

Summer – In Full Bloom

With 2019 in full swing NottsWatch has been hard at work, advancing projects and collaborating with organisations across Nottinghamshire to better help serve our members and communities. Based on the feedback received from our previous editions, this newsletter will cover issues important to you, as well as celebrations of successes and achievements seen across the county. Discussions and advice around online safety, dangerous and illegal car parking, scam detection and avoidance and knife crime risk reduction and prevention can also 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 – Gedling Awards

In our last edition we sought to celebrate the achievements and contributions of citizens across Nottinghamshire. Many boroughs are doing the same, and Gedling borough council recently held the ‘Pride of Gedling Awards’ to shine a spotlight on members of the community that are performing outstanding selfless work.

In particular, and in keeping with our focus on neighbourliness, Gedling borough council awarded its Good Neighbour Award to Ann Haslam, “in recognition of the love and care she shows those living near her at home in Netherfield. Ann often goes that extra mile when it comes to supporting her neighbours. She often cares for those that are ill and even makes visits to check the ones that find themselves in hospital.”

Ann was one of many individuals honoured in the event, with awards given for exemplary actions and life-saving acts – more details can be found on the [Gedling Eye Website](#).



Pride of Gedling Award Winners

Seasonal Photo Competition

In our Spring edition we asked for readers own photographs of landscapes taken within Nottinghamshire. Thank you to **Michelle Adcock**, for capturing a stunning view across the water at Wollaton Park recently. We are using this photo for one of our slider pages on our [new website](#).



If you have any pictures that perfectly capture the feeling of **Nottinghamshire changing through Autumn**, please send them in to be featured on our website and in the forthcoming Newsletter – The deadline is 30th September 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 Nottinghamshire, city or county.)

NottsWatch Common Ground Conference

Nottinghamshire Neighbourhood Watch (NottsWatch®) held its annual conference in Sutton in Ashfield on 6th July 2019.

The free-to-attend Common Ground Conference was a collaboration between NottsWatch, Nottinghamshire Police, Nottinghamshire County Council and Community Organising Notts. The event was funded by Nottinghamshire's Police and Crime Commissioner and sponsored by VISAV Limited, the company behind the NottsAlert.co.uk system.

The Keynote Speakers supporting the conference were Nottinghamshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Paddy Tipping, Deputy Chief Constable of Notts Police, Rachel Barber, CEO of Community Organising Ltd, Nick Gardham, and Founder and Director of Himmah and member of Nottingham Citizen, Sajid Mahmood.

Chair of NottsWatch, Sue Sambells said "I believe our keynote speakers demonstrated at our conference, in their presentations and collaborative answers during the delegate Q&A session, the common ground that we all share to be committed to making Nottinghamshire a great place to live. I am proud to be able to lead NottsWatch, supported by my team, to be a significant piece of the jigsaw puzzle needed to achieve our aims".

Dating Scam alert

We are aware of an increase in reports of online scams where victims are being asked to send money to Turkey, using online dating as a cover story. Please, if anyone you've not met in person asks you for money, especially to be sent abroad, don't trust them!

Always be wary of individuals asking for money online – even if you know the person doing the asking! It is possible their communications have been hacked, and someone is impersonating your known contact.

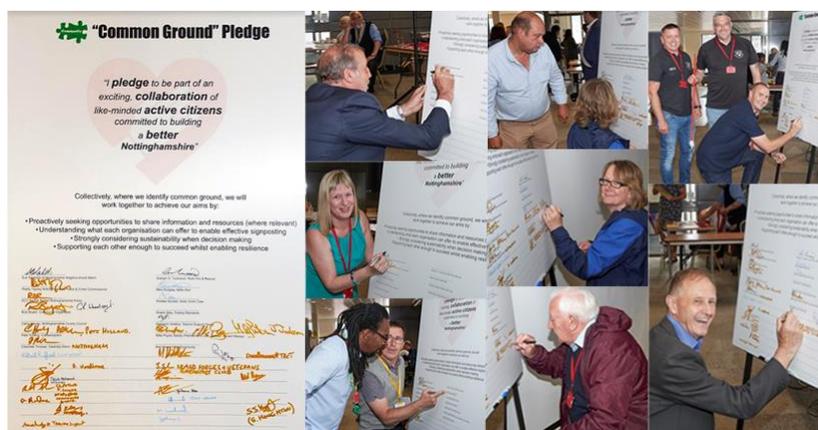
What to do:

- Review your online privacy settings. Ensure details such as date of birth, email address, telephone number & relationship status are set to private / friends only.

- Be cautious when chatting online & what details someone may be asking for. Why do they need to know your full DOB or where you work?

- Report to Action Fraud if you believe you or someone you know may have fallen for a romance 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.



Common Ground Pledge Signing, where members pledge to be part of the campaign for building a better Nottinghamshire. Crime and Police Commissioner, Paddy Tipping was the first to sign, followed by representatives from all of our invited services and organisations.

In addition to representatives from organisations which included Notts Victim Care and Trading Standards, NottsWatch Trustee Mike Douglas presented the results from the Listening Campaign survey. The survey was distributed on the www.NottsAlert.co.uk Police/Neighbourhood Watch communication system in May this year and 2,336 people completed it.

Mike Douglas said, "The results identified many frustrations that are well known to the attending partners, along with some insightful feedback regarding current issues and areas that Nottinghamshire citizens would like to see addressed."

During the conference, DCC Barber, on behalf of NottsWatch, presented framed certificates to seven delegates who had been nominated by Nottinghamshire residents for services to the community. Additionally, Kate Loewenthal, Sheila Fletcher and Chris Brummitt were given Active Citizens Awards.

We were encouraged to receive many nominations for these awards, and have posted pictures and details of the awards in full on [Facebook](#) and on our [new website](#).

Kate Loewenthal, nominated by Virginia Rochester, received recognition for working hard on behalf of the local residents of Lenton, particularly those who are elderly, ill or for whom English is not their first language to help them tackle issues in their area. She was the inspiration and the impetus in 2016 for setting up a local residents' association which has brought the community together and this year she has taken on the organisation of the Lenton Fun Day.

Paul Macey, Vice Chair of NottsWatch said "the NottsWatch team are all volunteers with no expertise in putting on conferences. We are delighted with how the day went and with all of the positive feedback we have received. Many who attended were keen to do more for a better community spirit and quality of life, which was exactly the outcome we wanted. I'd like to thank all of the representatives of the various authorities who took the time to attend and made an invaluable contribution."

Full details, including our picture gallery and recordings from the event, can be viewed from the second slider page on our website or [click here](#).



Police and Crime Commissioner Paddy Tipping (centre) with DCC Rachel Barber, Sajid Mahmood, Nick Gardham and Trustees of NottsWatch

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 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.

Nottinghamshire County Council

delivered by Inspire Culture Learning Libraries

Action Fraud – Warnings and Advice

Increase in Phone Scams: How to Avoid the Calls

Many citizens have reported receiving suspicious and unexpected phone calls from people purporting to be from HM Revenue and Customs. These calls - which usually utilise a recorded message rather than a human being - often request the receiver to press a number on their phone keypad, or to perform some other action to prove they are listening. If this happens, immediately put the phone down. No Genuine HMRC call will behave in this way.

As a preventative measure, Nottinghamshire Police have this advice regarding phone scam avoidance:

- contact the Telephone Preference Service to automatically add your number to an 'opt-out register'. Call 0845 070 0707 or visit:

www.tpsonline.org.uk for more information.

- Contact your phone service provider to remove your number from local phone directories. This process will be different for different companies, but all major providers have steps you can follow online.

- For smartphones you can download the [True Caller App](#), which displays the identity of known scam numbers as they call you, removing the need to answer altogether.

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, or from individuals you know personally. Domestic abuse can manifest online, and the risks are just as great as they would be from a stranger. The information featured here comes from the Cybercrime unit of Nottinghamshire Police, and can be used to effectively manage your exposure to risk when using the internet in general, and social media in particular:

- If an email address is **compromised** (or if you want to ensure you receive no further emails from someone who knows your email address) set up a new email account, removing the old email, old telephone numbers and old device log-ins.

- **Hide:** Make being found difficult, consider changing profile name ensuring removal of previous associated names.

- **Think: Is it public?** Before joining seemingly "closed" groups, check if the group members' details are open to public before joining. By 'checking in' you are making your 'check in' post public.

- **What are you sharing?** Think about what personal information is stored within your account and [what data you've historically shared](#).

- **Approve** who follows you and what you get tagged in by reviewing the permissions settings within social media sites

- **Check contact details:** Ensure these are set to the most secure option like 'Only Me' and that your email address or mobile number cannot be used to link to your account when searched within a search engine.

- **Remove unused connected devices:** ensure only the devices that need to have access to social media are able to do so by removing saved log-in information.

- **Block contacts:** All that link to the perpetrator. Hide friend lists to avoid fake friend requests and share privacy advice with friends as they could be a risk to your account if their security settings are set as 'Public'.

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/>

Citizens in Policing Awards

June 12th saw volunteers, Special Constables, Cadets and Mini Police come together for an evening of celebration and thanks. The event took place at the Albert Hall Nottingham, where Assistant Chief Constable Steve Cooper and the Police and Crime Commissioner Paddy Tipping thanked everyone for their commitment and service to Nottinghamshire Police and their communities.

The evening was a chance to showcase the good work undertaken by our police volunteers formally and invite attendees on stage to receive certifications of appreciation. Following the formal awards ceremony, guests were invited to attend a reception, where a buffet and drinks were served.



ACC Cooper (right) Presenting Awards in the Albert Hall. Recipients included three of the NottsWatch team, Paul Macey, John Duke and John Lennard. P&CC, Paddy Tipping and Partner Officer, Helen Ridley are also featured.

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.

www.nottswatch.co.uk | communion@nottswatch.co.uk

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

Active Citizen Awards

Read our explanation, plus details about the seven award winners who attended our conference.

We will continue to publish stories about Active Citizens from Nottinghamshire. Maybe you know of one? Use our form to send details and remember to send a photograph of your nominee in their community role.

Ladybrook NHW comes of age

Read about the success of the neighbourhood watch scheme one of our long serving NottsWatch members set up and was awarded an MBE for ridding her community of a drug dealer!

Woodhouse Park Summer Social

What's in a name? Whether or not you call your community group neighbourhood watch or residents association, as long as your aspiration and aims are to make your neighbourhood a better place to live in, we're interested in hearing about what you do.

Inconsiderate Parking: The Rules and Regulations

Despite the road traffic law's clear and obvious value, some road users continue to flout the law and common sense by parking inconsiderately – and illegally – in Nottinghamshire.

Nottinghamshire police have released clarifications to help prevent parking offences and educate drivers on their obligations:

- 'Keep Clear' zones, especially around schools and built-up areas, are not a suggestion, and parking in these areas can lead to Penalty Charge Notices.

- vehicles should not be parked within 10 metres of a road junction, as this may cause a danger to other road users and an ongoing hazard to pedestrians.

- If a vehicle is blocking your driveway to the point of obstruction, that vehicle's owner is committing an offence, though it is often difficult to prove 'actual' obstruction. If you are prevented from accessing the highway due to this obstruction, the vehicle in question ought to be reported to your local authority.

For more resources and information on what Nottinghamshire Police is doing to tackle inconsiderate parking and to report offences, please go to their website:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/advice/parking>

Parking Fine Scam Alert

[Action Fraud](#) have received an increase in reports and intelligence where elderly victims are being targeted by individuals purporting to be police officers or traffic wardens. The victims are being approached whilst parked in a car park and are told by the suspect that they have parked illegally or broken a speed limit and a photo has been taken of their car for 'evidence'.

Victims are advised that they will face a substantial penalty fine unless they pay a smaller upfront fee immediately.

Victims, who often opt for paying the smaller penalty, will then be told to pay at a particular, modified meter that will keep their card and retain their details. Victims are then told to seek help from the company who operates the parking meter or their bank.

What to do:

- If you are suspicious about the authenticity of the fine, do not pay it until you have verified it with your local council.
- Always shield your PIN from view when using an ATM machine, and never share your PIN with anyone.
- If your bank card is retained by an ATM machine, contact your bank immediately to inform them.

Knife Crime – Prevention and Reduction

Knife crime in the UK has been in the news more frequently this year, with concerns growing over the risk of violent offences and questions being asked over what is being done to prevent and reduce weapon attacks across the country. In Nottinghamshire, Superintendent Matt MacFarlane has placed emphasis on actively engaging with communities and groups where knife crime is seen to occur, as well as developing 'resilient spaces' where deterrents, police visibility and a greater sense of neighbourliness can be fostered. When a space is supported in these ways, the risk of violence and criminal activity drops significantly.

In tandem with these sorts of campaigns, Nottinghamshire Police has a dedicated knife crime team, set up to disrupt those who carry blades on the streets of Nottingham. The team are intelligence-led and will focus on areas where known or potential offenders might be carrying blades. This work has the support of Police Commissioner Paddy Tipping and has seen hundreds of knives removed from the streets since its deployment. More details about the national push against knife crime can be found on the [Government website addressing the issue](#).