



Spring – A Time For Growth

With 2019 in full swing NottsWatch has seen great work done by community members looking to develop and grow their campaigns in Nottinghamshire. We have also received 2,382 responses (and some excellent feedback) to our survey aimed at better understanding the concerns and expectations of NottsWatch members, for which we are very grateful. The information shared in those surveys will help NottsWatch provide more focused support and more valuable advice and guidance in the future. This newsletter will cover some of the community successes seen in Nottinghamshire recently, alongside important discussions of safety and awareness in our daily lives. For more details, and to stay up to date with NottsWatch campaigns, find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or on our [website](#).

Area Spotlight – Sneinton and Newark Spring Clean

Following on from the recent online trend known as #Trashtag, where people highlight the amount of rubbish they have collected in a given area to raise awareness of the harms of littering as well as the positive change people can make by collecting it, Sneinton has recently completed two days of community litter picking and community work in their Spring Clean campaign.



Supported by their councillors and council officers, citizens in Sneinton organised a weekend's worth of tidying in Sneinton across the 29th and 30th March to brighten the area and remove the accumulated rubbish that was unsightly and unhygienic.

Contact communication@nottswatch.co.uk or view www.nottswatch.co.uk

Seasonal Photo Competition

In our winter edition we asked for readers own photographs of landscapes taken within Nottinghamshire. Thank you to **Brian Smith**, a local amateur photographer, for providing a fun filled photograph of our Market Square. We are using this photo for the home page on our new website.



If you have any pictures that perfectly capture the feeling of **Nottinghamshire blossoming in Summer**, please send them in to be featured on our website and in the forthcoming Newsletter – The deadline is 24th June 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.)

Tech & Tea

Would you like to feel more confident using technology?

Whether you want to learn to text, shop online, skype with family, use email or upload photos, our friendly staff and volunteers will be there to answer your questions...

over a cup of tea!

With sessions set up in

- Beeston Library
Every Monday
2.00-3.00pm
- Sutton in Ashfield
Library
Every Friday
2.30-3.30pm
- Mansfield
Woodhouse Library
Last Saturday in the
month
10.30-12.30

You can ask any questions and work through your tech-troubles in a relaxed and friendly environment. In addition, if you know of any tech-savvy people who are willing to help educate others, Sutton in Ashfield's Tech and Tea Group would love to hear from you!

Likewise, Newark has been promoting local people's work in cleaning up public spaces with the district council providing assistance in the collection of picked litter and guidance on how best to organise groups and events. The hashtag #LitterHeroes has been adopted and used across March to highlight the work done and to raise awareness for local campaign groups across Nottingham who have all been championing the clean-up.

One group in particular, 'Keep Newark Tidy' is a small group of local volunteers and members of Newark Business Club who litter pick once a month in Newark. Follow their Facebook page to find out how to get involved and the date for the next litter-picking outing.

[Keep Newark Tidy on Facebook](#)

With global awareness rising sharply about the dangers of human waste, it makes sense for action to begin locally in the spirit of neighbourliness and positive civic work. If you want to begin a similar campaign to help clean up your area or raise awareness for a local concern, NottsWatch can provide support. Go to <https://www.nottswatch.co.uk/> to find local schemes already underway, or more information on how to start your own.

Sherwood Library Renewal Plans

Plans for a redeveloped library in Sherwood, at no cost to local council taxpayers are taking shape, with the goal of a more useful and accessible space closer on the horizon.

The site on Spondon Street off Mansfield Road in the heart of Sherwood is owned by the City Council, but the site and surrounding buildings are in a poor state of repair. The library itself has seen declining usage and less engagement by community members recently.

Over a number of years, the council has carried out a programme of creating fewer, better libraries which has seen an upsurge in user numbers. Many district libraries are now housed in joint service centres alongside housing offices and doctors' surgeries, to help better serve people by creating 'neighbourhood hubs'

The proposals for Sherwood will see a mixed-use development including a new high-quality library and a police contact point, along with shops, homes and offices. The council is undertaking an exercise to identify a preferred developer to buy and develop the site, with the Council Leader Councillor Jon Collins signing a decision to identify a preferred developer and refine the scheme.

The arrangements mean the new library is provided at no cost to the council and the site itself will be more energy efficient and economical to run. The public toilets will remain, and a new public car park will replace the existing one.

Mini Police Take To the Streets

An initiative began in Durham in 2011 in a bid to create more positive relationships between officers and local families has returned in Nottingham with primary school students becoming 'officers' for the day, assisting in duties and learning about the role officers play in their local areas.

The campaign is aimed at children in years five and six and focuses on the contribution young people can make in our communities to make it a better place to be. This time around, students were given the chance to learn about road safety with staff from the NET tram network and Nottingham City Transport. They recently got a driver's seat view from both the tram and the bus before testing their skills with the simulator used to train new tram drivers.

By helping engage younger people with looking after their own community, the scheme hopes to strengthen communities and break down barriers that might otherwise cause tension or disorderly behaviour. The Mini Police have so far undertaken local litter picks, made bird houses to be placed around communal areas, looked at speeding issues with the assistance of a piece of technology called Speedwatch and help with local summer fairs.

Fraud Advice – Know The Signs

Many modern-day scams rely on the targeted person presuming authenticity without evidence; **If a caller makes excuses or is hesitant to provide concrete proof of their legitimacy**, they are likely trying to dupe you.

Also, **social media quizzes can often hide malicious intent** by asking seemingly innocuous questions – pet's name, favourite instrument and so on – as a way of harvesting sensitive data.

Additionally, exhortations of love, bereavement or emergency, or **Receiving messages from unknown people claiming you are uniquely required for a task, money transfer or other online communication should always be a red flag**. Best practice is to ignore communications from any unverified source and consign their correspondence to your spam folder.

A Word of Thanks

Since he accepted the role of Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire in 2012 Paddy Tipping has supported NottsWatch with funding and human resources – as well as his own time and effort – and continues to do so today. We, at NottsWatch, would like to thank Mr Tipping for the work he puts in to keep the people of Nottingham safe, and for the assistance he gives in helping us make our local areas more pleasant places to live and work.

A Date for the Diary

The date for the Common Ground conference has been set for **July 6th 2019 from 10am until 4pm at the Ikon Centre in Sutton-In-Ashfield.** The conference brings together many of the largest charity groups and official organisations in order to help foster an environment of cooperation and resource-sharing, with the goal of making Nottinghamshire a great place to live and work.



You can find out more about Nottinghamshire's Mini Police initiative over on Facebook:

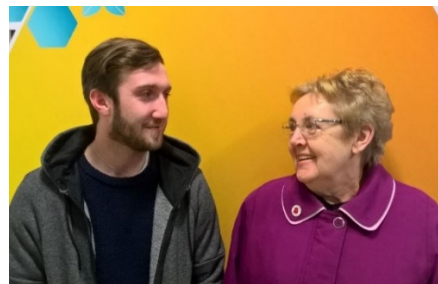
<http://www.facebook.com/NottsMiniPolice>

#MoreThanYouExpect Campaign To Show the Kindness of Neighbours

This year's Neighbourhood Watch Week, which runs from Monday 17 June – Sunday 23 June, will celebrate our communities' generous and civic-minded members under the theme of #MoreThanYouExpect.

A great example of the compassion and kindheartedness we would all love to see more of can be found in Anthony Wharmby, a Nottingham resident who has gone above and beyond in his care for the community in which he lives.

Two days after Christmas, 70-year-old Ladybrook resident Kate Allsop took a nasty tumble near the garage on Ladybrook Lane. When a gentleman who was passing by saw what had happened, he went to assist and took Kate into the garage. He then looked through Kate's contact list in her mobile phone and being first in her address book, a young local man called Anthony Wharmby answered.



Anthony has a passion for improving the lives of Ladybrook residents and through help from the Nottinghamshire County Council Age Friendly Project, set up a Good Neighbours Scheme called 'All Rise'. Over the past six months, Anthony has organised a Community Litter Pick, completed various odd jobs for some of the elderly residents and until the darker winter months, organised for a group of five or six elderly residents to have a weekly evening social get together at the Ladybrook Pub.

Contact communication@nottswatch.co.uk or view www.nottswatch.co.uk

As soon as Anthony received the call about Kate, he immediately went to her aid. When the ambulance arrived, Anthony went with Kate to the hospital, staying there with her the whole time and then made sure she got home safely.

As well as a badly bruised face, Kate had fractured her wrist which was put in plaster. Over the next day or so, Anthony rang to check on her and even accompanied twice more for her subsequent trips to the hospital. Kate was badly shaken by her fall but is now on the mend. When asked what she thought about Anthony, she said; 'He was a godsend. We could do with more people like him around our town and in fact the whole country'.

If you would like to get involved in Anthony's Good Neighbour Scheme or if you would like to join him when his Thursday evening socials start again in March, contact him on allrisecommunity@outlook.com

And if you have any examples of citizens doing more than you expect for the community, please let us know at communication@nottswatch.co.uk so we can share the positivity with others.

Trading Standards Advice and Support

Do you need help with a consumer issue or want to report something to Trading Standards? Trading Standards work in partnership with the Citizens Advice consumer service, which provides free, confidential and impartial advice on consumer issues. It can help if you need:

- Advice before you purchase goods or pay for services;
- Advice about resolving an issue or dispute with a retailer or trader.

To contact the Citizens Advice consumer service:

Telephone: 03454 04 05 06

or have a look at their website:

<http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/>

Neighbourhood Alert

If you haven't already, sign up for free security alerts. You can select to receive updates from a range of sources, such as Action Fraud and National Trading Standards as well as local policing alerts regarding crime in your area with [Neighbourhood Alert](#). You may also sign up through our website and join your local neighbourhood watch group. Visit <https://www.nottswatch.co.uk/>. Both options, as well as Nottinghamshire Alert, offer the same alert service. But remember to tick to receive neighbourhood watch updates.

New Website

In our last edition, we told you that NottsWatch are currently working to build a new, user friendly website. As well as safety advice, information about our organisation and neighbourhood watch, we will also offer news stories from our blog which we hope you will not only enjoy, but also contribute to. We want to celebrate simple acts of kindness as well as the bigger campaigns.

To find out more, sign up to Neighbourhood Alert and tick neighbourhood watch updates.

Age-appropriate Advice for Online Users

A lot of advice given regarding online safety, while well-intentioned, can be targeted at people who don't need the advice, or written in a way that isn't easily understood by those who do. Internet Matters have created a breakdown of issues faced by younger internet users with guides aimed specifically at age groups ranging from below five years old to fourteen years old and above. Click the link below to find the guides, and more information catering to specific groups and the issues they might face online:

tiny.cc/internetmattersguides

Check your email spam settings:

Many email service providers have built-in spam filter settings that can remove suspicious emails from your inbox automatically. These tools can be found in [Outlook](#), [Gmail](#) and other services. A good ad-hoc method is to always mark suspicious messages as "spam" so your email server will know to block similar messages in future.

How do I find a trader that I can trust?

If you need to find a trader, then Nottinghamshire County Council Trading Standards Service work in partnership with Checkatrade to provide an approved trader scheme, to help Nottinghamshire consumers choose a trader they can trust and rely upon. Have a look at the information on the Checkatrade website <http://www.checkatrade.com> or if you are unable to access the internet you can contact Checkatrade on 0333 0146 190.

Scams, And How To Fight Them

NottsWatch highlighted online scams in our previous newsletter but many people are concerned with the risk of door-to-door scams and how best to detect and deter them. Nottingham County Council have recommendations regarding doorstep crime, scams and intimidating situations:

- Trading Standards advise never to buy goods or services from a trader on your doorstep.
- Don't answer your door if you are not expecting a caller. If the person needs to contact you urgently, they will put a note through your door or have your contact details and be able to contact you via other means.
- If you are expecting a caller, be sure to verify their identity before allowing them into your home. Even after this step, if you still have concerns, feel free to ask the caller to leave.

Further advice, along with resources to help older or infirm relations and friends – with items like the Nominated Neighbour card – can be found on the Nottingham County Council Fact sheet at [this link](#).

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 [Ourwatch](#).