



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

*the e-newsletter for
Neighbourhood Watch supporters*

MAY 2020

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

Over the past few months, we have all experienced a change in our day to day routine and how we go about our daily lives. What it has shown us though is the spirit of our local communities and the willingness of people to work together to help each other out through these difficult times. And of course Neighbourhood Watch has played its part in this process, and continues to. As we start to see a relaxation on some of the lockdown measures, we still need to remain alert, and I know you will all help to maintain that community spirit and level of support with your neighbours. For that, we salute you all.

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

The Executive Committee

Neighbourhood Watch Network

The Home Office has requested the Neighbourhood Watch Network (NWN) to provide bi-weekly 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.

Being asked for this information is testament to the value the Home Office sees in Neighbourhood Watch.

All coordinators can help by completing a very quick survey (six questions) on behalf of their scheme every two weeks. The Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch will collate and submit the results as the representative view for Suffolk. You can find the survey [here](#).

Also as mentioned last month, the new NWN website has formally launched with press releases and numerous messages made on social media sites. One of the latest additions to the excellent toolkit pages is information and advice that focuses on different types of abuse - which is of significant importance during these difficult times.



Neighbourhood Watch Week 2020

Everyone is invited to take part in Neighbourhood Watch Week, which takes place this year between the 7th-13th June, to celebrates our neighbours and all the great work that you and your community do to make where you live safer, connected and more resilient.

Over the past few months, as our lives have all been turned upside down, the word 'neighbourliness' has never meant so much to so many. Communities have pulled together to provide vital support and resources, an army of volunteers has emerged, people are learning new skills, and as a result have become more resilient.

Since early March, people have been encouraged to 'Be Kind, Connect, Support and Share' during these challenging times as part of the [Community Action Response](#).

With this in mind, the Neighbourhood Watch Network is using #LetsStayConnected as the campaign strap-line for this years Neighbourhood Watch week. It is also a celebration of 35 years since the very first Neighbourhood Watch Week.



Celebrate your neighbours

#LetsStayConnected

Neighbourhood Watch Week, 7th–13th June 2020

To kickstart the week, people are invited to take part in the [Big Virtual Lunch](#) activities, organised by Eden Project, on the 6th and 7th June. The Big Lunch have put together a number of ideas of small things you can do to help celebrate community connections with your neighbours.

Let's celebrate our neighbours and all the amazing work that you do and together let's make this year's Neighbourhood Watch Week the best yet! And of course, we would love to hear your stories of how you celebrated Neighbourhood Watch Week 2020!



Closer to home

Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association has recently refreshed their own website - to reflect a closer look and feel with the county of Suffolk.

The website now incorporates a password protected page dedicated to coordinators - which contains leaflets, poster templates, guides, NW sign planning consent and a lot more besides.

Coordinators are invited to login to the website to access this dedicated page. First time access will generate a password, which can then be changed to a password of choice if preferred.

We are more than happy to include more local information per area, including social media links etc. Just let us know!

Bury St Edmunds Area B does just that - [take a look here](#). Don't miss out!



We have all seen a rise in engagement of people amongst communities. This may mean people have passed on contact details to each other. So it's worth reminding everyone that we still have to consider the implications of data protection to ensure we do not breach rules and regulations. In it's simplest form, only ever share email addresses or contact numbers of people who have given you permission to do so - and always consider this when forwarding on information from third parties.

COVID-19 Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Response

There is no doubt that the COVID 19 pandemic has had a major impact on everything we do. The level of response from the general public has seen a great increase in community engagement, through supporting and helping each other where possible and practical to do so.

For Neighbourhood Watch, this is what we are all about, and it comes as no surprise that many of our schemes have been at the forefront to offer such help and support.

Here are some examples of how schemes are responding to the challenges of Covid-19

Palgrave is a village of approx. 750 residents (plus children) and 350 homes, and we are very fortunate in having a good selection of village organisations and clubs that meet regularly and are well known to each other. So early in March when it became evident that the CV situation was becoming serious, I was asked by Caroline Emeny (Parish Clerk) if I could provide a plan of the village, divided into reasonable size areas which I did. So, armed with this, Caroline and two others plus myself, formed the Palgrave CV action team representing, the Parish Council, Neighbourhood Watch and the Palgrave Community Centre.

We then circulated the village asking for residents who could provide help and transport to those residents who might require it. One of the action group (a parish Council member who was both active and had excellent IT and communication skills) took on the role of the plan co-ordinator.

It was obvious that in order to find out which residents required help, each residence would have to be contacted individually. So the team helpers knocked on every house door in the village, and we identified 75 elderly and vulnerable residents who received a copy of the attached form completed by their helper.

HELLO! If you are self-isolating, I can help.

My name is

I live locally at

My phone number is

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

| | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picking up shopping | <input type="checkbox"/> Posting mail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A friendly phone call | <input type="checkbox"/> Urgent supplies |

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep. **#ViralKindness**

This situation has now been working for about ten days very successfully. The moral to this situation is that NW can prove an essential part of the community and when working with other organisations can help and provide assistance to members of the public, whatever the crisis.

Palgrave Coordinator - John Sparks

Ipswich East Area B network, which covers the “town” side of Rushmere St Andrew are looking to use the current lockdown situation to re-visit all the Neighbourhood Watch signs in their area.

In recent times, it has been noticed that a number of existing NW signs look as if they could do with a refurbishment or replacement.



By taking different walking routes during this lockdown period, it provides an opportunity within the network area to identify old and possibly inactive schemes, with a view to help get them up and running again.

Gavin Pond - Secretary - Ipswich East Area B

Footnote!

Replacement (metal) NW signs can be obtained from approved and official licensed suppliers. We recommend using [Normanton Screen Print](#).

Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association also have some overlay sticker signs, offering a cost effective option.

Further detail and guidance is available for coordinators via our website.

Long Melford formed an Action Group consisting of members of Long Melford Parish Council, Good Neighbours Scheme, Parish Magazine, Neighbourhood Watch, Long Melford Primary School and the Holy Trinity Church.

A leaflet was designed for distribution amongst the community with advice and help line phone numbers for Community Volunteers and local organisations in the Group - all thanks to the large response from people wishing to help the elderly and people in self isolation in the village.



Cllr John Nunn, Chairman Long Melford Parish Council



Our scheme has been playing games in our street using an old blackboard. We play bingo, charades, Pictionary, count down, quizzes, whose baby picture is this and hangman.

We each using our own pieces of chalk, pencils, laminated bingo cards, white board markers, and neighbours bring their own chairs and cups of coffee whilst amusing themselves with the games. Bacterial wipes are also provided to enable the blackboard to be cleaned after each use!

We are never quite sure what fun we are going to have so we take our satchel with us holding all of the equipment we need. It's like going to school every day.

We have had no challenges in setting this up. Luckily the weather has been kind to us, and we can social distance on our own front gardens quite easily. It has been brilliant.

For VE Day we had a party and our very own fly past (as I provided them with a balsa wood plane to make and we flew them on the day)!

Holyrood Close Coordinator - Sue Strutt



Have you got a story you would like to share?

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



SUFFOLK TRADING STANDARDS



Beware of the scammers

Everyone is preoccupied. And scammers prey on this. This means it's extra important to know how to avoid scams so you can keep yourself and your family safe online..

Citizens Advice have written [a blog on the 5 ways to avoid online coronavirus scams](#)

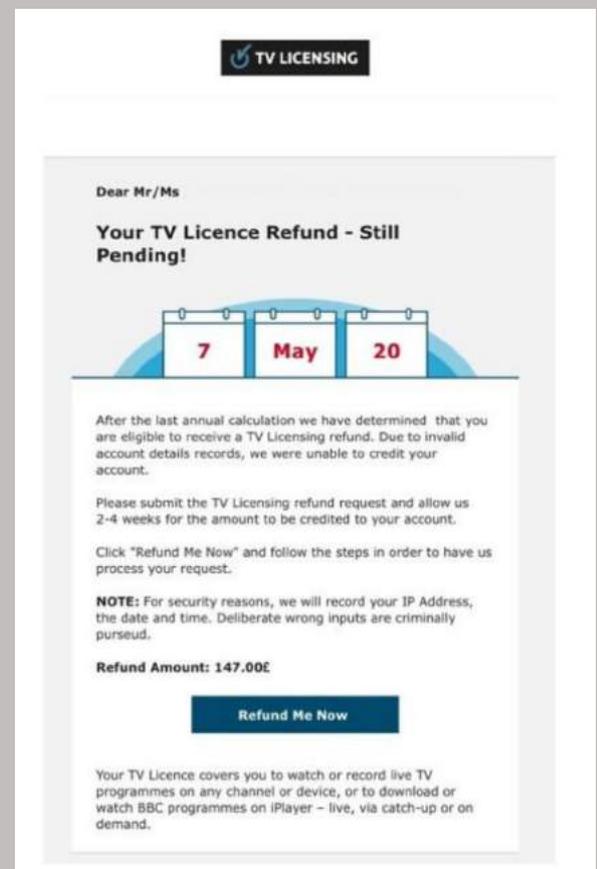
TV Licensing alert

Please beware of emails that are disguised to look like they have been sent by the **TV Licensing organisation**.

They may say you're entitled to a refund for an overpayment or warn that your licence is about to expire. They will then ask you to respond by entering your bank details on a fake website.

Although the emails may use the TV Licensing logo and have other features that make them look authentic, you should never trust them.

More information here: <https://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/faqs/FAQ288>





Beware of fake website for World Health Organisation

We have become aware of an email purporting to be from the World Health Organisation (WHO) which contains a link to a fake website asking for donations to the Covid-19 Solidarity Response Fund.

Hackers and cyber scammers are taking advantage of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic by sending fraudulent email and WhatsApp messages that attempt to trick you into clicking on malicious links or opening attachments.

These actions can be used to steal money or sensitive information.

If you are contacted by a person or organisation that appears to be WHO, verify their authenticity before responding.

The World Health Organisation will:

- never ask for your username or password to access safety information
- never email attachments you didn't ask for
- never ask you to visit a link outside of www.who.int
- never charge money to apply for a job, register for a conference, or reserve a hotel
- never conduct lotteries or offer prizes, grants, certificates or funding through email.

The only call for donations WHO has issued is the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund, which is linked below. Any other appeal for funding or donations that appears to be from WHO is a scam.

[COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund](https://www.who.int/donate)



Action Fraud

National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre

0300 123 2040

Pet Fraud

Criminals continue to take advantage of the coronavirus pandemic to commit fraud, as a scam involving the purchase of pets, such as puppies and kittens, continues to be reported to Action Fraud.

So far, 669 people have lost a combined total of £282,686 in March and April, after putting down deposits for pets they have seen advertised online.

The adverts that victims have responded to were posted on social media, general online selling platforms and also specific pet selling platforms.

The criminals posting these ads never have any animals to sell and will ask victims to put down a deposit for the pet to secure the purchase. They use the outbreak of COVID-19 and the current lockdown restrictions as a reason why the victim cannot come and see the animal first, or pick it up. After the initial payment more and more funds will be requested to cover insurance, vaccinations and even delivery of the pet.

To help protect yourself from scams like this:

Do your research - Before purchasing anything online, including pets, look up reviews for the site, or person, you are buying from. If you're still not sure, ask a trusted friend or family member for their advice.

Trust your instinct - If you can't physically go to see the animal in person, ask for a video call. If the seller declines, challenge them on why. If you have any suspicions, don't go ahead with the purchase.

Choose your payment method wisely – If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, avoid paying by bank transfer as that offers you little protection if you become a victim of fraud. Instead, use a credit card or a payment service such as PayPal.

More info here: <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/news/animal-lovers-looking-for-pets-in-lockdown-defrauded-of-nearly-300000-in-two-months>



! Pet fraud warning

Animal lovers looking for pets in lockdown defrauded of nearly £300,000 in two months

669 people have lost a combined total of £282,686 in March and April, after putting down deposits for pets they have seen advertised online during lockdown.

City of London Police **Action Fraud**