – and ultimately helping deliver a more effective scam detection tool. Combining cybersecurity experience and data with cutting-edge AI innovation, within seconds Genie can detect if texts, emails, websites or social media posts are scams. Simply copy and paste or upload screenshots of suspicious messages to the app, and it lets you know immediately if it's likely to be a scam. Visit <https://uk.norton.com/products/genie-scam-detector> or the Apple App Store to download Norton Genie for free. (Compatible with iOS 15.0 or greater, Chrome, Safari, Microsoft Edge and Firefox.)

Be Burglar Smart If you head out for the evening, making your house look occupied can go a long way to keeping it secure. Shut the curtains, turn on some internal timer lights and leave a radio or TV playing – it may just be enough to deter an opportunistic intruder. Burglaries are often the result of thieves gaining entry through open or unlocked doors and windows. Ensure windows and doors are in good condition and keep them locked, especially if you are elsewhere in the house. Keep side gates locked at all times and ensure that ladders and tools are locked away to deter an opportunistic burglar from finding tools in your shed or garage to break into your home.



Store spare keys safely NEVER leave a spare key under a plant pot or hanging inside a letterbox – burglars know where to find them! If you must leave a key outside, invest in a combination lockbox which can be hidden away to make life as difficult as possible for criminals.