

## Autumn – A Time for Renewal

This Autumn has seen a great deal of change across Nottinghamshire – alongside the shifting colours of the leaves and colder nights drawing in – and NottsWatch has been progressing too, with ongoing projects and plans for greater change being created to better help serve our members and communities. Based on the feedback received from our previous edition, this newsletter will cover issues important to you, as well as celebrations of successes and achievements seen across the county. Advice regarding **targeted spam e-mail**, discussions on **local policing**, **anti-litter campaign details** and **advice for motorists** coming into the Winter months can all be found in the pages below.

For more details, and to stay up to date with NottsWatch campaigns, find us on:  
[Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) or on our [website](#).

## Area Spotlight – Students in The City

In our previous editions we sought to celebrate the achievements and contributions of citizens across Nottinghamshire. This season we are highlighting the work that students and faculty put in to making new international students feel welcome as they make the move to a new home in Nottingham.

On October 23rd both the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University welcomed international students to their new home and place of study with an event aimed at displaying the wealth of culture, creativity and art that can be found across Nottinghamshire. The event took place at St. Mary's Church in the Lace Market, with students being collected from Heathrow Airport by coach earlier in the day.

The new students were welcomed with a "golden hello" by the Vice-Chancellors of the two universities and were each gifted tickets to the football match between Nottingham Forest and Hull City that was scheduled that evening. In addition, market-style stalls were set up with local businesses offering quintessentially English treats like fish and chips from George's Great British Kitchen and doughnuts from the aptly named Doughnotts.

## Seasonal Photo Competition

In each edition we ask for readers own photographs of landscapes taken within Nottinghamshire. Thank you to **Matt Turpin**, for capturing a phenomenal image of the Goose Fair's festivities – as seen from the roof of Wollaton Hall!



If you have any pictures that perfectly capture the feeling of **Nottinghamshire settling into Winter**, please send them in to be featured on our website and in the forthcoming Newsletter – The deadline is 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

Pictures can be sent to:  
[communication@nottswatch.co.uk](mailto: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 Nottinghamshire, city or county.)

## E-Mail Scam alert

Due to feedback the NottsWatch communications team has received, we are highlighting potential scam risks that Nottinghamshire residents have been receiving in the last few months. In particular, scams through e-mails are on the rise and are difficult to detect – unless you know what to look for.

### What to do:

With every unexpected e-mail, ensure you can see and recognise the sender's address. This is often found in the "inbox" bar next to the title of the e-mail in question, but your e-mail provider may show it somewhere else. See the example below which is likely to be safe as both sections match.

JOZEF DOYLE <jozefnwcomms@gmail.com>

If the e-mail address is a series of numbers, a set of random letters, or has a strange domain (that's the part after the @ symbol, where standard domains look like gmail.com or hotmail.co.uk) do not click on the email – it is likely spam, or the prelude to a scam.

If you do encounter suspicious emails or other communications, feel free to share the experience more broadly by using the hashtags #NottsFraudProtect #Tell2 and #TakeFive, so that the scam can be more widely noticed and avoided by others.

The event itself was hosted by Robin Hood and was warmly received by around 475 new international students, with speeches given by the Universities' Vice-Chancellors focusing on the importance of cultural diversity, as well as academic achievement, that international students naturally bring to our county. Professor Shearer West of Nottingham University said she hoped the new students "become integral and valued members of our local communities... We don't want Nottingham to be just a place of study for them, we want it to be a home from home, somewhere they will make friends, memories and return to in the future."

This was the first time such an event has been held in Nottingham and due to its success, it is hoped that the Civic Welcome can be made an annual tradition, warmly introducing new international students to our county for years to come.

More stories like these, highlighting our community's shared successes can be found [on our website](#).

## Gedling Engineer Memorial unveiled

A memorial in honour of an engineer who pioneered the creation of clean water systems, saving thousands of lives in the process was recently unveiled to the public in the park where he was born.

Thomas Hawksley was born in Arnot Hill House in the grounds of Arnot Hill Park, Arnold and he would become one of the greatest water engineers of the 19th century, saving countless lives by creating the first pressurised water system of its kind.

The memorial was unveiled by the Deputy Mayor of Gedling along with direct descendants of Mr Hawksley at a special ceremony in Arnot Hill Park on Friday 25 October. The funding for the statue was provided by Severn Trent Water, who agreed to provide £10,000 after meeting with Vernon Coaker MP and the Deputy Leader of Gedling Borough Council Cllr Michael Payne to discuss better flooding provisions in the borough.

The sculpture was designed and built by local artist Richard Janes and incorporates elements of Thomas Hawksley's work and designs using techniques and materials that were in use at the time Hawksley was alive.



*The Arnot Hill Park Memorial Sculpture*

One of the council's key priorities, set out in the [Gedling Plan](#), is to provide a more sustainable environment, which includes a vision to promote and celebrate the borough's rich heritage. The installation is part of the council's Gedling Heritage Brought Alive programme, which aims to increase awareness of the famous people and places of the borough.

Leader of Gedling Borough Council, Councillor John Clarke said: "Many people may not have heard of Thomas Hawksley before today, but they will have benefitted from his fantastic work as a water engineer. Today, we take clean water for granted but it was because of people like Thomas Hawksley that we have it. This memorial will be a fitting tribute to his excellent work, and we are delighted that members of his family could be here today to see it. I would like to thank Severn Trent Water for providing the funding for this memorial and to everyone involved."

### Fines For Those Found Littering from Cars

Also, in Gedling, a new scheme by Gedling Borough council has been introduced that will lead to fines for motorists in Arnold, Carlton, Netherfield, Mapperley and Calverton if they are caught dropping litter. The fine of £65 is hoped to curtail the littering trend seen across the county and may well be adopted by neighbouring boroughs if positive results are seen.

A spokesman for the council said it would now be much easier to crackdown on the offence as, if seen, the car's number plate can now be traced to its owner and a fine issued in much the same way a speeding ticket might be generated.

Residents of Gedling have voiced praise for the initiative and believe the fine will act as a real deterrent to those who, through laziness or disregard for their surroundings, refuse to properly dispose of their waste.

David Wakelin, corporate director for Gedling Borough Council, added: "These new regulations should act as a deterrent to anyone thinking of littering our streets and roads.

"The new powers will make it much easier for us to fine people carelessly throwing rubbish out of moving vehicles. There is no excuse for littering, and it costs councils money to clear up. By being able to issue a penalty identifying a vehicle, rather than the individual, we can now take better action against littering of this kind."

## Tech and Tea Expands its Horizons!

Following on from the successes of previous Tech and Tea events (where people with the skills to navigate technology and the internet share their knowledge with others in a relaxed setting) new sessions will be running in West Bridgford Library in July and beyond.

If you want to volunteer to help out, please access the online form by going to [www.inspireculture.org.uk](http://www.inspireculture.org.uk) and follow the Get Involved link.

As always, if you would like to learn more about technology, feel free to go along to the sessions near you – They're free and low-pressure events geared towards helping you feel confident using the technology you have available.

**Volunteer for Tea and Tech**  
Every Tuesday, 2.00-3.00pm  
Starting 16 July 2019  
West Bridgford Library

**Are you a whizz with technology?  
Would you like to help out in your local community?**

We are looking for volunteers to help at our new Tea and Tech sessions. You would be showing people how to use their own devices and helping them with their technology questions...over a cup of tea!

If you are interested, please fill in the online form on our website; [www.inspireculture.org.uk](http://www.inspireculture.org.uk). Follow the Get Involved link. Please specify you would like to help at Tea and Tech.

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Reading inspireculture.org.uk

Nottinghamshire  
County Council

delivered by **Inspire**  
Culture Learning Libraries

## Increase in Phone Scams: Hoax Amazon Prime Calls

Many citizens have reported receiving suspicious and unexpected phone calls from people purporting to be from Amazon Prime. These calls - which usually utilise a recorded message rather than a human being - informs people their personal details have been used to fraudulently sign up for Amazon Prime, but can cancel the transaction by pressing 1. Doing this connects the victim to criminals posing as Amazon customer service personnel who then remotely access their computer and steal further details.

Nottinghamshire Police's Cyber Crime Unit recommends against installing any piece of software as a result of a cold call, and to always question uninvited approaches - whether through a phone call or otherwise - in case it is a prelude to a scam.

Additionally, having the confidence to refuse unusual or suspicious requests for information or personal details is crucial in fending off scammers. It's easy to feel obliged to do as you're asked, or embarrassed when faced with complex or technical enquiries, but it is far better to be embarrassed than it is to allow scammers to access your devices or details.

For further guidance and advice, you can find Cyber Protect UK on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), or read through [Nottinghamshire's Cyber Crime Unit's advice online](#).

## Action Fraud – Warnings and Advice

In each edition of this newsletter we try to provide useful advice on staying safe online. Dangers can arise from strangers attempting to access your personal information, especially when accessing the internet through public connections. Follow the guidelines below to ensure you're as safe as possible when surfing the web.

- Make sure your **Wi-Fi connection is secured** and encrypted with a password so that others cannot access your internet connection. Do not use default passwords provided out-of-the-box by suppliers.
- **Don't assume Wi-Fi hotspots in places like cafes or hotels are secure** - Never use them to do anything confidential like using your email or making a payment.
- **A VPN (virtual private network) will protect your information when connected to free WIFI networks.** Without one you run the risk of anyone being able to record anything you do online. For more information on hotspots and wireless networks go to <http://www.getsafeonline.org/smartphones-tablets/wireless-networks-and-hotspots/>
- Ensure you have an **activated and up-to-date antivirus software package on your device** - many come pre-installed, but can be turned off by accident. Familiarise yourself with your own antivirus software package.
- If you use social media, like Facebook, LinkedIn or Instagram, **regularly review your privacy settings on those sites, opting for the most secure privacy setting on each setting option**, so that only people you know can see your information and photos.
- **Have next to nothing publicly visible** and ensure your contact details are secure from anyone viewing this information. Be certain that you can't be located through your contact information being searched on search engines.

While the risks online are not insubstantial, the methods recommended to protect yourself are simple and easy to implement. A Google search with the name of your device and a keyword like "antivirus" or "VPN" will yield easy-to-use guides that will help you get your device protected.

If you find yourself receiving fraudulent online messages, you can report them to <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> and monitor the progress of that report securely. Further information on cyber safety and preventative guidelines can be found at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>



## Remembrance Sunday Parades and Vigils

Across Nottinghamshire, Remembrance Sunday events were held to pay tribute to the lives lost in wartime, and to remember the causes for which those lives were given. In Beeston on the 10<sup>th</sup> November a parade of hundreds moved through the streets before reaching the war memorial cross at Dovecote Lane, with Thomas Day, Beeston's oldest veteran, laying the wreath to commemorate his fellow soldiers.

Similarly, crowds formed at the Victoria Embankment during the day and were accompanied by The Nottinghamshire Band of the Royal Engineers (Volunteers) and the Nottingham Hospitals Choir in remembering the wars that changed the course of history and the lives of millions around the world.

While it is easy for those removed from the events of the past to forget the sacrifices felt to this day by those who served, there are many ways to show your support towards our community's veterans and their families. [The Nottinghamshire Veterans' Service](#) is one such support group that aims to pragmatically tackle the issues veterans face in their daily lives, such as finding housing and employment after service. If you want to get involved, their website has a wealth of details on how best to proceed. Alternatively, you can get in contact with NottsWatch directly by emailing [communication@nottswatch.co.uk](mailto:communication@nottswatch.co.uk) and we can advise you on local opportunities to help Nottinghamshire veterans.



*Remembrance Service at The Victoria Embankment.  
Image: Joseph Raynor/ Nottingham Post*

**Send in Your Stories for Our Blog! Visit our [website](#) to read about:**

### Student Group Chat for Safer Journeys Home

Read how A second year student at the University of Nottingham has created a group chat called 'Women Walking Home' to try and ensure girls' safety walking through Lenton at night.

### Biodiversity in The Park Project

Read about the successes of Mike Horseman, from The Park, who has started a project in his local community to create more biodiversity by raising funds for bird boxes and bat boxes as well as creating a hedgehog super highway.

### 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 our national team's website, [Ourwatch](#).

<http://www.nottswatch.co.uk>

[communication@nottswatch.co.uk](mailto:communication@nottswatch.co.uk)

## Become a Scam Marshal

Are you, or someone you know, inundated with scam mail? It can now be put to good use! Anyone can register to become a Scam Marshal and send their scam mail to the National Trading Standards Scams Team where it can be used as intelligence and help with further investigations. Once registered you will be given a freepost address to use.

To find out more and register: <https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/scammarshals>

An example of the scams the Marshalls have encountered is from people alleging to be from Thomas Cook:

There have been reports that residents are receiving bogus phone calls from people claiming to be acting on behalf of Thomas Cook, offering "refunds" in an attempt to harvest details for use in further fraudulent activities.

We would urge people to be vigilant of all unsolicited calls, texts or social media messages that ask for personal or financial details, and not to click on the links in unexpected emails. If you are receiving a lot of unwanted calls, consider talking to your land line provider or purchasing a telephone with call blocking functions. Advice for those actually dealing with Thomas Cook's closure can be found [here](#).

## The Holidays are Coming – Things to Know Before You Go

Many people plan on travelling near the Christmas break, and package holidays often cater to this market with tempting deals and offers. Here are a few things to keep in mind when thinking about a holiday or trip abroad:

- In a package holiday contract, the terms must include company insolvency protection details, to protect you should a company involved in your holiday closes down.
- There may be additional charges incurred when flying with extra luggage or when reserving specific seats. A comparison table for such charges can be found [here](#)
- It is illegal for an organiser or retailer to insist that you take their own insurance, but shop around before you book flights to ensure you obtain adequate cover for your journey.
- A European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) will allow you to obtain state medical care in the European Union. Visit the [NHS](#) website for more information. You can obtain the EHIC free of charge.

For a comprehensive list of guidelines, the [Nottinghamshire County Council Website](#) has compiled a list of details and useful contacts for people planning a holiday.

## Weather Warnings Ahead – Guidelines to Drive By

With temperatures set to drop in coming weeks, and inclement weather conditions on the rise, many drivers will be experiencing poor road conditions at all times of day this season. Nottinghamshire has 30 gritters that work to keep the roads safe, but there are things citizens can do to ensure everyone's safety this coming Winter:

- Ensure all frost, snow and/or leaves have been cleared from your car before driving. While you may have a clear windshield, debris falling from your car in motion can become a road hazard for others
- To reduce the chances of aquaplaning (the loss of steering control while driving on wet roads) drive slower than usual and be more vigilant for other drivers' behaviour.
- Ensure adequate visibility is maintained and wait for your car to disperse condensation from the inside of your windshield before leaving. Likewise, if you can, pull over safely and wait out a heavy downpour.
- Splashing cyclists and pedestrians by driving through large puddles is not only anti-social and potentially injurious behaviour – it can also result in a fine of up to £5,000.