



Neighbourhood Watch:

Monthly Cyber Update

From your Cyber Ambassador | April 2026

Meet Your Cyber Ambassador

I'm **John Lodge**, your local Cyber Ambassador for Broadstone Neighbourhood Watch. My role is to help bridge the gap between our physical safety and our digital security. Each month, I'll bring you the most relevant updates and tips to keep our community secure. Also online learning via ZOOM or Webinar

The Digital Watch: Stop the Scams

The "Report Fraud" Rebrand Please note that *Action Fraud* has officially been replaced by **Report Fraud**. This new system is faster and sends data directly to investigators.

Current Threat: "The Verification Code Scam" If you receive a text with a login code you didn't request, **do not share it**. A scammer may call you pretending to be your bank or a tech company asking for that code—this is them trying to break into your account.

The Golden Rule: Your bank will **never** ask you for a one-time passcode over the phone.

[Click here to report a scam to Report Fraud](#)

Monthly Campaign: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

ASB isn't just a nuisance; it affects our collective sense of safety. Whether it's persistent noise, littering, or intimidating behaviour, it needs to be logged.

What to do:

1. **Record:** Keep a brief log of dates and times.
2. **Report:** Use the local council portal @ [HERE](#) or call **101**.
3. **Connect:** Talk to your neighbours; if multiple people report the same issue, it is prioritized by the local "Hotspot" patrol teams.

Quick Tip: The Multi Factor Authentication "MFA"

As of April 2026, the UK's security standards have tightened. "Optional" security is a thing of the past. If a service (like your email, banking, or social media) offers an extra layer of protection, you are now expected to use it. Here's how to stay ahead:

The "Automatic Fail" Rule: For businesses and community groups, failing to turn on MFA where it's available now results in an automatic security failure. For individuals, it simply means you're the easy target for the hackers.

Say Hello to Passkeys: The NCSC is now heavily promoting Passkeys (using your face, fingerprint, or screen lock) instead of traditional passwords. They are faster and nearly

impossible to "phish."

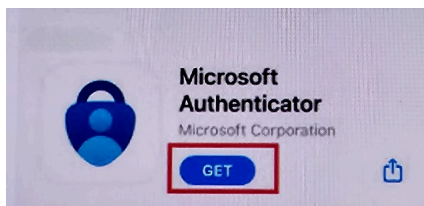
The 99% Shield: Statistics show that MFA blocks 99.9% of automated account-takeover attacks. Even if a scammer steals your password in a data breach, they still can't get into your account without that second "factor."

✓ Your 2-Minute Action Plan:

Audit: Check your most important accounts (Email, Amazon, Banking).

Enable: Look for "Two-Step Verification" or "Multi-Factor Authentication" in the security settings.

App over SMS: If possible, use an Authenticator App (like Google or Microsoft) rather than a text message code. It's more secure against "SIM-swapping" scams



⚡ Fake British Gas calls and other energy scams

As energy prices are set to increase, scammers are impersonating British Gas through cold calls. Worryingly, some call recipients noted that the caller knew personal information about them. [Find out about the most recent examples we've seen and how you can avoid and report them.](#)

Energy scams are popular among fraudsters, so it pays to keep up to date with the latest tactics

🤖 HMRC scams are circulating

The tax year ends on 5 April, and as always, scammers are attempting to take advantage of this increase in activity by impersonating HMRC. [Take a look at some of the most common HMRC scams.](#) and listen to real voicemails from scammers, so you can be prepared should they contact you.

🤔 How to spot fake or fraudulent websites

Fraudsters can create fake websites that appear extremely convincing to the untrained eye. Recently, we've seen a rise in sites impersonating WhatsApp, encouraging users to download fraudulent apps or visit dangerous links via text, email and ads.

[Here's what you need to know to stay safe.](#) and nine expert-approved ways to spot whether a website is a scam or the real deal.

Up and Coming Events

Webinar - Knife crime, Safety and Young People

We have teamed up with the Ben Kinsella Trust to run a free webinar called: **Knife crime, Safety and Young People** and we'd love you to be there if you can spare the time. The webinar will lift the lid on the reasons young people can be drawn into knife crime and also some practical advice for parents and grandparents who are worried about young people. Interested then Register [HERE](#)

Date and Time Wednesday 22 April 10.30am

Come and meet your local neighbourhood policing team this April

We'll be out across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole at the locations below. Come say hello, ask a question, share a concern, or report a crime. No appointment needed - just drop by.

 **Broadstone Costa Coffee – Fri 17th April 11-1pm**

 **what3words:** <https://w113w.co/chin.safety.chairs>

Broadstone Neighbourhood Watch Coffee Morning

18th April 2026 1030 -1230pm St John's Church Dunyeats Road Entrance

 **what3words:** <https://w3w.co/stop.gaps.sugars>

Stay in Touch

Have you been a victim of a scam, and don't know how to deal with it? Then Message me by:

Using the Neighbourhood Watch Contact Form @ [HERE](#)

Or call: +441622370996