



Winter – A Time For Fresh Resolve

The start of 2019 has already seen great successes for NottsWatch, with growth in members and development in campaigns proving the value of care and support for local communities. This newsletter will cover just a few of these stories, alongside important discussions of safety and awareness in our daily lives. For more details, and to stay up to date with NottsWatch campaigns, find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or on our [website](#).

Area Spotlight – Expansion in Newark

Plans have been set in motion for a major new scheme around the Newark and Sherwood area later this year. The local police and council have recognised the value of neighbourhood watch and asked Paul Macey, Vice Chair of NottsWatch, for his help.

Both authorities will each identify ten vulnerable residents (with the possibility of the public nominating a further ten) in most need of support. Mr Macey expressed his delight at Newark Council's efforts to "push the principle of good community living, which fits very well with our ethics.

The idea is that once an individual has been identified, the Councils and authorities team up to help that resident in any way they can, be it social care, security, lighting, tidying up their home or garden and generally making life better and safer for that person or family.

Then when that is done, Neighbourhood Watch can get involved to set up a local scheme in the immediate area of that person's home to help support and monitor that resident from any unwanted callers or visitors and make the person feel safer in their community."

If you have any information regarding burglaries or other incidents on the Newbury Road estate, email admin@newburywatch.co.uk

To keep up to date with developments in the Newark area, join the 'Newbury Watch' Facebook group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/261285187896614>

Seasonal Photo Competition

NottsWatch are looking for the best examples of Nottingham's diverse and fascinating skylines, natural areas of beauty and other highlights that exist all around us.

If you have any pictures that perfectly capture the feeling of **Nottinghamshire waking to spring**, please send them in to be featured on our website and in the forthcoming Newsletter – The deadline is 24th March 2019.

Pictures can be sent to:
communication@nottswatch.co.uk
Please ensure the image is landscape with 1920x700 resolution if possible, and make sure you have the right to share the picture, and any likenesses of people shown in the image. (Though preferably the photo will only contain sights of



Tech & Tea

Would you like to feel more confident using technology?

Whether you want to learn to text, shop online, skype with family, use email or upload photos, our friendly staff and volunteers will be there to answer your questions...

over a cup of tea!

With sessions set up in

- Beeston Library
Every Monday
2.00-3.00pm
Starts 14th Jan,
- Sutton in Ashfield Library
Every Friday
2.30-3.30pm
Starts 4th Jan,
- Mansfield Woodhouse Library
Last Saturday in the month
10.30-12.30
Starts Saturday 26th

Commencing in January, you can discuss your tech issues and work through any confusion in a relaxed and friendly space.

Meanwhile, the Newark and Sherwood District Council "Report It" campaign has received positive feedback, with a visible increase in police presence in and around the town centre.

"We are now using individual officer and PCSO contact details and those of council officers to get information quickly and accurately direct to those that need it," Mr Macey added.

"The general feeling is that the community are seeing and hearing of much better Police support and successes."

If you would like to know more about neighbourhood watch in the Newark & Sherwood area, contact paulnottswatch@aol.com



Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Stronger

Also, in Newark, new community-based neighbourhood wardens have been recruited onto the frontline in support of the Cleaner, Safer & Greener campaign, with a focus on working with the community to promote a responsible approach to looking after the environment – and will issue fixed penalty notices (FPNs) where necessary when the law is broken in that regard.

District council leader Councillor David Lloyd said:

"We take great pride in our district as a place to live, work and visit and our new neighbourhood wardens will support our work to make it even Cleaner, Safer & Greener. Their appointment also sends out a strong message to those people who spoil and disrespect our district: Make no mistake: We will take action to punish you."

Community Payback Nominations Provide Plans For Spring Cleaning

Many communities have areas that are in need of a clean-up or renovation, but for whatever reason have yet to be tackled.

If you are aware of such an area that needs TLC, you can nominate the site through the government's Nominate a Community Payback project, which utilises offenders who are required to undertake community service to improve communities as recompense for their crimes.

Previous works in Nottinghamshire include the clearing and renovating of a large unkempt area behind the Radford and Lenton Library, which was transformed by workers into a community garden.

The garden is now being used by local residents and groups to grow organic produce, and as an area where children can play and learn about gardening. The project has also utilised recycled materials, donated by local businesses which promotes sustainability.

Nominations must meet a set of criteria, including:

- The work must benefit the local community;
- Such work cannot take paid work away from others;
- The completion of work must not make a profit for anyone.

For further guidelines on appropriate projects, and for details on how to nominate a community project in your area, visit the government website at:

www.gov.uk/nominate-community-payback-project

Fraud Advice – Know The Signs

Many modern-day scams rely on the targeted person presuming authenticity without evidence; **If a caller makes excuses or is hesitant to provide concrete proof of their legitimacy**, they are likely trying to dupe you.

Also, **social media quizzes can often hide malicious intent** by asking seemingly innocuous questions – pet's name, favourite instrument and so on – as a way of harvesting sensitive data.

Additionally, exhortations of love, bereavement or emergency, or **Receiving messages from unknown people claiming you are uniquely required for a task, money transfer or other online communication should always be a red flag**. Best practice is to ignore communications from any unverified source and consign their correspondence to your spam folder.

Uninvited Callers



Police advice is to never buy goods or services from unsolicited callers. It may help to deter unwanted callers by displaying a message at your front door. NottsWatch have a small supply of the above message, or you can get a printout from:

[https://www.nottswatch.co.uk/images/site_images/43655_No_cold_calling_4959 .pdf](https://www.nottswatch.co.uk/images/site_images/43655_No_cold_calling_4959.pdf)



An example of the Nominated Neighbour card is shown above.

Nominated Neighbour Scheme – Offering Help with Unwanted Callers

Unexpected house callers may be no more than a nuisance or inconvenience for some, but to others it can be an anxious and concerning affair, especially if the caller has less than scrupulous goals for the interaction.

To alleviate this source of worry for members of the community, Nottinghamshire County Council has developed a Nominated Neighbour scheme, whereby a trusted neighbour is asked to speak to any doorstep callers on their neighbour's behalf. In practice, there will be few callers that will pursue speaking to the resident by contacting their nominated neighbour, so it is unlikely to be an onerous task for the neighbour to take on.

The vulnerable person need not open the door – they can simply pass the caller a card through their letter box.

The Nominated Neighbour will check the reason for the visit and confirm the caller's identity, and (if appropriate) will go with the caller during their visit.

Once the caller has finished their visit, the Nominated Neighbour will escort them off the premises, allaying any concerns for infirm or unconfident residents.

If you, or someone you know, may benefit from the scheme contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 04 05 06.

Trading Standards Advice and Support

Do you need help with a consumer issue or want to report something to Trading Standards? Trading Standards work in partnership with the Citizens Advice consumer service, which provides free, confidential and impartial advice on consumer issues. It can help if you need:

- Advice before you purchase goods or pay for services;
- Advice about resolving an issue or dispute with a retailer or trader.

To contact the Citizens Advice consumer service:

Telephone: 03454 04 05 06

or have a look at their website:

<http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/>

How do I find a trader that I can trust?

If you need to find a trader, then Nottinghamshire County Council Trading Standards Service work in partnership with Checkatrade to provide an approved trader scheme, to help Nottinghamshire consumers choose a trader they can trust and rely upon. Please have a look at the information on the Checkatrade website <http://www.checkatrade.com> or if you are unable to access the internet you can contact Checkatrade on 0333 0146 190.

Scams, And How To Fight Them

NottsWatch is already working closely with Nottinghamshire Age Friendly and have recently started working with Nottinghamshire Trading Standards and Nottinghamshire Police Cybercrime Unit. Our common aim is to enable healthier and safer communities and empower citizens to get involved with these campaigns to ensure they succeed.

It is an unfortunate fact of modern life that many scams are propagated online and aimed squarely at the less technologically savvy individuals who may be less adept in noticing the signs of fraudulent documents or requests. Cybercrime is growing alongside the expansion of online services and products, so it is becoming more important than ever to know what a scam looks like.

For this reason, NottsWatch communications team member, Jozef Doyle, recently signed up to become a 'Scam Marshall' with the organisation Friends Against Scams, who work alongside the National Trading Standards Scam Team to help identify, investigate and remove scam tactics across the country by providing information about scams and those who fall victim to them. This intelligence enables communities and organisations to understand scams,

Contact communication@nottswatch.co.uk or view www.nottswatch.co.uk

Fraud Advice – Useful Tips

Make your home phone number ex-directory:

To avoid having your phone number listed on websites, you need to contact your provider to have your number made ex-directory. This means your number won't appear in local telephone directories.

Telephone Preference Service:

Free opt-out service to prevent unsolicited calls. Tel: 0845 070 0707 or visit:

www.tpsonline.org.uk

True Caller:

For smartphones you can download the [True Caller app](#) from any app store. The app is regularly updated to significantly reduce nuisance calls.

Check your email spam settings:

Many email service providers have built-in spam filter settings that can remove suspicious emails from your inbox automatically. These tools can be found in [Outlook](#), [Gmail](#) and other services. A good ad-hoc method is to always mark suspicious messages as "spam" so your email server will know to block similar messages in future.

Junk Email Examples

[RENEWAL UPDATE] payment successfully on Saturday.
Dear This message is automatically sent by the system The pu

Caution! Attack hackers to your account!
Hi, stranger! I hacked your device, because I sent you this me:

purchase.
[Purchase Subscription.] - Order Received 11 January 2019
Dear Client, Your Apple ID was used to sign in to the new devi

Apple
Re: [Summary Revision Account] The latest issue of the
(No message text)

Apple
Re: [Summary Revision Account] The latest issue of the a
(No message text)

your account shelcrooc
You may not know me and you are probably wondering why:

Apple
Re: [Item : 720955510] Thank you for your purchase, you
Support.ID:53445345

An example of some of the collected scam messages over the last two months. Many scams follow similar patterns and can be easily identified once that pattern is pointed out.

For example, The 'Apple' emails received include "[summary revision account]" which is not a phrase a large company is likely to use as the header to an email directed at a customer.

talk about scams and cascade messages throughout communities about scams prevention and protection. Scam Marshalls help their communities by informing Trading Standards of scams they and their community has received, documenting any trends in spurious house visits or phone calls and generally being the point of call for concerned neighbours in receipt of unexpected and undesired email and post.

For more information on Friends Against Scams, their website is: www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

Get Involved, Get In Contact

If you have a campaign idea or want to get involved in campaigns already underway but don't know where to start, NottsWatch has a vast array of resources, expert campaigners and enthusiastic members that would greatly value your support. Contact us! Resources can be found on our website as well as [Ourwatch](#).

Neighbourhood Alert

If you haven't already, sign up for free security alerts. You can select to receive updates from a range of sources, such as Action Fraud and National Trading Standards as well as local policing alerts regarding crime in your area with [Neighbourhood Alert](#). You may also sign up through our website and join your local neighbourhood watch group. Visit <https://www.nottswatch.co.uk/>. Both options, as well as Nottinghamshire Alert, offer the same alert service.

New Website

NottsWatch are currently working with a web developer to build a new, mobile optimised, user friendly website. As well as safety advice, information about our organisation and neighbourhood watch, we will also offer news stories from our blog which we hope you will enjoy.

To make sure you know when we launch, please sign up to neighbourhood alert and tick neighbourhood watch updates.