

JULY 2022

OUR NEWS

FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES



Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association celebrate our 40th anniversary



Hello! I would like to start by saying another massive thank you to everyone who took part in our Neighbourhood Watch Week last month.

accompanied by the Prince of Wales at a Big Lunch at the Oval.

During the Week we also ran a national Neighbourhood Watch Crime and Community Conference attended by our partners and volunteers; and we celebrated our 40 year history in 8 radio and 3 TV interviews aired across the country including being featured on [BBC Morning Live](#).

None of this would have been possible without you - our supporters! So as we continue to enjoy our Summer we hope that you stay safe and connected to each other.

John Hayward-Cripps, CEO,
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NETWORK

We had a record number of groups actively participating with many of them running street parties, others creating a [human 40](#), as seen above, others doing parades, dances, dog shows or even running an unique car show. You can see photos of some of these events on page 2.

Some of our volunteers and Central Support Team even got to represent Neighbourhood Watch when meeting the Duchess of Cornwall



Cheryl Spruce, our Head of Membership and Engagement, speaks to the Duchess of Cornwall about Neighbourhood Watch, with Peter Stewart, Executive Director of Eden Project

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Do your events have an impact?



Over the past month you may well have organised or joined in with a Neighbourhood Watch event such as a street party or litter pick, or you may have chosen to do another of the [40 YEARS 40 ACTIONS](#).

Taking a moment to reflect on your activities, helps you to understand the positive change they are making in your community. Understanding our impact helps us to demonstrate that Neighbourhood Watch is really making a difference to local people.

If you have received or are applying for funding for your event or activity, funders will want to know what impact their support has had and that you have a way of demonstrating that impact.

To understand impact, consider:

1. THE GOAL

What were you aiming to achieve? (e.g. a type of crime you were trying to reduce, a problem you were trying to solve or simply bringing your community together to tackle loneliness and isolation)

2. THE ACTIVITY

What happened? (where, when, what and who was involved)

3. THE RESULT

What was the result? (e.g. the number of people involved, the number of leaflets or other resources shared, the amount of litter collected etc.)

4. THE IMPACT

Consider questions such as: has crime reduced?, do people feel safer?, do people feel more connected with their neighbours? do people feel less isolated?

You don't always need crime figures or other data to show the impact your activity has had – though it's always good to include this if you can. Quotes from people or any partner agencies involved about the benefit of the activity for them individually and / or the local community are also a good measure of success.

If you have organised or been involved with a Neighbourhood Watch event or activity in the past twelve months, we want to hear from you about the difference you have made together as a community!

To help you understand and record your impact download and complete this [simple form](#). We encourage you to send your completed forms to us at enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk so that we can celebrate your successes and share your learnings to inspire others.

We would like to say a massive thank you to [VISAV](#) who have once again shown their commitment to developing Neighbourhood Watch by sponsoring compulsory, online Data Protection training for our Multi-Scheme Administrators (MSAs). Our Multi-Scheme Administrators are our dedicated volunteers who support the development of schemes and ensure that our database is cleansed and up to date. If this volunteer role interests you, find out more [here](#).

Keep your digital lives safe and secure



Our popular Cyberhood Watch initiative, between Neighbourhood Watch and Avast, has been set up to help you keep your digital lives safe and secure.

We offer an array of easy to digest practical advice through a range of downloadable guides.

1. How to download your data from Facebook on Mac or PC
2. How to change your privacy settings on Instagram
3. What is social engineering and how to protect yourself?
4. What is a VPN and how does it work?
5. Protect your family online: the cyber-savvy parent
6. Cookies: the good, the bad and the ugly
7. What are password managers and how do they work?
8. Popular threats on Android and how to avoid them
9. Popular threats on iOS and how to avoid them
10. What is Two Factor Authentication (2FA)?
11. What is the Internet of Things?
12. How to fight phishing
13. Cybersecurity terms and metaphors



RANSOMWARE TOP TIP

Make sure your device and your applications are always up-to-date. Install a strong antivirus with an anti-ransomware feature. Back up your most important files to an external device such as a hard drive, and never click a link in an email or text that looks suspicious.

Finally, never pay the ransom if you fall victim of ransomware.

Visit the
[Cyberhood Watch](#)
[page](#)
to download
the guides

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS [HERE](#) TO BE IN FOR A CHANCE OF WINNING AND SUPPORT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NETWORK

onelottery



- Tickets cost ONLY £1 per week
- Weekly draws
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to Neighbourhood Watch Network

Support us and you could win prizes of up to £25,000

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New scam as victims lose thousands from fraudsters impersonating their bank or the police

Did you know that in 2021, over £15 million was lost to courier fraud in the UK, affecting over 3,600 victims?

In the midst of the cost-of-living crisis, there has never been a greater need to protect vulnerable people from fraud and scams. The charity Crimestoppers is working with the City of London Police and Action Fraud to raise awareness of what [courier fraud](#) is, and how we can prevent it.



Fraudsters create a false sense of urgency

Courier fraud is a scam where criminals pretend to be the police or the victim's bank, where victims are tricked into providing banking details, withdrawing cash, foreign currency, purchasing gold, watches, or other expensive items.

These items, as well as bank cards, are handed over to strangers (known as couriers) who can turn up at your home in a false 'race against time' and pose as police or bank workers, claiming they urgently need to

collect these items from the victim to protect their savings or property.

Sadly, in many cases, the victims oblige and are unable to claw back what they lose.

Victims are often vulnerable or older people. Around 60% of victims are over 70, and whilst the average loss per person is around £5,000, the highest single loss last year was £640,000.

One victim was a woman in her 80s who was conned out of more than £30,000 after handing over her debit card and her driver's licence.

For the vulnerable victims of this sophisticated scam, the emotional and financial impacts can be devastating. For the criminal gangs behind it, the profits fund wider serious crime that impacts communities across the country.

[Crimestoppers](#), which is independent from the police, offers individuals a way to speak up with information on those involved in courier fraud. Stay 100% anonymous by using our unique service.

Call freephone 0800 555 111 at anytime or complete a safe and secure anonymous online form at [Crimestoppers-uk.org](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org), 24/7, 365 days a year.

If you are a victim, then all courier scams must be reported to [Action Fraud](#), which is run by City of London Police and remains the single reporting process for this type of offence across England and Wales.

However, if a crime is in progress, then we advise victims or witnesses to call 999.

Crimestoppers.
0800 555111
100% anonymous. Always.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH KNOWLEDGE HUB

Our volunteer support platform provides Coordinators, Associations and other Neighbourhood Watch volunteers with:

- specific volunteer role support
- the opportunity to connect with other

volunteers on forums

- a range of resources, including crime prevention campaign materials
- access to training to support your role
- early access to events such as webinars
- unique volunteer offers

[Click here to join the Hub](#)

NEW 999 British Sign Language app launched

A British Sign Language (BSL) 999 app launched on Friday 17th June, meaning BSL signers now have equal access to the fire, police, ambulance and coastguard emergency services and can exchange information quickly and accurately.

The 999 BSL app works on iOS or Android devices. Using a smartphone app, the call can talk in real time to the call handler, with an interpreter signing the handler's responses and instructions back to them.

Alternatively people can use the [999 BSL website](https://www.999bsl.co.uk) to contact 999 in BSL. A text service for 999 already exists, though users have had to register for that prior to use. The new sign language-based service does not require registration, meaning callers can use it as long as the app or webpage is open.

To make a call with 999 BSL, users need to



open the app or webpage, then press a red button that will connect them to an interpreter.

The service is designed to be very easy to use with just one button to call 999 via an interpreter. It also has a function to allow call backs if needed. All calls will be free and available 24/7.

To find out more about this service visit the [BSL website](https://www.999bsl.co.uk).

If you have been a victim of crime you can report it in several ways

- If it's an emergency or the crime is still taking place, contact the police on 999
- If it's not an emergency, call 101. Do not call 999. This doesn't mean it is not important – it just helps to make the best use of police resources. Or you can report the crime at your local police station.

If you have information regarding a crime and don't want to talk to the police, contact the charity Crimestoppers online or call 0800 555 111. You will remain 100% anonymous. Always.



Criminals may get in touch by email, text, direct message, phone call, or on social media to target you with payment in advance fraud.

When targeting someone with this type of fraud they put you under pressure to pay quickly by bank transfer or even with cryptocurrency.

Whenever you're asked to pay an up-front fee remember to ask yourself – could this be fake? It's always ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

#TakeFive #StopChallengeProtect

Young people's experience of crime, safety and community

We want to find out young people's experiences of crime, safety and engaging with their local community.

Please share this survey link (surveymonkey.co.uk/r/X757SFP) with as many 16 - 24 year olds as you can. The survey will be run until winter 2022. To find out more about our work with young people contact [Simeon Earnshaw](#).

Are you aged 16-24?

Tell us your ideas about how to improve your community and be in for a chance to **WIN £25 Amazon voucher!**

surveymonkey.co.uk/r/X757SFP

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Are you affected by fly-tipping?

Fly-tipping is when someone dumps rubbish somewhere without permission. It is a local nuisance and makes an area look ugly and run down.

Fly-tipping is a serious criminal offence. In 2016/17 councils in England dealt with more than one million fly-tipping cases. But we need to make it easier for people to report it to their local council.

Follow these steps to pop a friendly postcard through your neighbour's door with the local details for reporting fly-tipping.

1. Download and print [this postcard](#)
2. Visit gov.uk/report-flytipping to find the email address and phone number to report incidents in your area and write them in the card
3. Deliver the postcards through your neighbours' doors

Did you know...? If antisocial behaviour (ASB) is impacting your area, visit ourwatch.org.uk/asb to learn more about recognising, recording, and reporting ASB.

FLY-TIPPING IS A CRIME IF YOU CAN SEE IT, REPORT IT



Fly-tipping, excessive litter and dumped rubbish can be a health hazard, not to mention an eyesore.

It can cause unpleasant smells, attract pests, and create a dangerous environment for children, pets, and wildlife in particular.

If the problem is not dealt with quickly, it can lead to an increase in fly-tipping making the area more obviously unpleasant and unsafe.



FIND OUT HOW TO REPORT IT

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FLY-TIPPING IS A CRIME IF YOU CAN SEE IT, REPORT IT



REPORT FLY-TIPPING TO YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL IN YOUR AREA REPORT VIA:

EMAIL: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

If you witness it, note down their registration number if you can, to include in your report.

VISIT gov.uk/report-flytipping TO FIND OUT HOW TO REPORT IT IN OTHER AREAS

Contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 to report large scale illegal dumping (such as lorries dumping rubbish) and hazardous waste. You can also report waste crimes, like someone:

- deliberately labelling waste incorrectly
- running a waste site without a permit, or not following the rules of a permit
- someone exporting waste - unless it's to certain countries for recycling

Learn more at: ourwatch.org.uk/asb

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Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) Awareness Week, 18th - 24th July 2022

The week will be action-packed with a focus on the impact of ASB on young people, and the importance engaging with the wider public about their vital role in tackling it.

Organised by Resolve, the week will be supported by key stakeholders including Neighbourhood Watch, Home Office, Local Government Association, National Police Chiefs' Council and the National Fire Chiefs' Council. Find out more [here](#).

Minors use Discord servers to earn extra pocket month through spreading malware



Digital security and privacy leader Avast has discovered an [online community of minors](#) constructing, exchanging and spreading malware, including ransomware and a mix of information stealers and cryptominers.

The group lures young users by advertising access to different malware builders and tool kits that allow laypeople to construct malware easily.

In some cases, people have to buy access to the malware builder tool in order to join the group, and in others, they can become group members where they are offered the tool for a nominal fee.

The community uses dedicated Discord servers as a discussion board and selling place to spread malware. Conversations range from hacking teachers and their school systems, to age-related insults and mentions of parents.

The malware exchanged among teens include types capable of password and private information stealing, cryptomining, and even ransomware.

For example, if a client buys a builder tool and chooses to use it for data theft, the generated sample will send any stolen data to that particular client who generated and distributed it.

Malware distribution via YouTube

After purchasing and compiling their individualized malware sample, some clients use YouTube videos to market and distribute their malware.

Some videos display information about a cracked game, or game cheat, masquarding it as genuine. However the video link leads to their malware instead.

“These communities may be attractive to children and teens as hacking is seen as cool and fun, malware builders provide an affordable and easy way to hack someone and brag about it to peers, and even a way to make money through ransomware, cryptomining and the sale of user data,” said Avast Malware Researcher Jan Holman.

“However, these activities by far aren’t harmless, they are criminal. They can have

significant personal and legal consequences, especially if children expose their own and their families’ identities online or if the purchased malware actually infects the kids’ computer, leaving their families vulnerable by letting them use the affected device. Their data, including online accounts and bank details, can be leaked to cybercriminals,” Holman added.

How to protect kids from dark activities online

It’s very important to teach children to be critical of attractive offers, such as new game features unavailable in the official stores or pre-release versions of popular games.

Parents also need to [educate children](#) on the importance of password security and tell them never to share their passwords with others, even if they claim to be their friends or a game master offering help.

For the younger kids, it is crucial not to reveal any personal information when playing on multiplayer platforms, such as Discord or game Minecraft.

Moreover, children still need ethical guidance about what is right or wrong, also in the digital space. What may seem venturesome and fun can bring serious harm to others and be an actual criminal offense.

Discord also shared with Avast that they advise parents to help tailor the child’s settings to prevent them from receiving messages from strangers.

More safety tips for parents can be found on the [Discord blog](#).

Malware is an umbrella term for any type of “malicious software” that’s designed to infiltrate your device without your knowledge.

There are many types of malware, and each works differently in pursuit of its goals. However, all malware variants share two defining traits: they’re sneaky, and they’re actively working against your best interests.



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