



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
ASSOCIATION



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the February edition of our newsletter.

Where did January Go?

We hope you are all settled into the new year, and looking forward to a safe and secure year ahead.

We are very conscious that January came and left us so quickly without us getting time to produce a newsletter last month - so here we are with the first newsletter of 2019! We hope you find the content of interest and use.

Please remember to send us your stories or information that may be of interest for us to share with the wider NW audience in Suffolk.

Community Engagement Officer Update

The Constabulary Neighbourhood Partnership Team have kept us updated with two recent changes to the Community Engagement team:

PC Mike Small is now the Officer covering the Ipswich West and Hadleigh Locality.

- Applications for the Ipswich Central position closed on the 18th January, and we hope to be informed of the replacement officer during February.



As a reminder, the Engagement Officer for your location can be contacted via the Area pages of our website, which offers a direct email link.



Time for a "Refresh"?

We continue our campaign to encourage all our Neighbourhood Watch schemes to go check on their street signs to make sure they are in "good shape". We have mentioned in previous newsletters that if your signs are faded or damaged, it may be a good time to refresh and replace them, as it is important that the Neighbourhood Watch Street Sign acts as a deterrent in the fight against crime.

The picture (recently taken) is a good example of the task at hand.

Funding to replace signs can be applied for via locality funds, so it's worth speaking to your local councillor for financial support.

It's also worth making sure that signs are not obscured by the overgrowth of vegetation, and a clean is often the simplest of remedies! Don't forget that you are also covered by the NW Public Liability Insurance whilst cleaning your signs!

They are a valuable asset to your scheme. We welcome you to send us some "Before and After" pictures!

Suffolk NW Association Event Programme



As a reminder, we are developing an event programme that will see our new gazebos and flags out and about at a host of events during the year.

The Executive team are currently putting together an event programme for 2019, which will enable attendance at fetes, fayres, and other community events across Suffolk. The Gazebos are available for individual schemes to use as well in support of their own scheme activities.

In the coming weeks, we will announce more detail, but if you know of any events in your area that may benefit the presence of one of our Gazebos, then please get in touch via our contact page. At the same time, if you would be happy to give a couple of hours to help support an event in your area, we would love to hear from you. The aim of our event programme is to raise awareness of crime prevention, to get people engaged, and encourage new schemes be set up.

Public Access Defibrillators across Suffolk

<https://defibsearch.co.uk>

This Free to use site is designed to quickly & accurately locate the nearest Public Access Defibrillator Units that are appearing around our county.



The system (available to the whole of the UK) uses accurate positioning co-ordinates for a user's current position. Using an Online Database with all units listed with very accurate position coordinates, it works in conjunction with the Google Maps API [Application Program Interface] to provide location maps and "turn by turn" directions to reach the nearest units.

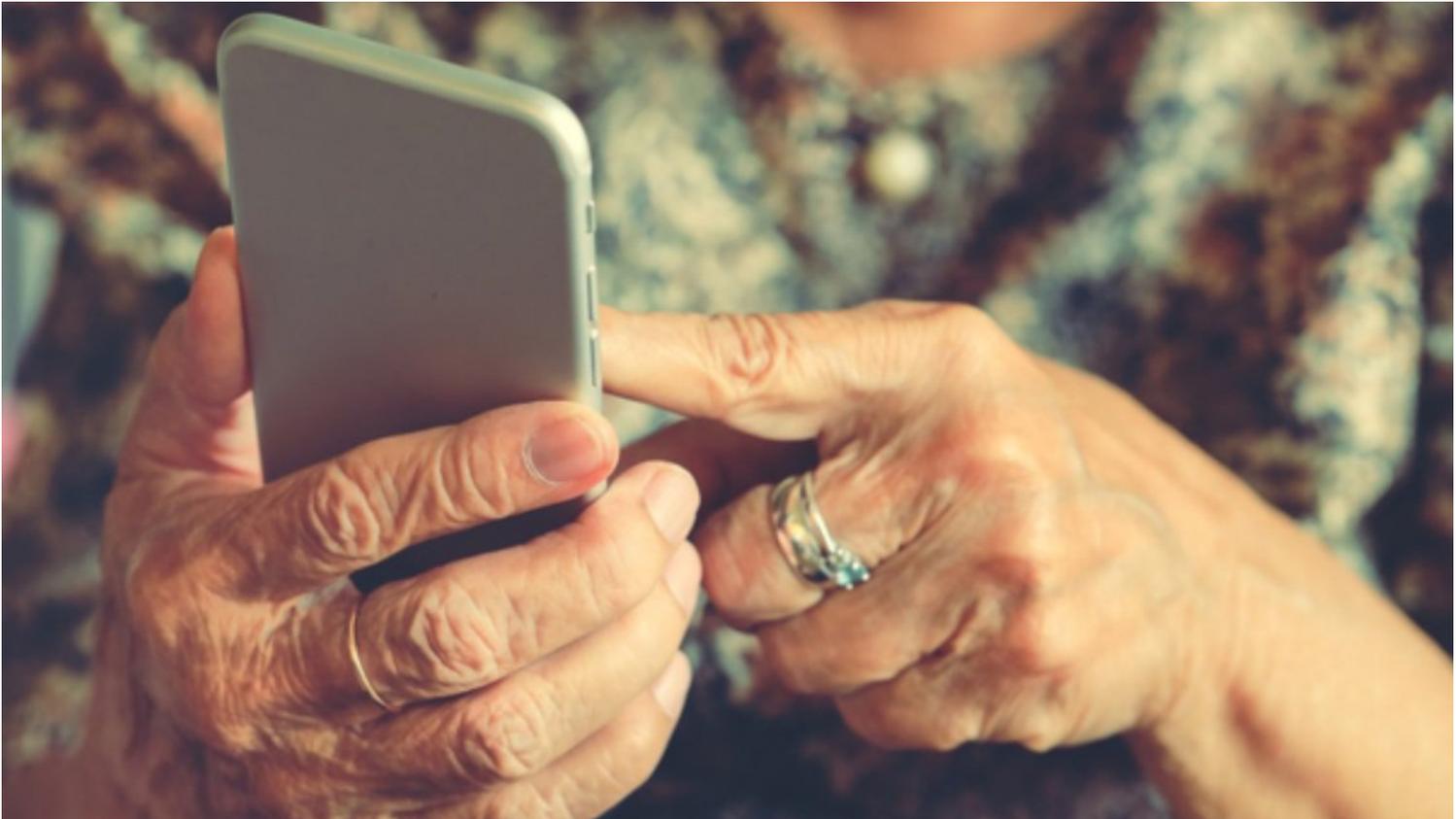
Presently it is a simple "web site app" meaning it is not necessary to download anything, just simply add it to your web browser bookmarks to use in case of an emergency.

So if you have a smart phone, and in the event of an emergency when out and about, this information could help save someone's life.

Worth knowing we think!

At the moment, the site is currently limited to the "testing, evaluation and proof of Concept" stage, but people are more than welcome to use it.

Pension Scams



As of the 9th January, companies that make unsolicited phone calls to people about their pensions will be liable to enforcement action, including fines of upto £500,000.

The ban has been introduced in a bid to prevent people falling victim to cold call scams that can lead to them losing their life savings.

As many as eight scam calls take place every second - or a whopping 250 million calls a year – according to research from the Money Advice Service (MAS).

Victims of pension scams can lose their life savings, and be left facing retirement with limited income. According to the Financial Conduct Authority, pension fraudsters stole on average £91,000 per victim in 2018.

If you receive a cold call about your pension, get any information you can, such as the company name or phone number, and report it to the Information Commissioner's Office via their website or on 0303 123 1113.

If you have been a victim of this type of fraud, report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or by using their online reporting tool.

Watch Out for Bogus Lottery Draws



Which? have issued a warning about fraudsters who are impersonating the EuroMillions winners are promising a chunk of the £115m jackpot

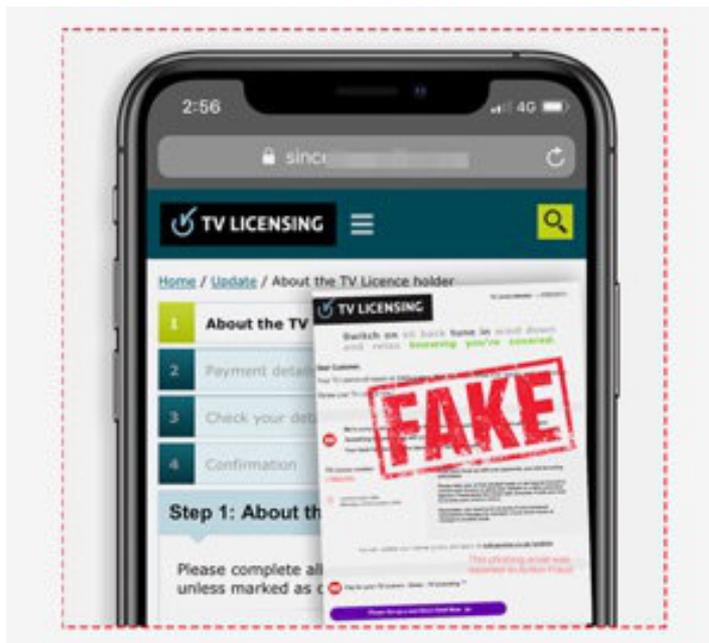
The scammers claim they'll draw the prize when their YouTube channel reaches 10,000 subscribers. On Monday afternoon, the bogus YouTube account had more than 4,250 followers and the Twitter account – with the incorrectly spelled handle @Pat_conolly – had almost 44,000 followers.

Which? reported the account to Twitter and it was shut down a few days later. But a new account – @MrPatConnolly – was set up and started targeting students promising to help a few with their financial burdens in return for followers. But the National Lottery has confirmed all the accounts accounts are bogus.

The most important thing to remember is that if something seems too good to be true, it probably is. Report social media scams by clicking 'report' on the post or page, and to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040.

Read more on the Which website

Fake TV Licensing emails



For more information on how to stay secure online, visit www.cyberaware.gov.uk



Don't get caught out

Action Fraud has received more than 5,000 reports about fake emails and texts purporting to be from TV Licensing. The messages contain links to genuine-looking websites that are designed to steal personal and financial information.

Always question unsolicited requests for your personal or financial information in case it's a scam. Never automatically click on a link in an unexpected email or text.

For more information about how to stay safe online, visit <https://www.cyberaware.gov.uk>

CrimeStoppers.

Speak up. Stay safe.



CrimeStoppers are committed to raising awareness about crime, regionally, nationally and internationally, and always have a range of campaigns running offer help and support to all communities.

[Read more](#)

Some people are reluctant to go to the authorities, for a range of reasons. Crimestoppers charity is there to provide people a voice whilst guaranteeing that they remain 100% anonymous. Always.

If you have any information about any criminal activity in your community, please contact Crimestoppers 100% anonymously on 0800 555 111 or through their non-traceable Anonymous Online Form.

Don't forget the Patlock French Door Security discount exclusive to Neighbourhood Watch members!



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*£64.00 at www.patlock.co.uk



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