



OUR NEWS

> THE E-NEWSLETTER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS

Dear supporters,

Firstly, I'd like to let you know that myself and all of us at Neighbourhood Watch are thinking of you, your loved ones and your community at this challenging time.

We are doing everything we can to keep you up to date with the latest support, resources and signposting to protect yourself and your loved ones, and to boost your community in a myriad of ways.

If you have not already had an opportunity to take a look at our website area created in response to Covid-19, please do – we hope you will find it informative and useful. We've separated it into three sections for ease: keeping yourself and your loved ones safe; supporting your community and others; and being aware of Covid-19-related scams and crimes.

Please let us know if there's anything else you'd like us to include. We also aim to share positive stories of community action from our members, so please do keep an eye on our website and social media.

Thank you for your support and please keep safe and well.

John Hayward-Cripps

CEO | Neighbourhood Watch Network



Neighbourhood Watch sees a growth in members

In light of the current crisis, we've experienced a 25% increase in our membership.

This is a continuing trend from 2019/20, where we had already seen a steady rise in membership. It is heartwarming to see that in these difficult circumstances there is such a groundswell of people coming forward and thinking about connecting with their community and turning to Neighbourhood Watch for support and advice. We would like to welcome our new members to the Neighbourhood Watch movement and we'd like to hear from you.

In April we will be sending out a short survey to those who have recently joined, to find out a bit more about how we can best support you, however in the meantime, please do feel free to email us at enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk with comments, queries and ideas.



STAY AT HOME

Following the PM's announcement on Monday 23rd March, we now urge you to stay at home, unless absolutely essential



FOLLOW GOVERNMENT AND PHE GUIDELINES

Guidance is being updated frequently as the situation develops - always visit trusted sources: [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk) / [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)



CONNECT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Look for ways you can connect with and support your community remotely - we'll keep updating our website with ideas as we find them



FOLLOW GOVERNMENT ADVICE ON SEEKING HELP OR GIVING IT

Link up with your County or Borough Council to find the latest information on how you can access local support or volunteer to help others



PRIORITISING STAYING WELL AND SAFE

This is the best thing you can do for your community, for now and for the future

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NETWORK IS A REGISTERED CHARITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES CIO NO 1173349

www.ourwatch.org.uk



[neighbourhood.watch.insta](https://www.instagram.com/neighbourhood.watch.insta)



[@N_watch](https://twitter.com/N_watch)



[@ourwatch](https://www.facebook.com/ourwatch)

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Neighbourhood Watch brings communities together

We have been inundated with enquiries by both members and non-members during the last several weeks, and more than ever recognise the vital, relevant role Neighbourhood Watch can play in uniting communities and helping to prevent crime.

We support communities to work together, individuals to build connections with neighbours, and neighbourhoods to develop partnerships with local voluntary groups, council departments and local policing teams. By building stronger communities together, we all benefit from safer, more vibrant neighbourhoods.

We see the role of Neighbourhood Watch at this time as utilising and strengthening the links between community groups, individuals and resources to make a lasting change for the good of everybody in the community. At a central level, we are amplifying the positive work of our members through our website and social channels, sharing ways communities can help one another, especially the most vulnerable and isolated, and we are sharing information, tips, resources and actions to reduce crime, and inspire you to improve the situation locally and personally.

One of the most important aspects of Neighbourhood Watch is the creation of networks of people who can work together and talk to each other to address local issues. We encourage you to open your communication channels and talk to each other by phone, email or video link. By doing this we can all actively reduce loneliness and isolation, and ensure we are all aware of crime risks and protect ourselves and our communities. We know that when this crisis is over, Neighbourhood Watch will still be here and our supporters will continue to be the champions of community spirit and support.

“ We encourage you... to talk to each other by phone, email or video link. By doing this we can all actively reduce loneliness and isolation ”

Neighbourhood Watch groups respond to the pandemic

Neighbourhood Watch supporters across England and Wales have always reached out to the vulnerable and isolated within their communities and this current crisis is another example of why that is so important.

Many of our supporters have been instrumental in coordinating the local response by setting up phone trees, connecting neighbours, organising volunteers and raising awareness of crimes and scams. Over the course of the crisis we will share some of the wonderful things our supporters have done, but this is just one example.

Using the existing Neighbourhood Watch platform which was set up already, Hyde Heath Village, Buckinghamshire used their WhatsApp group and Facebook page to encourage villagers to come forward as volunteers to collect shopping and prescriptions for those who are elderly, vulnerable or self-isolating. As they were already established groups on these platforms, they found reaching out was easy.

The group prepared a letter outlining their plan and delivered it to over 750 homes in the village. They soon had over 80 volunteers ready to support those in need, in addition to helping the village shop stay open. The group set up a dedicated email address to support communications and reached out to other groups which were forming to share good practice and ideas, with the intention to learn from each other and extend everyone's network and knowledge. They also provided a single point of contact via a mobile number for calls, texts, WhatsApp and email. They are finding that the system is working very well.

What is working well?

Allowing people to have choices as to how they communicate has worked very well. Every age group is covered in terms of how they can share and receive information. The group has found that having a direct phone number, text, WhatsApp, Facebook, email and support is essential.

What are the challenges and how they are overcoming them?

Time is the biggest enemy, but this is something which is fluid and subject to change, so they are adapting and improvising as it happens, and the group has found that sharing ideas with other groups is essential. Support of family and the community and delegating actions has also made a difference.





Welcome to Ian Bretman as Chair of Neighbourhood Watch Network

This month Neighbourhood Watch Network is proud to welcome Ian Bretman as the new Chair of Neighbourhood Watch Network, as our previous Chair, David Huse, steps down from the role.

We thank David Huse for the enormous amount of time and effort he gave to Neighbourhood Watch and his dedication to bringing the charity forward in-line with our 3-year strategy in ensuring Neighbourhood Watch's relevance in today's world. Deborah Waller, our Senior Communications and Digital Manager, took the opportunity to interview and welcome Ian. > [read online](#)

Things you can do to support your community



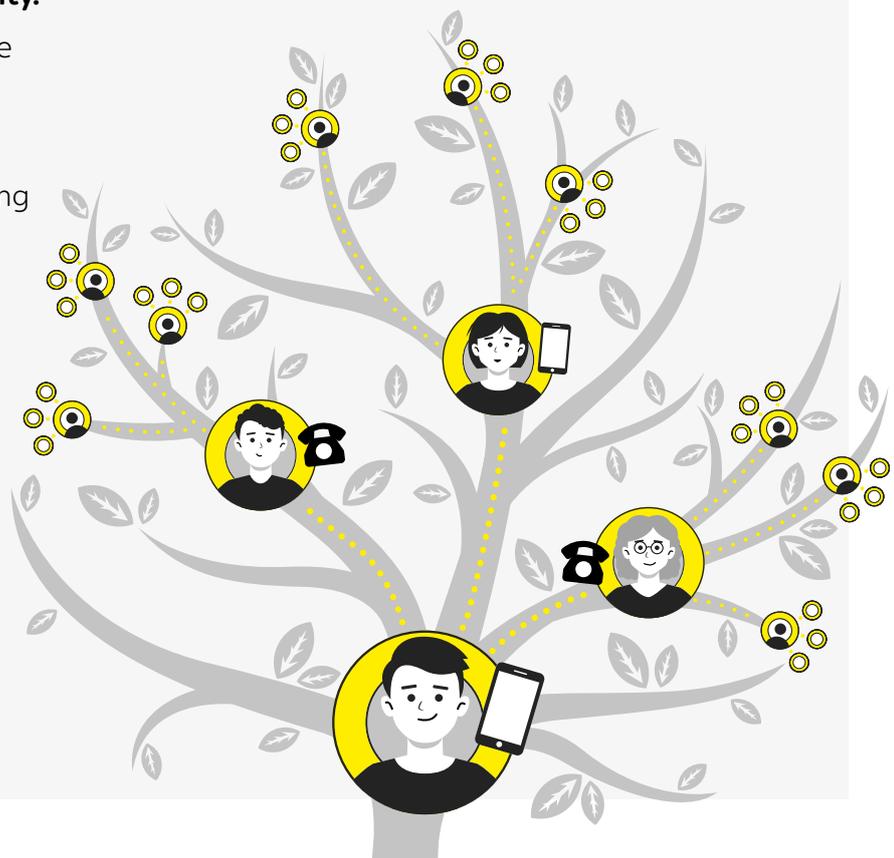
- **Follow government guidance** to keep yourself and loved ones safe. Visit gov.uk and nhs.uk for the latest advice and updates
- Keep a **2m distance** from others on your run, shop and walk.
- We have joined forces with community sector leaders to launch the **Community Action Response** campaign, encouraging everyone to take small actions to support their community, especially those who are vulnerable or isolated. Click [here](#) to find out more.

- **Set our ribbon as your social media frame** for facebook [here](#) and for Twitter [here](#) to show support for Neighbourhood Watch and the government's campaign to stay at home.

- **Set up a calling tree in your community.**

Call 3 people today to ask how they are doing. 1 person calls 3 people. Those 3 people call 3 people each making 9. Those 9 each call 3 people reaching 27 people. Those 27 each call 3 reaching 81 people. As the phone tree builds, each person can help reduce isolation and loneliness. Find out how to set one up for your community [here](#).

“No one can do everything, but everyone can do something!”



YOU, CORONAVIRUS AND KEEPING SAFE ONLINE

Right now, safeguarding ourselves, our loved ones, friends and colleagues from Covid-19 is uppermost in people's minds.

After all, this is an unprecedented situation which warrants unprecedented precautions. Also of great importance, however, is making sure we remain safe in the virtual world during restrictions on travel, socialising, office life and other things we normally take for granted. Get Safe Online has some useful advice on their website for keeping 'You, Coronavirus and keeping safe online'. www.getsafeonline.org/coronavirus

Scams have arisen as people take advantage of the crisis

Unfortunately we have been informed about a number of emerging scams that have arisen as criminals take advantage of the uncertainty. You can find some examples of these on our website page **Be aware of Covid-19 scams and crimes**, as well as tips from our partner, Avast. Here is a helpful resource from the National Trading Standards Scams Team with some advice about preventing yourself or others becoming affected by scams. You can visit their website for more information including an online scam training course: www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

Wash your hands of coronavirus scams!

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

Be aware of people offering or selling:

- Virus testing kits - these are only offered by NHS.
- 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.

Protect yourself and others:

- 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 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.

#Coronavirus
#ScamAware



Contact

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**
Contact your bank if you think you have been scammed.

**NATIONAL
TRADING
STANDARDS**

Scams Team

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

To report crimes and scams

- Call Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040** or report incidents of fraud online and offline at www.actionfraud.police.uk
- Call 101 to report non-emergency incidents to your local police
- Call 999 if you're reporting a crime that's in progress or someone is in immediate danger
- Call Crimestoppers on **0800 555111** to report crime completely anonymously

Please remember to only call 999 in an emergency. If someone is not obeying the coronavirus rules you can report it online, call 101 or contact the ASB team at your local council.

Existing crimes continue to occur whilst Covid-19 related crimes are emerging. Issues such as burglary, car crime and modern slavery are all still prevalent, while there is evidence that domestic abuse is increasing in the crisis. If you are a victim of domestic abuse Women's Aid offers a variety of methods to support you or call the National Domestic Abuse Helpline on **0808 2000 247**. On our new website you can find toolkits for related crimes and other useful resources.