



OUR NEWS

> THE E-NEWSLETTER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS

Celebrating our neighbours across England and Wales

Dear supporters,

With the lockdown remaining fully in place in Wales and measures in England altering, Neighbourhood Watch groups continue to support individuals and their communities to adapt, stay safe and manage the situation.

We have been collecting stories of all the amazing work going on, several of which are in this newsletter and many others on [our website](#). The range of support offered – from shopping for neighbours food and medicine, setting up calling trees, organising ‘safe distance’ community events, sharing critical information on Covid-19 specific scams and fraud, to making PPE for frontline staff – is fantastic and a real testament to how Neighbourhood Watch groups all across England and Wales have stood up to support others and their communities.

We are approaching the annual Neighbourhood Watch Week at the beginning of June and there is lots of information in this newsletter and online on how to get involved and get active in celebrating neighbours and the fantastic work so many people have done over the past year.

As mentioned in the last newsletter we have been feeding back information from local groups to the Home Office to ensure they are getting the view ‘from the ground’ during the crisis. The Home Office have been pleased with this ‘soft’ information. The general perception from local groups is that crime has reduced during lockdown apart from online fraud and motor crime with some areas reporting an increase in anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping, and theft from sheds. We are also aware of the increase in requests for support and increased demand on services reported by many domestic abuse organisations.

As always please ensure you share with us what you are doing locally during the crisis. Thank you for your support and hard work and please keep safe and well.

John Hayward-Cripps

CEO | Neighbourhood Watch Network



Neighbourhood Watch Week, 7th–13th June 2020

Celebrate Your Neighbours!

We invite you to join with us for Neighbourhood Watch Week, which celebrates 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 resourceful and resilient.

Between 7th-13th June 2020, we will be inviting you and your communities to come together to celebrate what it means to be a neighbour, the connections we have made, and the importance of staying connected through good and bad times.

We have a number of ways to join in, including a competition running throughout the week. We ask that you share these with your members, community and loved ones.

Find our more on page 2

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Celebrating Neighbours in Neighbourhood Watch Week

7th - 13th June 2020 ourwatch.org.uk/LetsStayConnected

We are delighted to invite you to join us for Neighbourhood Watch Week, which celebrates our neighbours and all the great work that you and your community do to make where you live safer, connected and more resilient.

Between 7th - 13th June we are encouraging neighbours to say thank you and celebrate what it means to be a neighbour, the connections we have made, and the importance of staying connected through good and bad times.

Since early March, we have been encouraging people to 'Be Kind, Connect, Support and Share' during these challenging times as part of the Community Action Response. Read more about this on page 6.

As part of the campaign, award winning cartoonist Tony Husband has created bespoke cartoons for the four community actions to show just how important our neighbours are at this time.



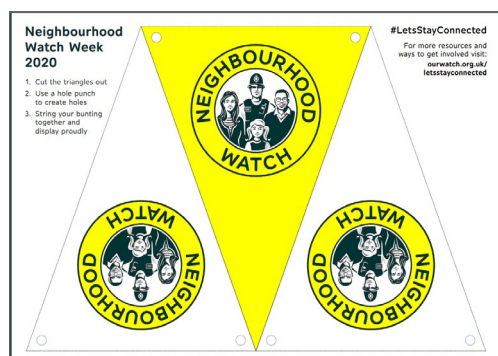
Ways to get involved

Tony's cartoons can be downloaded as posters to display in your window, or postcards to pop through a neighbour's door, and if you are feeling creative you can draw your very own cartoon and enter it in our competition to be judged by Tony himself. You can download the posters and postcards on our website as well as Neighbourhood Watch Week bunting to put together at home.

To kickstart the week, we are inviting you to take part in The Big Virtual Lunch activities, organised by Eden Project, on the 6th and 7th June. Some ways you can share this are on page 6. On 7th June we will be launching a competition to be judged by Tony Husband. Look out for details of that on our website. And each day between the 7th - 13th June we will be sharing stories on our social media channels and website highlighting the big and small ways in which neighbours have been connecting, sharing, supporting and spreading kindness.

Neighbourhood Watch Week this year also marks 35 years since the very first Neighbourhood Watch Week so this year is extra special!

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!



The Community Action Response

Whether it's popping to the shops for a neighbour who's isolating, packing food parcels for those most vulnerable, or clapping for our beloved Key workers on a Thursday evening, the Coronavirus pandemic, however challenging has brought the best out of our communities. Its these acts of kindness and support the [Community Action Response](#) campaign was launched to amplify.

Eden Project Communities, alongside over 30 community-minded organisations have a mission to support our community volunteers and the web of ordinary people who came together across our streets and neighbourhoods to look out for one another. As partners have been working hard to encourage people to Be Kind, Support, Connect and Share during the crisis, it's time to take a moment to say thank you to everyone, chat and have fun with each other over a bite to eat!

To celebrate your neighbourhood's community response, celebrate connections and have some fun, join The Big 'Virtual' Lunch on the 6-7 June!

COMMUNITY ACTION RESPONSE



Produced in association with Community Action Response partner organisations to encourage and support community action



The Big 'virtual' Lunch 2020

At Eden Project Communities, they like to think of [The Big Lunch](#) as the UK's annual 'Thanksgiving' weekend for neighbours and communities.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19 and the remarkable acts of kindness we have witnessed in our communities, it's time to get your bunting out, prepare some food and connect once again with your neighbourhood, only this year, a little differently.

Join your neighbours, community group, friends or family online, over the phone or on your doorstep and have fun together on the 6-7 June!

It's more important than ever to set some time aside for those around us and make this a moment of celebration.

Ways to take part

Online:

Hosting a Big Lunch online from the comfort of your own home or garden is a great way to join in. Inviting people to a group video call (on platforms such as Zoom, Facebook or WhatsApp) replicates the feeling of being together face-to-face and there are plenty of ways you can all have fun. Think about decorating your backdrop with bunting or uploading a photo backdrop for your video call, invite people to bring their foodie favourites to talk about or theme things by wearing the same colour or suggesting fancy dress.

Over the phone:

Not everyone is online or able to take part in a video call, so don't forget you can always join in by picking up the phone and having a cuppa and a chat with someone. You could chat through the best biscuits for dunking, share your top tips for baking or share a few foodie jokes to keep the conversation flowing.



On your doorstep:

Some people may not have technology at home or feel comfortable with an online event. Invite neighbours to join in with a Big Lunch from their doorsteps, raise a cuppa, wave a sausage roll or have your own garden picnics at the same time so you can chat from a safe distance. You might know one neighbour this would make a difference to, you could decide to share it more widely, or it may be an action that everyone can join in with, it's up to you.

Want to find out more?

Download your free [Big 'Virtual' Big Lunch pack here](#) to get started!

Got some questions? Check out our FAQs page: [The Big 'Virtual' Lunch FAQs](#)

At Eden Project Communities, they love to know how you plan to connect with your neighbours over the big lunch weekend. Why not send a photo or share a tweet or a Facebook post @EdenCommunities!

Hounslow Borough NW Association buy 3D printers to produce masks

"In early April, together with Osterley and Wyke Green Residents' Association (OWGRA), we decided to provide visors for NHS front-line staff, starting with our local West Middlesex University Hospital. We set up a crowdfunding page and raised £15K by mid-May.

We were approached to do the same for Chelsea & Westminster Hospital (sister hospital to West Mid). A separate crowdfunding page raised another £15K.

It's been all hands on deck! The printers have been working 24/7, as have our volunteers. The Police and London Fire Brigade have helped with the final leg of delivery.

Demand has been extremely high and we've supplied over 4K visors within a few weeks. Apart from the two hospitals, we've provided visors to GP practices, food banks, supermarket staff, etc. We get 3 or 4 calls per day along with dozens of emails to supply PPE.

We have faced (and overcome) continual challenges - sourcing new printers and supplies from wherever we could get them, and repairing the printers which would frequently malfunction.

All of this has been done using volunteers and their help and support has made this happen. We thank them all - what has been achieved in such a short time has been nothing short of remarkable.

The plan for all these 3D printers after the pandemic is to lend them out to charities, schools and clubs and provide training on their use. Any remaining funds will be donated to a charity associated with the aftermath of COVID-19." Hounslow Neighbourhood Watch Association

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/visors-for-front-line-medical-staff-in-hounslow/>

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/visors-for-chelsea-and-westminster-hospital>

<https://www.gosurrey.co.uk/surrey-family-crowdfunds-3d-prints-ppe-nhs-coronavirus/>

<https://twitter.com/MPSSyon/status/1250489916380917761?s=19>

“

It's who the requests come from that drives us. These are calls from doctors, nurses, cares... some crying on the phone for visors and other PPE. It's absolutely crazy.

I replied to a doctor 'YOU are the people that WE cry to...not the other way round!'"

Hounslow Neighbourhood
Watch Association



Strictly tea dancing in Wiltshire

A small retired community has come together to keep up the spirits of its residents by holding regular tea dances in front of their houses, whilst observing the 2 metre distancing rule.

They have great fun line dancing together and having afternoon tea!

It is enhancing the sense of community that they already enjoyed.



Swansea is keeping members updated



“As the Neighbourhood Watch Association for Swansea, we are making sure all our 450 coordinators are being kept updated about scams - especially scammers taking advantage of COVID-19.

We are ensuring they are aware of what criminal activities are going on in Swansea.

We are also giving our members email and telephone numbers to contact if they have mental health issues, feeling lonely, domestic abuse or feeling overwhelmed.

“People don’t have to struggle alone.”

Members are glad that they are still able to keep themselves and their neighbours safe, and they can contact Swansea Neighbourhood Watch Association for support.” Swansea Neighbourhood Watch Association

Helping self-isolators in Gloucestershire via WhatsApp

“As Coordinator of our Neighbourhood Watch group in Gloucestershire, I received offers from three members to volunteer to run errands, prepare/make meals and walk the dog, as required. I made this kind offer known to the entire membership via email and sixteen more people came forward to offer their support. I then setup a WhatsApp group for all the volunteers. By ensuring that each member was a user of the WhatsApp we were able to launch our service immediately.

One of our members, who had a severe fall last year, leaving him much incapacitated, found he needed a supply of medication urgently. He contacted his neighbour for assistance because his son, his appointed carer, was himself injured and unable to fetch this medication. It was a Sunday with all chemists closed.

His neighbour contacted me and I sent out a WhatsApp message to the entire volunteer group. Within 4 minutes I got a response from a volunteer willing to fetch the medicine. I advised the neighbour of the name of the volunteer and she had by this time identified a chemist opened for emergencies. She also advised she’d have a letter of authorisation available to be picked up from her and take to this chemist.

The patient had his medication within 2 hours from his initial request. Without the generosity of neighbours volunteering no scheme would get off the ground.”

Coordinator in Gloucestershire

Mobberley, Cheshire, who received Royal recognition for their work, helps over 100 villagers

Mobberley Neighbourhood Watch, who received Royal recognition for their hard work from the Lord-Lieutenant on behalf of the Queen, has been working alongside other community organisations to help provide a COVID-19 Support Group for their village.

“As well as grocery and prescription services, we are utilising our own website and social media platforms to give up-to-date government information and provide details of suppliers of goods and services many of whom will deliver to our self-isolators.

We also have sections for local community initiatives such as sewing for scrubs, scrub wash bags and hair bands, children’s pages to keep them occupied during the lockdown as well as our recruitment section for volunteers.

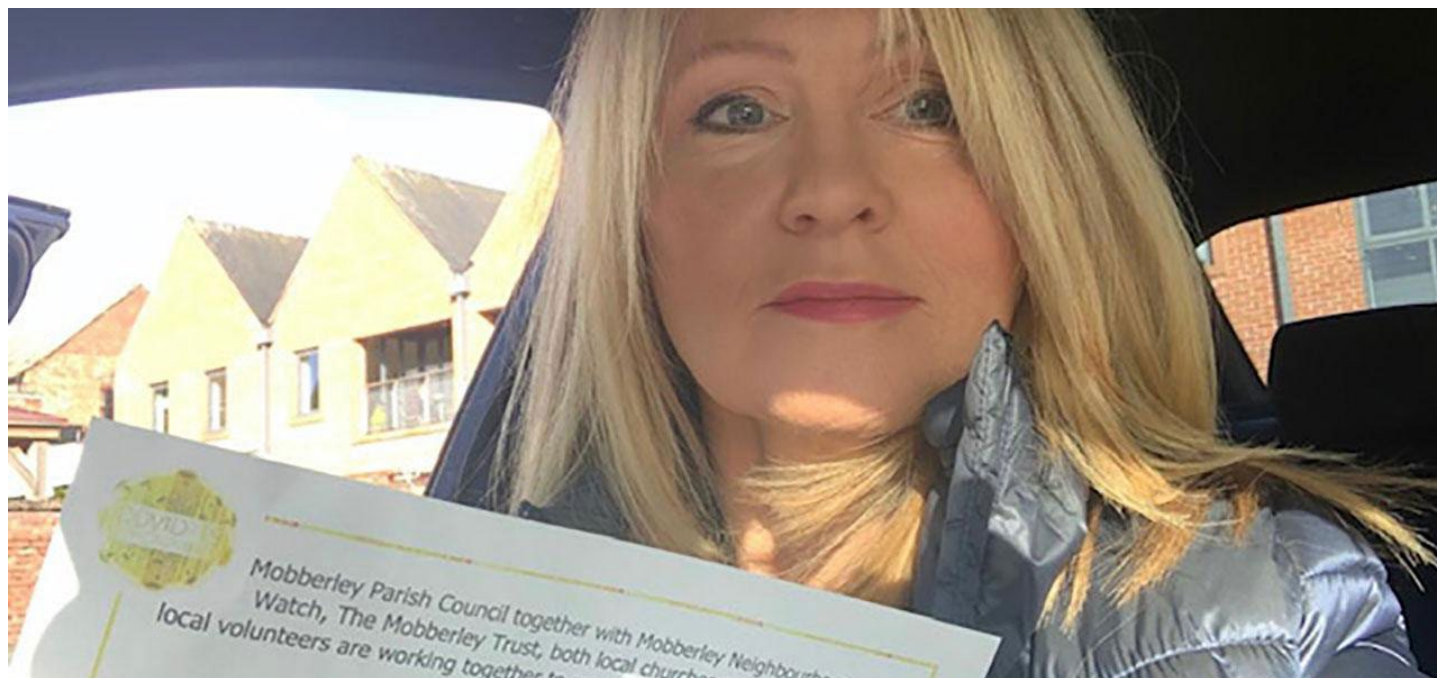
We have established a food bank in conjunction with members of our local parish council and local churches which will help to provide food for those that find themselves in need during these difficult times.

We have also recently set up a “Go Fund Me” page to help raise funds to buy material for local sewing groups to help provide scrubs and other much needed items for local community NHS workers as well as our local hospital staff.”

“Our vision is that of a caring society that is focused on trust and respect in which people are safe from crime and enjoy a good quality of life. Neighbourhood Watch is about making sure that fewer people feel afraid, vulnerable or isolated in the place where they live and the provision of a support group goes a long way to reducing vulnerability and isolation.”

...continued on page 6

Mobberley helps over 100 vilages



continued from page 5...

"We have had over 100 requests for help since setting up the support group and being operational on March 23rd.

The 75 volunteers that we have attracted to the cause are the backbone of the group and their dedication and sacrifice to providing the help to those who are self-isolating and vulnerable within our village is not only humbling but inspiring.

We are managing to help so many and the feedback we have had is phenomenal. We have also had amazing support

not only from our local counsellor, Charlotte Leech (Cheshire East Council) who is also one of our volunteers but we are thrilled to have the support from Esther McVey, MP for Tatton Constituency (photograph attached).

To date things have run pretty smoothly. Naturally, we face the daily challenge of trying to keep all of our volunteers safe and we regularly remind them of protocols and procedures to follow in order to safeguard theirs and the health of those they are helping.

To date thankfully we are all remaining healthy." Mobberley Neighbourhood Watch

Poems in a time of corona

Peter Wellby, a Neighbourhood Watch member from Sussex has been sharing poems during lockdown to 45 friends, neighbours and relatives.

'This is my equivalent to the arias sung by Italians from their balconies and the night calling from Wuhan in lockdown: a reaching out to others and a refocusing of the mind for a moment.

Many are about Sussex and the creatures we live with here. Perhaps they help some to open their eyes wider.

The more local and the more personal the poems, the stronger the response. They often stir memories in others and all help to break the claustrophobia of lockdown and remind us of the beauty immediately around us, which we may not have leisure to notice in our usually over-stretched lives.

EAST SUSSEX

In the frost-salted wind the blackthorns creak and writhe
on undulating ridges, in rabbit-shaven dells
where whirring pheasants fly like gorgeous toys.
Arlington water's caught in opaline moonspell.

Beyond the sinuous Cuckmere and the channelled Ouse
the Wilmington Long Man resumes his staves in mist,
recalling an Adonis Blue once lighted on his wrist.

Full-bladdered cumulonimbus sweep up from Seaford Bay.
Chalk and flint this country is, chalk and flint and clay,
Ravilious serge this country is, ridged khaki corduroy,
acres of grassland chalk now lost, digging for victory.
Constable clouds churn in thick toils, curl up from the
world's lip,
fling rain blades, stab at cracks where the hung tiles have
slipped.

[Click here to read the full poem](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON DEBORAH WALLER

SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL MANAGER

‘ Lockdown has limited our ability to communicate in many of the traditional methods we have been used to, but it has also opened opportunities to explore new ways of communicating. Let’s learn from this experience and continue to see how we can connect communities in new ways.’

What attracted you to work for Neighbourhood Watch?

I am very lucky to live in a safe street in which community is everything. Neighbourhood Watch has enabled my close-knit street to thrive in so many areas. It was this first-hand experience in my street that persuaded me to apply to Neighbourhood Watch. What with planning fun and social activities, being vigilant to avoid burglaries and other crimes, and not to forget the tremendous support each household gives to each other whether it be childcare or cooking meals for the elderly.

How does your position support Neighbourhood Watch groups across England and Wales?

Neighbourhood Watch groups across the country are doing some incredible work. My role is to find out what they are doing and share those stories and key learning to inspire others into action. I am in close contact with a variety of crime prevention and community organisations such as Victim Support, Crime Stoppers, Get Safe Online, National Trading Standards, the Home Office, Eden Project and our partner companies. My role is to share their crime prevention information and campaigns with Neighbourhood Watch groups to enable those key messages to reach residents across England and Wales.

As well as communicating with our existing supporters, I work within our team to promote Neighbourhood Watch to the general public. I focus on how we can do this digitally through

our website, e-newsletters, press releases and social media channels of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. In the last three months we have seen, a 46% rise in our website visitors, and a staggering 122% rise in our Facebook followers since the same period a year ago. This indicates a growing number of people engaging in Neighbourhood Watch digitally. We want to harness this trend and continue to reach more people digitally to promote our crime prevention messages and create safer, stronger and connected communities.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

I absolutely love learning more about what people are doing to support each other such as how groups helped communities through the flooding crisis and more recently through the coronavirus crisis. These stories shine a light on the goodness of people and are inspiring to read.

During lockdown I have been working hard, with the support of my team, to plan and promote the upcoming Neighbourhood Watch Week. This has been very exciting and with less than two weeks to go I hope you can use some of the assets and ideas to celebrate your neighbours and let us know what you did.

In lockdown I have also been delivering online workshops to Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators on how to use social media to support your group. These workshops have enabled me to connect with Coordinators in their own homes which I find very rewarding. More about that below.

Neighbourhood Watch online workshops

At the start of April, while we were all wondering what the new normal would be, the Central Support Team thought about what we could offer Coordinators during the lockdown period.

The new website was just about to be launched and we thought this would be a great opportunity to highlight the resources we already had to members and explain how to use them effectively.

Through April and May we provided a range of online workshops about fundraising, using the domestic abuse toolkit, using social media to promote your scheme, a walk round the new website and for Associations we provided

workshops about our self-assessment tool, exploring diversity and managing member behaviour.

Within 15 minutes of promoting the workshops via our Alert messaging service, we had over 100 people signing up. As you can imagine all of the spaces in the workshops were over subscribed, with over 500 applicants overall. We unfortunately had to turn away many, but we did provide all the links to the website that covered the subjects that were to be discussed.

We are currently planning our next round of workshops and would love to hear from you about what you would like to know about further and maybe we can arrange it for you. Email your suggestions to enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk.

Wash your hands of coronavirus scams!

Friends Against Scams aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams.

STOP. Be aware of people offering or selling:

- Virus testing kits
- Vaccines or miracle cures – there is currently no vaccine or cure.
- Overpriced or fake goods to protect yourself from coronavirus such as anti-bacterial products.
- Shopping or medication collection services.
- Home decontamination services.

CHALLENGE. Question communications and encourage others to do the same.

- Don't be rushed into making a decision. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Only purchase goods and services from legitimate retailers and take a moment to think before parting with money or personal information.
- Don't assume everyone is genuine. It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you. If in doubt, speak to someone you trust.
- If someone claims to represent a charity, ask them for ID. Be suspicious of requests for money up front. If someone attempts to pressurise you into accepting a service they are unlikely to be genuine. Check with family and friends before accepting offers of help if you are unsure.

Be a good Friend,
help to protect
your family,
friends and
neighbours from
scams.

**Read it.
Share it.
Prevent it.**

#ScamAware
#Coronavirus



PROTECT. Contact:

If you think you have been scammed, contact your bank first.
For advice on scams, call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on
0808 223 11 33.
To report a scam, call Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040.**

**NATIONAL
TRADING
STANDARDS**

Scams Team

To learn more about different types of scams, visit: www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk

Stay alert message

The virus is still among us and whilst everyone has done a great job in helping slow the spread of coronavirus and help save the NHS, there are still a number of things we need to do to protect ourselves, each other and the NHS. To stay alert you must:

- Remain at home as much as possible
- Work from home if you can
- Limit your contact with other people
- If you have to go out keep your distance from others, two meters apart where possible
- Continue to wash your hands regularly
- Do not leave home if you or anyone in your household has symptoms

The more we stick to the rules the more the rate of infection will fall.

You can spend time with one member of another household, one-on-one, as long as you keep 2 metres apart. It is important to keep it to one-on-one because if households were allowed to meet up together this would form a crowd and this may signal to others that large groups of people are allowed to meet up, which is not the case.

Scientific advice is that the risk of infection outside is significantly lower than inside so if you want to meet up with a friend it must be done so in an outdoor area like park rather than indoors and you must keep 2 metres apart.

Do you know how to spot a phishing email?

email has always
been fraudsters'
favourite way to scam you.
During the Coronavirus pandemic,
it's got even worse.

Read our expert tips on how to spot
and deal with a phishing email.

#safeemail

**Don't put lives at risk, stay alert so we
can control the virus and save lives**

Looking out for each other

Many vulnerable people are still isolating and there are safe ways to provide essential support

How you can help

- Phone or keep in touch on social media
- Pick up food for others
- Pick up medicines

Find out how to help others safely at gov.uk/safehelp