

Love thy neighbour? How half of us don't trust the people next door... and Londoners are the least friendly

By Francesca

Never mind loving thy neighbour, many of us don't even know who they are, a survey has found. Fewer than half of us trust our neighbours, and more than a quarter don't know who lives next door, it reveals. The English, and especially Londoners, were the least friendly of all.



Fewer than half of us trust our neighbours, and more than a quarter don't know who lives next door, a survey has found. Posed by models

And while we might cherish the idea of living in a warm and welcoming community, it seems that when it comes down to it, we have a hard time going out of our way for strangers.

Being distant with newcomers is the norm, with only 34 per cent saying they actively welcome new neighbours.

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One in ten of those quizzed admitted being suspicious of people moving in, while 14 per cent said they were less trusting of those from outside their own communities.



And the problem appears to be on the rise, with young people more wary than those of the older generation.

Almost 62 per cent of people aged 55 and over said they trust their neighbours, but fewer than half as many 16 to 24-year-olds agreed, at only 30 per cent.

Scottish and Welsh residents were equally community minded, with 39 per cent in each country willing to make new arrivals feel welcome.

In London that figure was just 13 per cent.

The study of more than 2,000 people was commissioned by the Yorkshire Building Society Trust.

Its chief executive Chris Pilling said: 'The UK has always been very proud of its community spirit but it seems neighbourliness is not as prevalent as we might think. We believe trust is essential