



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

the e-newsletter for
Neighbourhood Watch supporters

FEBRUARY 2020

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

This latest edition brings the news that the Executive have reached agreement with Suffolk Highways in establishing a new process for planning consent approval of Neighbourhood Watch signs. This is a very important step for the Association, and will now enable schemes to submit applications for new signs. More details will be shared with neighbourhood co-ordinators in the next few weeks.

A big focus of this newsletter is to make you aware of how scams are appearing on an all to frequent basis. We give you a flavour of some of the current range of scams, together with some tips on how to avoid them, as well as how to report them.

Event Programme

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we are very keen to hear of any events you may be planning during the year, or of any details of local events where a Neighbourhood Watch presence would benefit the community.

Part of our event programme is to work alongside Community Engagement Officers and Safer Neighbourhood Teams in order to help raise awareness of Neighbourhood Watch and the role it plays within the community.

As always, we can support you by offering the use of our gazebos, flags, and some leaflets. If you are not involved directly, but can provide a contact point for local organisers, we would also be grateful, as this helps us build a strong event programme.

You can contact us [here](#)

Promote your Website or Social Media presence

We have noticed that lots of NW schemes in Suffolk have either a website and/or a social media account. We are also aware that some schemes are linked in to their parish council or local community website.

If you would like our website to provide the link to your scheme social media or community website please [send us the details](#).



Self Help Volunteer Gritting Schemes

Suffolk Highways, on behalf of Suffolk County Council (SCC), are responsible for gritting the major routes in Suffolk, but Residents who live on roads that are not gritted can, if they wish, apply for the provision of a grit bin so that they can apply grit themselves.

SCC set the criteria for where grit bins can be provided and they also provide the grit and insurance cover for volunteers registered with a respective parish, town, or district Council.



The grit bins are generally owned by parish, town, and district councils and these organisations monitor how and where the grit is used in their locality. Through ownership of the bins, Councils are responsible for organising and liaising with lead volunteers for each gritting bin location.

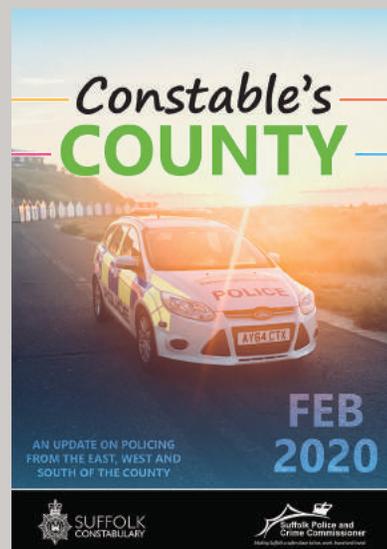
The role of a lead volunteer is to primarily seek volunteers from amongst their neighbours to help apply grit to the road, as well as to inform the Council of any problems with the grit bin. Contact details of volunteers are kept by the local Council, both for the purposes of administering the scheme and for insurance purposes.

More information on how grit bins can be requested are available on the [SCC Website](#).

Safer Neighbourhood Teams

The latest (February 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”.



Have you got a story you would like to share?

These are great examples of local communities working together. Sharing your stories help give other schemes ideas that can help communities engage more. It’s not always about crime and policing - but it’s always about togetherness. Send us your story via email to the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association Comms team:

comms@suffolknwa.co.uk



What to do if you spot fake alcohol

If you think you've drunk fake alcohol, the best thing to do is to seek medical advice. You can also report it to your local environmental health officer, call Citizens Advice Consumer

SUFFOLK
TRADING
STANDARDS

drinkaware

Fake alcohol can be incredibly dangerous and tricky to spot. [Check out these tips from the drink-aware organisation on how to tell the difference between real and counterfeit.](#)

Everyday life

Never take things for granted. Always be alert when outside the comfort of your "safety zone" and take simple steps to always protect yourself and your personal details. Some examples are:



Never connect to public wifi if you're doing anything confidential. You can't be sure it's genuine and you never know who else is 'listening in'.

Always protect your card when entering your PIN number, and never pass your card over to make a payment.



Rise in Theft of Catalytic Converters

Police are urging vigilance and appealing for information after a number of thefts of catalytic converters from vehicles in Suffolk recently

- Park in well-lit areas
- Be aware of local problems
- Fit an anti-theft device
- Get your catalytic converter marked
- Report anything suspicious



The (national) Neighbourhood Watch Network

Future Crimes

Following a national 'Future Crimes' workshop NWN are working with the Home Office, business leaders, academics and other charities to look at the emerging threats and opportunities from the rapidly developing digital world including Artificial Intelligence, machine learning, and the increasing range of internet-enabled and connected devices.

NWN plan to undertake a survey of members over the next year about their knowledge, awareness, concerns etc. in this area, and developing advice and guidance on the threats and how to keep safe in a rapidly changing and developing digital world.



Neighbourhood Watch Awareness Week

The date is now announced, the planning can begin! Raising the profile of Neighbourhood Watch is an important part of bringing communities together. Examples and project ideas will be shared over the coming weeks, but please share any ideas you may have too!

Corporate Partnerships

The Coop have announced that they will be renewing their sponsorship arrangement with Neighbourhood Watch and will be developing this into a partnership with the wider Coop Group rather than just Coop Insurance.

ERA continue to be committed to NW and are keen to offer NW members additional benefits on their products, continuing their arrangement beyond 2021.

Crime Prevention Toolkits are available free on the NWN Website

Prevention is key in tackling all forms of traditional and modern crime but addressing modern crimes require new solutions if they are to be tackled effectively.



Neighbourhood Watch has developed toolkits to support our members and the general public in tackling burglary, domestic abuse, terrorism, modern slavery, child sexual exploitation, serious violence, and scams and older people.

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/toolkits/>

Cyberhood Watch Ambassadors

In the coming months, further activity is planned, including:

- Establishment of a network of 'Cyberhood Watch Ambassadors' – members of Neighbourhood Watch across the regions, who have existing cyber knowledge and can help members by sharing expert guidance and content and providing on the ground support. Ambassadors will undergo a formal online accreditation developed by Avast in the spring.
- Avast sponsored regional events – an opportunity for you to meet with the Avast experts and discuss your concerns or issues about cyber security. Details on dates and locations will be shared soon.
- Launch of an in-depth report commissioned by Avast, in partnership with the University of Birmingham and foreword by John Hayward-Cripps, which looks at the issue of 'cyber vulnerability' in detail, exploring the risk factors and identifying what can be done to help people protect themselves better. A digest of this report will be shared with members in the spring.
- Development of further toolkit resources covering topics such as emerging cyber scams, how to shop safely online, managing passwords and other areas of relevance to our members.



If you have any questions about the Cyberhood Watch initiative, or you are interested in becoming an ambassador please fill in this [online form](#).

Password-management-and-security

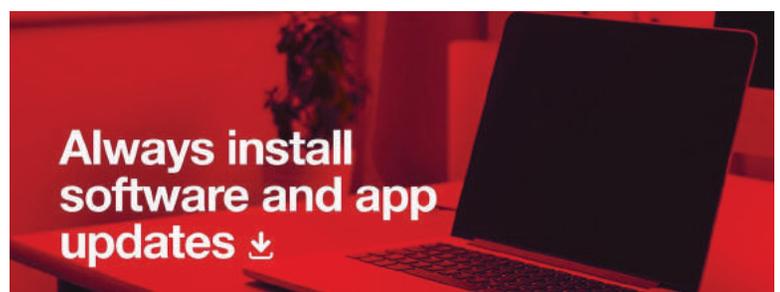
SWGfl are a charity dedicated to empowering the safe and secure use of technology through innovative services, tools, content and policy, nationally and globally.



They have produced an excellent article called "Password Management & Security" and provides a guide to creating and managing secure passwords. Read more [here](#).

Are your devices up to date?

Always install the latest software and app updates for new features, better performance, Improved security, and to make life harder for criminals.





**DON'T
BE A SCAM
VICTIM!**

REPORTING A SCAM

If you or someone you know has fallen victim to a scam, you should report it to the police on **101** and Action Fraud on

0300 123 2040

Don't be embarrassed

If you did fall victim to the scam, do not feel ashamed, or think that you were to blame in any way. Victims of scams are just like victims of any crime – they have been targeted by criminals and bear no culpability for the crime.

The quicker you act, the sooner you might stop someone else becoming a victim. You might even be able to get your money back – if you sent off a cheque, for example, the police may be able to ask Royal Mail to intercept it or require your bank to put a stop on it.

You should also tell your Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, so that they can warn others in your area that this particular type of scam is being attempted. They will not reveal to anyone else that you have been a victim of it.



- INVESTMENT OR PENSION SCAMS** SPOT THE SIGNS [Read more](#)
- EMAIL SCAMS** SPOT THE SIGNS [Read more](#)
- LOTTERY OR PRIZE DRAW SCAMS** SPOT THE SIGNS [Read more](#)
- TELEPHONE SCAMS** SPOT THE SIGNS [Read more](#)
- ROMANCE SCAMS** SPOT THE SIGNS [Read more](#)
- DOORSTEP SCAMS** SPOT THE SIGNS [Read more](#)

Scams, scams, scams



Reports have been received of cold-callers falsely claiming to be from Citizens Advice attempting to con people out of their personal details and money.



The cold-callers are offering debt advice in order to access bank details. If you receive a similar call, **HANG UP!**

Wait 5 mins and then call the National Consumer helpline via 03454 040506 to report it.



Be cautious of rogue traders following Storm Brendon

Please check on elderly and vulnerable neighbours, family and friends. Check for damage to their property and remind them to be cautious of traders going door-to-door offering to undertake garden and building maintenance, following Storm Brendon.

Rogue traders trick people into paying very high prices for unnecessary or shoddy work primarily on homes or garden maintenance. Reports of rogue traders, cowboy builders and doorstep callers are unfortunately still a concern for Trading Standards. Each year, we receive many complaints from residents who have been conned on their own doorsteps by rogue traders. These cons can involve many thousands of pounds and often target vulnerable residents. To avoid becoming a victim of rogue traders, follow these simple steps:

- Never agree to have work done by somebody who is just passing or take their word that it needs to be done at all
- Never pay for work before it is completed
- Do not accept any offer from them to drive you to the bank to withdraw money
- If you need work done, obtain recommendations from friends or family, or visit <http://www.checkatrade.com> for traders vetted by Trading Standards.



HMRC Texts

If you receive an email or text from HMRC asking you to provide personal or financial information....STOP....You guessed it **It's a scam!**

Australian Bushfire Scams



There are currently a wide range of appeals raising funds for people and animals affected by the Australian bushfires. Unfortunately, some of these are scams.

If you wish to make a donation towards those affected by the bushfires, please protect yourself with the following information:

- Scammers are pretending to be legitimate well-known charities, creating their own charity names, and impersonating people negatively impacted by the bushfires.
- Scammers are cold-calling, direct messaging and creating fake websites and pages on social media to raise funds.
- Do not donate via fundraising pages on platforms that do not verify the legitimacy of the fundraiser or that do not guarantee your money will be returned if the page is determined to be fraudulent.
- Be careful about crowdfunding requests as these may be fake and also come from scammers. Check the terms and conditions of funding platforms and ensure you are dealing with official organisations. If you are unsure, make your donation to an established charity instead.
- If you are donating to an established charity or not-for-profit organisation, ensure it is registered and that you are on its official website by searching the Australia Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Charity Register - <https://www.acnc.gov.au/charity>
- If you think you have paid money to a scammer, please contact your bank immediately.

amazon
scam calls

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

Trading Standards have had reports of calls being made - 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.

Automated Calls

There have been reports received of automated calls claiming to be from the Inland Revenue, with the caller stating that failure to appear at the Magistrates Court will result in the suspension of your National Insurance Number.

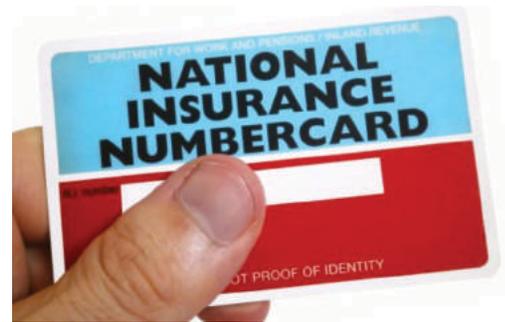
You are encouraged to call a number to "resolve" the issue.

THIS IS A SCAM!

Do not telephone the number provided, or provide anyone with your personal details, including your bank or credit card information.

HMRC is aware of these automated phone call scams. To help their investigations you should report full details of the scam by email to: phishing@hmrc.gov.uk, including the:

- date of the call
- phone number used
- content of the call



CrimeStoppers.
Speak up. Stay safe.

What is hate crime?

A crime motivated by malice or ill will towards a social group by:

Race
Sexual orientation
Religion/faith
Disability
Transgender/gender identity

If you know or suspect someone who is committing hate crime, contact our charity 100% anonymously.

100% anonymous. ALWAYS.

Get info/give info about crime 100% anonymously
fearless.org

[fearlesscrime](#)
[fearlessorg](#)
[fearlessuk](#)



Fearless is a valuable tool aimed at younger people, for them to report crime completely anonymously.

The fearless website offers access to non-judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality, whilst at the same time providing the opportunity for young people to report in their own language and anonymously.

The concept is that and it could help prevent small problems from becoming much bigger.

Visit the website [here](#)



Fire Kills

Did you know...

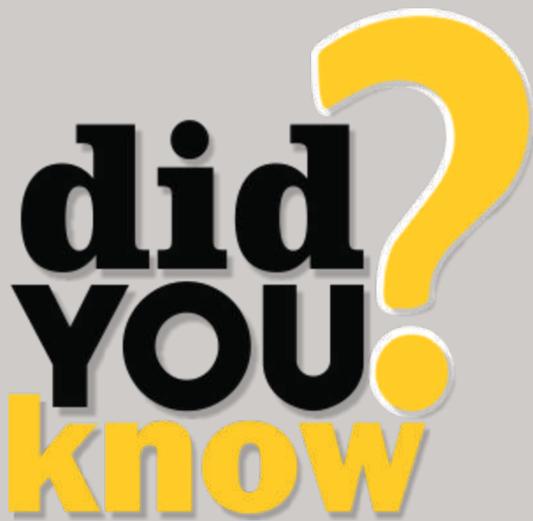
- you should test your smoke alarms at least once a month?
- you should have a smoke alarm on every level of your home?
- your local Fire and Rescue Service do free home visits to make sure your home is fire safe?

The Fire Kills campaign returns in February promoting these, and other fire safety behaviours to adopt around the home. Neighbourhood Watch members can support this campaign by reaching out to vulnerable and isolated neighbours to ensure their house is fire safe.

Visit <https://firekills.campaign.gov.uk/> for helpful tips and advice.



It only takes one accident to start a fire. Fire Kills. Let's prevent it.



Don't forget that **Safer Internet Day 2020** is on Tuesday 11th February, and will see events and activities taking place right across the globe.

The aim is to unite millions of people to inspire positive changes online, and to raise awareness of online safety issues.



Safer Internet Day
2020 | **Tuesday**
11 February
Together for a better internet

Project Pegasus

Project Pegasus is a joint law enforcement operation tackling aviation border crime around the UK.

There are tens of thousands of light aircraft, helicopters and microlights in the UK, flying in and out of small UK airfields and airports across the country every day.

Because not every plane and airstrip can be monitored 24 hours a day, the local community can play a vital role in preventing border crime and maintaining a safe community.



Report any unusual or suspicious activity at a UK airfield or airport immediately, such as:

- planes landing in unusual places or at unusual times
- packages being dropped from low-flying aircraft or suspicious deliveries
- someone taking an unusual interest in airport security
- someone where they shouldn't be
- seeing someone flying a drone close to an airfield or airport
- an aircraft that has been unusually modified
- a person being evasive about passengers, flights or routes
- a person ignoring aviation regulations or filing misleading or false general aviation reports or flight plans
- items being handled suspiciously or concealing cargo

If you see anything unusual or suspicious you can report it online or call the police on 101. If it is an emergency, call 999. To find out more about Project Pegasus [click here](#).

PATLOCK



PROTECTING THE THINGS AND PEOPLE YOU LOVE

Buy the Neighbourhood Watch Patlock at our exclusive discounted rate of £42.50* (including VAT and delivery)

*£64.00 at www.patlock.co.uk

