

Winter – A Time for Fresh Resolve

Despite the severe weather and dropping temperatures, Nottinghamshire remains as vibrant as ever with many people braving the elements to help their communities and build on the successes of last year. 2020 will certainly be a time of change for many and NottsWatch is no exception, with a growing need for positive support and a neighbourliness being reflected and expanded in our membership. 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 'romance fraud'**, discussions on **policing and young people**, **anti-litter campaign details** and **modern slavery prevention work**, as well as news advice regarding severe weather precautions 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 – Gedling Cleans Up

Towns and villages in Gedling are benefiting thanks to the installation of new bins and the popularity of free bulky waste collections, encouraging responsible disposal of waste and recyclable material.

In Gedling Borough Council's 2019 budget a pledge was made to install 50 new bins in key locations across the borough to help reduce littering and improve the appearance of areas.

Councillors were asked to provide a list of areas where bins would be best placed in their wards and, based on their responses, new bins have been installed in over 30 locations so far with more being installed in the coming days.

Over 5,000 households have used the service this year and more than 7,000 items have been collected. There are still nearly 1,000 slots available for residents to make use of between now and the end of February.

Seasonal Photo Competition

In each edition we ask for readers own photographs of landscapes taken within Nottinghamshire. The spring photography competition has been won by Gemma Gooding, who visited the city for this year's Light Night on 7 February with her family.



Like many of us using technology, Gemma's 13 year old son, Harry, helped her with her iPhone settings, proving there is no need to have a camera or have photography as a hobby. Just take landscape or panorama photos over the next few months in and around the city and county of Nottinghamshire, and send us your favourite by mid-May and your picture of "Notts in Spring" could be shared in our summer newsletter as well as on our website. Visit www.nottswatch.co.uk to take a look.

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.

Are You Signed Up to Neighbourhood Alert?

[Neighbourhood Alert](#) provides an advanced community messaging system solution for police forces, local authorities and Neighbourhood Watch and has been designed and constructed by VISAV, based in Sherwood, Nottingham.

Signing up for the Alert provides a customised level of messages that details about your area from groups like the fire and rescue service, the police (including specific groups like Action Fraud) and Neighbourhood Watch administrators that assist in keeping members updated about schemes and other issues in the local area. Signing up is easy:

1. Navigate to <https://www.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/>
2. Click the "Join" button in the top right corner
3. Enter your details, including your name, postcode and email address
4. Click the "Sign Up Now" button
5. Confirm your location, choose a password for your account and select the groups you want to hear from
6. Follow the instructions sent to your email address to ensure continued communication.



The new bins and free bulky waste collections are just some of the actions being prioritised by the council as part of its plans to create a more sustainable environment that promotes and protects the environment by reducing waste and pollution. Providing new public litter bins, maintaining free bulky waste collections and creating a Rapid Response Street Cleaning Team are investments that have all been made by the council in spite of it now being the worst affected local authority in England in terms of the Government's own official figures on Core Spending Power

Deputy Leader of Gedling Borough Council, Councillor Michael Payne said:

"Local residents continue to tell us that keeping their streets clean and tidy is a top priority for them. It's a top priority for the council too which is why we've delivered on our promise to provide over 50 new litter bins, maintain our popular yearly free bulky waste collection service and continue to clamp down on fly tippers. We could do much, much more for our local communities if the rug hadn't been pulled from underneath our feet when it comes to the sharing out of Government funding for local councils."

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

Community Stakeholder Meeting with Paddy Tipping

Police and Crime Commissioner, Paddy Tipping, was pleased to welcome dozens of grassroots community groups, businesses and volunteers to a Community Stakeholder event to consider the successes of 2019-20 and to help shape his Police and Crime Delivery Plan priorities for 2020-21.

Held at the Indian Community Centre Association (ICCA) in Carrington, Nottingham on the 17th January 2020, the event brought together a range of voluntary and non-profit organisations, as well as key safety partners from the City and County to share their views and experiences.

“Nottinghamshire is home to a diverse range of communities and cultures and it’s important that the people who live in them have the opportunity to share their views and contribute to the decisions which affect their lives” said Mr Tipping.

“Community feedback enables me to make evidence-based decisions which improve life for local people and ensure problems and emerging issues are prioritised according to need and urgency.

“I greatly respect the work that goes on at a grassroots level to protect people from harm. This event raised a number of important discussions focusing on diverting young people from serious violence, how we can increase inclusion and join up our efforts, among other issues. This information is currently being collated and will help influence my priorities for the year ahead.”

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Home.aspx>

Modern Slavery Prevention

Nottinghamshire Police has launched its first ever joint county lines and modern slavery team set to be tackled by a new dedicated team of modern slavery and county lines specialists. For the first time, Nottinghamshire Police will be utilising the skills of experts in both fields to stop county lines and modern slavery offenders exploiting vulnerable people. ‘County Lines’ is a term used when drug gangs from big cities expand their operations to smaller towns, often using violence to drive out local dealers and exploiting children and vulnerable people to sell drugs.

University Volunteering Week

At the University of Nottingham, the Students' Union Volunteer Centre organized a week of student volunteering events between 10th and 16th February.

Advertised as a way to “help your local community, try something different and meet new people – all while giving your CV a boost!”, the events worked alongside groups like MENCAP, Oxfam, The Woodland Trust and Roots Out Community Gardening to build connections between students and their communities, as well as highlighting the issues faced by individuals within those communities.



Across the week various activities were hosted across Nottingham, bringing volunteers to Sneinton’s Foodprint Social Supermarket, the centre of Lenton for a litter pick and to the Gettaway social club to learn how the organisation provides a space and entertainment for people with learning difficulties.

It is hoped that getting students invested in the idea of neighbourliness and volunteer work will help build stronger communities for the future. A full list of events activities can be found [here](#).

Set Up Your Own Scheme

Have you considered taking a more active role in your local community, or thought about bolstering the relationships you have with your local neighbourhood? Neighbourhood Watch schemes are an excellent way of preventing crime and anti-social behaviour and building stronger and safer communities.

If you are keen to set up a Neighbourhood Watch group in your local area, the first step is to check whether there is already a scheme in place. You can do this by entering your postcode at <https://nottswatch.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/LocalArea>, and hitting search. This will give you a list of existing schemes in your area.

If there is no scheme, you can follow the guidance found at <https://www.nottswatch.co.uk/keeping-safe/setting-up-a-nhw-scheme> - schemes can involve many different goals and aspirations, so be sure to check the inspiration section on the Our Watch website if you're looking for ideas. If you have any problems signing up, contact the Neighbourhood Watch Network Enquiries Desk on Enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk and they will be able to help.

If you already run a scheme in your area, guidance for the more involved role of "Multi Scheme Administrator" can also be found [here](#). Training for the role is available, as is the use of free and powerful survey tools to find community issues in your area.

Lead by Detective Chief Inspector Nick Waldram, the team will focus on protecting potential victims of both crimes as well as pursuing perpetrators.

DCI Nick Waldram said:

"We spotted a direct correlation between vulnerable victims of county lines and modern slavery legislation and saw an opportunity to create a team that will become specialists in tackling issues around both areas of crime.

"Children who are exploited to sell drugs and commit other crimes as part of county lines operations are essentially modern slaves who have often been misled by organised crime groups. "Our new approach will see a combination of tactics used to combat both county lines and modern slavery as well as working with our partners in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Councils.



"We also work closely with British Transport Police, as a lot of county lines offenders are using the rail network to move between areas. "Our partnerships with other forces are also vital, as offenders crossing county boundaries can commit crime across multiple locations."

Detective Inspector Paul Lefford, of Nottinghamshire Police's county lines and modern slavery unit, said:

"Modern slavery can manifest in various forms and now more than ever, we are seeing children manipulated and controlled by criminals. "Our commitment is to keep the people of Nottinghamshire safe and help people who are stuck in difficult situations to get out of them. "The signs of modern slavery can be complex and hard to spot but if you think or suspect that someone is being held somewhere against their will, you can call the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700."

Additionally, for more information on the work being done to fight modern slavery click through to the [Unseen UK website](#).

Action Fraud – Update and Advice

In each edition of this newsletter we try to provide useful advice on staying safe online and when dealing with dubious situations. Dangers can arise from strangers attempting to access your personal information.

With Valentine's Day being such a largely celebrated holiday, many criminals use the date as a way to manipulate people in vulnerable situations by preying on users of online dating services or through 'phishing' emails – messages sent en masse in the hopes of getting a small amount of responses. Follow the guidelines below, provided by www.nottsvictimcare.org.uk to ensure you're as safe as possible.

- Be aware of excuses. Many scammers pretending to be love interests make excuses about why they can't show their face or use a webcam when talking. In reality they are attempting to hide their identity.
- Watch for oversharing/fast-moving discussions of love. If you have only recently met a person online and they are quick to share personal stories, tragic life events or declarations of love, they may be trying to emotionally manipulate you. Be sceptical of fast-moving conversations, especially with people you haven't met in real life.
- Look out for overly curious interactions and one-sided conversations. Many scammers try to get as much information from you as they can, either to use in identity theft or as a way to emotionally manipulate you. If you know relatively little about the person you're talking to but they know all about you, that should be a warning sign.
- Beware of curated/unrealistic profiles. If a person's online persona looks too good to be true, or their behaviour is incongruous with their profile information, be sure to verify what details you can find. [Reverse image search](#) their profile picture to see if it has been used elsewhere on the internet and don't be afraid to ask questions about the information they openly provide.

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/>

Cyber crime

Nottinghamshire Police's Cyber Crime Unit deal with Cyber-dependant crime or any offence that falls within the [Computer Misuse Act 1990](#), and has highlighted a number of current scams to have in mind when checking emails and responding to requests online:

- TV Licensing – emails written in threatening language demanding payment for a TV license. Never click on any links within emails like this; independently verify your TV license documentation if you're unsure.
- Amazon/paypal/Apple iTunes payment issues – emails pretending to be from large companies describing a problem with a payment you made are almost always scams. Check the "sent by" section of your email service provider to verify who the email really came from.
- Tax rebate messages – as with the previous examples, emails like this will ask you to 'click through' in order to get a rebate. If in doubt, report as spam and verify the issue yourself.

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](#).

Policing and Young People

PC Amie Whitehouse was given a glowing report from an assistant head teacher for her work with school children at Ashfield as one of Nottinghamshire Police force's School and Early Intervention officers (SEIOs). This successful project was brought into the force by the Chief Constable after he launched a similar successful scheme at a previous force.

While covering a number of other schools in Ashfield, PC Amie Whitehouse visits Ashfield School every week to deliver talks, advice and support, as well as making use of break times to build important relationships with the students. Schools and Early Intervention Officers provide support and education for young people and staff to help them avoid falling into the criminal justice system.



PC Amie Whitehouse at Ashfield school last December. Image courtesy of Nottinghamshire Police.

Assistant Headteacher at Ashfield School, Jack Carter said: "PC Whitehouse has been a fantastic addition to the Ashfield staff team. Her intervention is thorough, she's great with the students and then communicates well with staff and parents.

"Amie is out on duty at break time which is great. On top of all this she is leading on a session in tutor time on rule of law for Year 8 and running a one-hour lesson for Year 9 on e-safety each week. "It's great that we've been able to get her in and build relationships at an early level so that our students feel like they can come for support at the very start.

"It's been great in changing thought processes, giving students a toolkit to tackle crime, abuse and bullying, for example, so it doesn't get to the stage of needing retrospective intervention."

Chief Constable Craig Guildford said: "It's always good to receive such great feedback from the schools and it's great to hear about the positive impact our SEIOs are making in Ashfield.

"I would like to thank PC Whitehouse for her hard work and dedication to the role and in particular her work with Ashfield School."

Be sure to check our [NottsWatch Blog](#) page for more positive stories like this one.

Weather Warnings – Council Assistance

During the current uncertain and inclement weather, many Nottinghamshire residents have been adversely affected by flooding and other damage to their homes and businesses. Nottinghamshire County Council has launched its emergency hardship fund to give flood victims access to financial assistance to help recover their losses following the floods. Residents whose homes suffered internal flooding will be eligible to apply for a one-off payment of £120. Small or micro businesses with up to 49 employees, whose premises were flooded will be eligible to apply for an emergency payment of £300 to help them cope with immediate, short-term loss of income.

Councillor Kay Cutts, MBE, Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council said: "We are currently working with partners across the county to help people in the most need following the recent flooding and will continue to do so. I understand the impact that an event like this can have on residents and small businesses and I want to help those who have had their homes flooded and who may now be in financial difficulty.

"I also want to ensure our local small businesses don't struggle due to cash flow and the County Council wants to help those affected to recover quickly."

To apply for either the residents' fund or business fund people can ring the county council's contact centre on 0300 500 8080. For more information, go to [the Nottinghamshire County Council website](#).

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