



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

*the e-newsletter for
Neighbourhood Watch supporters*

SUMMER 2020

Welcome to the Summer edition of our newsletter.

With an element of restriction on our activities, we have issued a “Summer” edition in place of the usual monthly newsletters, covering the period June to August inclusive.

Throughout the pandemic so far, we have seen a substantial rise in the number and range of scams. So we have picked a few out for you, just as a reminder to take care, think before you act, and help those especially vulnerable from these type of scams.

Another big focus for us has been pulling together all the documentation and communications relating to our Annual General Meeting for 2020.

Just as a reminder for all our coordinators, whom are voting as representative for their respective schemes. Please take time (a couple of minutes) to read the reports, add comments, and cast your votes for the election of officers.

Your participation is so important to the success of the AGM. All votes must be submitted by midnight on the 14th August 2020.

To make things so much easier this year, you can take part from the comfort of your armchair by using our online AGM platform [here](#). Thank you to those that have already voted on the system.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter edition, and remember to keep sending your stories through!

The Executive Committee

Safer Neighbourhood Teams

The latest (August 2020) edition of the “Constable’s County” newsletter is out now, and provides an update from across the East, South, and West of the county in a single edition.

The newsletter is available from your Safer Neighbourhood Team page of [Suffolk Constabulary’s website](#), and is a useful source of information to help keep NW schemes informed of policing in each area. Find your SNT page and select “Latest Newsletter”.



Neighbourhood Watch Network News



Impact Survey

This is a survey open to all members of the public

Please feel free to share with friends, neighbours, and colleagues to ensure a good mix of responses. Importantly, it will enable the organisation to look at how Neighbourhood Watch impacts in our communities and identify the concerns surrounding crime, fear of crime and the increase in neighbourliness and community spirit.

The survey link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NWimpact>

‘Safety In Neighbours’: burglary 2020 campaign

Now that we’re all starting to ease out of lockdown, we need to make sure that as well as keeping ourselves safe, we’re keeping our homes and neighbourhoods safe.

More people out and about means burglary is expected to rise, which is why the Neighbourhood Watch Network are launching a new campaign in partnership with the Home Office, to warn Neighbourhood Watch members, and non-members alike, and provide practical tools to help prevent burglary. Read more [here](#)



The Neighbourhood Watch Network (NWN) still provides a report to the Home Office providing updates on crime and local issues felt by Neighbourhood Watch groups across England and Wales.

This information is added to data from the police, and other statutory and non-statutory organisations to enable the Government to get a balanced view of what is happening both nationally and locally from trusted sources.

All our coordinators can help by completing the very quick survey (six questions) on behalf of their scheme, ideally once a month. The Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association collates and submits the results as the representative view for Suffolk.

You can find the survey [here](#).



SUFFOLK TRADING STANDARDS



SPOT SCAMS! STOP SCAMS!

You can report any scam calls to Suffolk Trading Standards via Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133.

As we all come to terms with COVID19 we may be using the internet much more than normal. This seems to have triggered an increase from fraudsters and the various scams that we are seeing in our day to day lives.

Here follows a selection of some of the current scams doing the rounds. Although these are only a few examples, it will enable you to help raise awareness with your neighbours and your local community, in the hope that it can help prevent people becoming victims of scams.

The key alert for almost every scam is when you are asked to provide financial (bank) details.

The advice is always the same:

NEVER provide any personal information, log in details, banking details or credit/debit card information.

If you receive such a suspicious call, and you are unsure, then HANG UP!

ALWAYS report a scam



Wash your hands of coronavirus scams!

Friends Against Scams aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams.

STOP. Be aware of people offering or selling:

- Virus testing kits
- Vaccines or miracle cures – there is currently no vaccine or cure.
- Overpriced or fake goods to protect yourself from coronavirus such as anti-bacterial products.
- Shopping or medication collection services.
- Home decontamination services.

CHALLENGE. Question communications and encourage others to do the same.

- Don't be rushed into making a decision. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Only purchase goods and services from legitimate retailers and take a moment to think before parting with money or personal information.
- Don't assume everyone is genuine. It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you. If in doubt, speak to someone you trust.
- If someone claims to represent a charity, ask them for ID. Be suspicious of requests for money up front. If someone attempts to pressurise you into accepting a service they are unlikely to be genuine. Check with family and friends before accepting offers of help if you are unsure.

Be a good Friend, help to protect your family, friends and neighbours from scams.

**Read it.
Share it.
Prevent it.**

#ScamAware
#Coronavirus



PROTECT. Contact:
If you think you have been scammed, contact your bank first.
For advice on scams, call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **0808 223 11 33**.
To report a scam, call Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040**.

NATIONAL TRADING STANDARDS
Scams Team

To learn more about different types of scams, visit: www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk

Text Message
Today 21:01



At first glance, it may look like a PayPal link, but on closer inspection, it clearly directs to a different domain. The text alerts you to an important unread message, and that you have an issue that you need to resolve with your PayPal account. If you click the link as requested, a fake PayPal webpage opens in your smartphone's browser. The website then asks you to log on to your account, giving the scammers access to your username and password.

If you have any doubts, always go directly to a company's website, not the link included in the text message.

If you receive what you think is a fake message, forward the text message, including phone number or company name, to 7726. It won't cost you anything and it means your phone provider can investigate the sender.



From: News <2022a.kolodziej@arkputneyacademy.org>
Date: 23/05/2020 00:25:10
Subject: Re: Neighbourhood Watch Annual Get Together : Reminder
To: [redacted]

Read before Saturday

Open message

9a68b1097c3626011b4be8061b6952b4

Even Neighbourhood Watch members in Suffolk are being targeted with a “reminder” email for an event.

Do not be fooled!

Beware of telephone calls being made by fraudsters pretending to be from Amazon.

We’ve had reports of calls being made from individuals claiming your Amazon Prime subscription is due to expire, and will be automatically taken from your account.

The recorded message asks you to press 1 to cancel or to speak to customer services. The call then goes through to an individual who “requires” your personal details.

Another scam call claims that your Amazon Prime account is being cancelled and that bank details are required to refund this.



There are lots of reports across social media of Test & Trace scams.

Please remember, genuine texts, calls or emails from the NHS service won't ask you for any personal details upfront.

You'll be given a unique ID number to log in to the NHS Test and Trace website. The ONLY official web address for the NHS Test and Trace service is: <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk/>



Facebook Users Beware!

This Facebook post is fake and so too is the page. It has nothing to do with Carphone Warehouse, and needless to say, there is also no free TV on offer.



The page has been set up by scammers for 'like-farming', using your interaction to harvest personal data.

Before liking a page, especially a big business like Carphone Warehouse, check if it has a blue tick. This means the page has been verified by Facebook. You can also look at the Page transparency to see when it was created. The real Carphone Warehouse page was created in February 2009.

Don't just look at the competition post. Look at the page history, and the other posts on the page. Does it look genuine?

If you come across a fake page on Facebook, report it by going to the page and tap *** from the top right and select "Give feedback or report this Page". Select "Scams and Fake Pages".

Fake promotions or competitions on Facebook typically urge users to either engage with a Facebook post (e.g. share and comment) to win a prize, or click a link to claim a prize. Or possibly both.

The recommendation is to never interact with these types of Facebook posts.



Credit Investigation Bureau

A Suffolk resident has received a call from an individual claiming to be from the Credit Investigation Bureau, working in partnership with Citizens Advice and Central Government. The caller explained that they were contacting people who were in debt, and would be able to help them to get their debts written off, due to Covid-19.

Fortunately the resident was suspicious of the call. They searched the internet for the phone number that called them, and sought advice from Suffolk County Council's Adult and Community Services (ACS), who was able to help confirm that it was a scam.

Information about the bogus company can be found here on the Financial Conduct Authority's website: <https://www.fca.org.uk/news/warnings/credit-investigation-department-bureau-services>

Even Parish Council emails are being targeted by scammers.

If you receive an email from a colleague in the Parish Council, requesting you to buy iTunes vouchers, please delete it. Contact that colleague by telephone and advise them that their account may have been compromised.



Fraudsters are attempting to hack email accounts to make contact with unsuspecting colleagues, or are using email addresses that appear similar to that of one of the Councillors. The scammer advises that they will reimburse them for the purchase of the vouchers. They then request the security numbers on the vouchers once they are purchased.



Be wary of fraudsters selling fake or non-existent tickets to events.

With pubs, restaurants, cinemas and museums set to reopen with social distancing measures, demand for tickets and reservations is likely to be high. We're reminding people to take extra care when buying tickets online.



Spot the signs of ticket fraud:

- Only buy tickets from the venue's box office, official promoter or agent, or a well-known and reputable ticket site.
- Avoid paying for tickets by bank transfer, especially if buying from someone unknown. Credit card or payment services such as PayPal offer greater protection against fraud.
- Be wary of unsolicited emails, texts or adverts offering unbelievably good deals on tickets. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Is the vendor a member of STAR? If they are, the company has signed up to their strict governing standards. STAR also offers an approved Alternative Dispute Resolution service to help customers with outstanding complaints. For more information: <https://www.star.org.uk>

actionfraud.police.uk/report-phishing

Spotted a suspicious email?

report@phishing.gov.uk

ActionFraud
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre
actionfraud.police.uk

**Cyber
Aware**

If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) - report@phishing.gov.uk



Neighbourhood Watch Benefits



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