



OUR NEWS

FOR **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH** SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES

Last month I told you the **NEIGHBOUR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2021** was launching. Now I am pleased to say nominations are OPEN. We are so excited the incredible Hannah Ingram-Moore, daughter of Captain Tom Moore, will be helping us judge the entries and find the winners for each category. We know this will be a tough task, especially with the new category of **COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR 2021** and regional awards for **YOUNG NEIGHBOUR OF THE YEAR 2021**. With nominations closing on 26th October, [click here to nominate your neighbour](#) and find out more on page 3.

As we approach **HATE CRIME AWARENESS WEEK**, 9 – 16th October, we encourage you to visit ourwatch.org.uk/hate-crime-and-incidents to learn more about the impact of hate crimes and what you can do to reduce incidents in your area and support victims. There is no place for hate in the UK. Together let's challenge it, report it and stop it. Find out more on page 5.

Our new **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH KNOWLEDGE HUB** is receiving very positive feedback from Coordinators. The Knowledge Hub is a great information and training resource and invites Coordinators across England and Wales to communicate directly with each other. More on page 7.



And finally but certainly not least, **WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY** is coming up on Sunday 10th October. When it comes to what we can all do to look after our mental health, little things can help a lot. See our tips on page 6.

Yours sincerely

John Hayward-Cripps,
CEO, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NETWORK

Are you and your community #WeatherReady?

According to a survey just conducted by the Met Office, nearly 40% of people have been caught out by severe winter weather – and a third of those say this was down to a lack of preparation.

As we leave autumn behind us and head into another winter, it's important to be prepared for what winter weather may bring.

Any small actions we can take to minimise the impact of severe weather on our lives and livelihoods, and those of our neighbours, are increasingly important and always worthwhile.

WeatherReady - the Met Office preparedness initiative - aims to bring together up-to-date, expert advice from carefully selected organisations to help you prepare your home or business and take care of yourself, your family and neighbours.

A range of advice articles can be found on the [Met Office website](#) including [top tips to help you prepare for winter](#), [staying healthy in winter](#), and what to do to prepare your [home](#), [business](#) and [car](#) to cope with winter weather.

Continued on page 2

INSIDE:

Fraud trends	pg 2	Hannah Ingram-Moore to help find Neighbour of the Year	pg 3
New student initiative launched	pg 4	National Hate Crime Awareness Week	pg 5
Better Health: Every Mind Matters	pg 6	Protecting digital freedom for all	pg 8

Working together as a community to make sure everyone is ready for any severe weather this winter can make a real difference to community resilience.

Not everyone is able to access the help or information they may require to keep them safe and well. So why not see if you can share the WeatherReady advice with your neighbours, especially the more vulnerable.

You may be able to help your neighbour with an important job to prepare for winter, or your neighbour may be able to help you. Just taking time to make contact will be appreciated.

Find out more about what you can do to get yourself ready for the winter weather at [metoffice.gov.uk/WeatherReady](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/WeatherReady) or join the conversation online using #WeatherReady.

Fraud reporting trends and emerging issues

The Monthly Threat Update, produced by the City of London Police, provides an overview of fraud trends, summarised below.

Reports that are increasing (in August)

- **Lottery scams** – victims are being contacted to say they have won a prize and need to pay a fee to obtain the winnings
- **Rental fraud** – potentially due to increased holiday and student rentals
- **Online shopping & auction fraud** - predicted to increase in the run up to Christmas
- **Door to door sales** – reports are now at the highest levels since reporting began, with more people at home and fewer restrictions for suspects
- **Ticket fraud** - increases associated with the increased number of events going ahead
- **Application fraud** - continues to increase.

Emerging issues to be aware of

- **Christmas online shopping** - Customers are being encouraged to make purchases earlier as many businesses will be facing increased prices and delays due to Covid and Brexit impacts. If genuine companies are increasing costs, consumers may search elsewhere for cheaper alternatives and may end up using fraudulent websites or be vulnerable to scams through online market places.

- **Travel** - Scammers are advertising rip off travel ads using similar web addresses as the official websites and using Google ads to appear above them in the results. Scammers overcharge consumers for a range of documents including visas, health cards, international drivers' licences and the Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) which may be available for free through official channels. Google introduced stricter requirements to combat this from 6th September 2021.
- **TikTok and WhatsApp** both are adding new features that limit the availability of messages. Fraudsters may be attracted to these platforms as they offer increased encryption and security and this is more difficult for law enforcement investigations.
- **Charity scams** - Charity Scams are likely to be set up in response to the recent wildfires in Greece, Hurricane Ida in the United States and support for the Afghanistan people.

You can quickly and easily report fraud to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040, or by using their [online reporting tool](#) any time of the day.

To find out more about scams visit ourwatch.org.uk/protectfromfraud.

Hannah Ingram-Moore helps find Neighbour of the Year 2021



Above: Hannah Ingram-Moore with her father Captain Sir Tom Moore

We are thrilled to announce that Hannah Ingram-Moore, daughter of Captain Sir Tom Moore and Co-founder of The Captain Tom Foundation, is working with Neighbourhood Watch and Co-op Insurance to find the nation's most remarkable neighbours in the 2021 Neighbour of the Year Awards.

Hannah, said: *"My father moved to Bedfordshire to live in our family home in 2007, and we lived together as a multi-generational family for thirteen special years in a lovely close-knit community. My father was a true believer in the power of social cohesion."*

"The compassion and support that people across the world showed to my father and family was staggering. Now, the national search is on to find the country's hero neighbours and community. I am excited to uncover all those special stories about how people have been going the extra mile to help people in their neighbourhoods."

Alongside a new category of **COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR 2021**, this year we have introduced more opportunities for young people to be recognised by introducing regional winners of the **YOUNG NEIGHBOUR OF THE YEAR (21 and under)** category.

Last year, 9-year-old Taylor, from Edinburgh, was nominated for selflessly supporting her neighbour while she went through cancer treatment during lockdown. This year we want to find more incredible young people like Taylor.

In a survey of young people (24 and under) who have joined Neighbourhood Watch in the past

year, 56% cited their concern about community safety as their top reason for joining, and 39% joined to actively help make their community a better place to live.

We want to recognise the actions young people are taking to improve their communities and care for those who are vulnerable or isolated.

Do you know of a young person who goes above and beyond to help their neighbours, engage with the community or make a difference in their local area?

NEIGHBOUR OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2021

YOUNG NEIGHBOUR OF THE YEAR CATEGORY (UP TO 21)

Nominations open now

COOP.CO.UK/NOTY

Neighbour of the Year Awards 2021 | Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, CIO no: 1173349

If you know of someone who has formed strong, trusting bonds with their neighbours, or goes out of their way to care for the vulnerable, let us know.

Nominate your neighbour, young neighbour or community here.

Neighbourhood Watch and Co-op Insurance launch student safety initiative

Along with Co-op Insurance, this summer we conducted a survey with 500 students to ask how they felt about their safety and wellbeing going back to university.

Almost 50% said they were worried about their safety. When asked if they were interested in receiving information on student safety and connecting with the community, and if they would get involved, 46% said yes.

In response, this term we are launching a new initiative for students, with 16 Universities

throughout England and Wales being visited during Fresher's Week.

We will be providing students with the tools and guidance to become more involved in their community, information on safety and wellbeing, and the chance to join the Student Council to help set the agenda for student safety both on and off campuses.

Our driving asset is a new student magazine, The Lookout.



THE LOOKOUT



A magazine written by students for students.

It features advice on safety, mental health and wellbeing, how to get involved and help in your community, and how to get involved with the Student Watch Council.

The termly magazines are downloadable from studentwatch.co.uk or ourwatch.org.uk/students. Print versions will be sent out to over 300 Co-op stores on campuses.



STUDENT WATCH COUNCIL

The Student Watch Council will be a national committee of ten students that meet on a termly basis to set the agenda for the student initiative that we are initially terming 'Student Watch'.

The students will be involved in setting the agenda for the following term as well as shaping the student proposition as a whole. From this we'll gain tangible insights on what matters to students and how Neighbourhood Watch and Co-op Insurance can best engage with, support and represent students.

Our vision through Student Watch is a society where students come together to create safer, stronger and more connected campus communities.

Our mission is to support and enable students to be connected - both to other students and their wider community - and to increase wellbeing and minimise crime.

To find out more, visit our new website area dedicated to young people and students at ourwatch.org.uk/young-people

#NoPlaceForHate in National Hate Crime Awareness Week

What are hate crimes and incidents?

A hate incident is any incident, which may or may not be a criminal offence, that the victim, or anyone else, thinks is motivated by someone's hostility or prejudice towards them or another person because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or because they are transgender.

If the incident constitutes a criminal offence it is referred to as a hate crime. Hate crimes include verbal abuse, physical assaults, damage to property, a car or a home or posting abusive or offensive messages online.

Some police forces will also record incidents motivated by hostility or prejudice because of a person's gender (misogyny) or because they belong to an alternative subculture (such as Goths, Emos etc) as hate incidents.

Anyone can be the victim of a hate crime or incident. For example, people may be targeted because someone thinks that they are gay even if they aren't or because they have a disabled child.

Evidence of prejudice or hostility is not required for incidents to be reported, recorded and investigated as a hate incident – someone's perception will suffice.

Hate crimes and incidents are damaging to individuals and communities; they can be confusing and frightening.

By reporting them you may be able to prevent these incidents from continuing to happen to you or to someone else. You will also help the police understand the nature and extent of hate crime in your local area so they can better respond to it and improve the support offered to victims.

You can report hate crime online through True Vision at report-it.org.uk/

National Hate Crime Awareness Week 2021 will take place from 9th – 16th October 2021.

If haven't already, start thinking about what you can do to support the week. The main objective of National Hate Crime Awareness Week #NationalHCAW is to encourage authorities, key partners and communities to work together to tackle hate crime.

Each year community and faith leaders, politicians, charities and other organisations from across the social and political spectrum are invited to make statements of support.

Neighbourhood Watch has a clear role to play in raising awareness and helping to reduce hate crime. We have provided the following statement of support which we encourage our readers to get behind and share:

"Neighbourhood Watch fully supports National Hate Crime Awareness Week.

As the largest voluntary crime prevention movement in England and Wales, we are committed to raising awareness about hate crime and empowering our volunteers and communities to create an inclusive and welcoming society.

By embracing and celebrating difference and playing a key role in bringing communities together, we can achieve safe places for us all to live and work in, where there is no place for hate."
John Hayward-Cripps, CEO,
Neighbourhood Watch Network

The [National Hate Crime Awareness Week website](https://nationalhcaw.uk/) provides ideas on events such as pop up stalls, poster displays and community workshops. Head over to their website to plan your activities in support of the week.

nationalhcaw.uk/plan-your-nationalhcaw



Better Health - Every Mind Matters

It's **World Mental Health Day** this **Sunday 10th October**, and it's a great time to think about how you're feeling.

There are little things we can all do for our mental health and it's important to find out what works for you.

The Better Health Every Mind Matters campaign has lots of free advice and support to help deal with stress and anxiety, boost your mood, sleep better and feel more in control.

When it comes to taking care of your mental health, having a plan is a great first step. By answering 5 simple questions you can get a free, NHS-approved Mind Plan to help you feel more in control. The tips in the Mind Plan have been chosen by clinical experts to help you find what works for you, and have been designed to fit into your everyday routine.

Better Health every mind matters

Your Mind Plan

Answer the 5 questions in this interactive quiz to get top tips and advice for you

Now tailored for the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Start quiz >

Staying connected with others is a great way to improve wellbeing and The Every Mind Matters website also provides advice about **what you can do to help others**. Expressing your concern and offering your time to listen can make a big difference to someone.

Get started with your [free Mind Plan here](#).

Pet theft to become a specific offence

Following the social media campaign and webinar we ran on pet theft earlier this year, we are pleased to update you that the Government has pledged to follow its Pet Theft Taskforce's recommendation to introduce a new criminal offence for pet abduction.

This change in the law will make the theft of a beloved pet a **crime of its own**. It will carry **harsher punishment** than the theft of an inanimate object, recognising **the impact on the welfare of animals and the value of pets to their owners**.

The new offence is one of several recommendations in a report published by the Pet Theft Taskforce to make it far harder for thieves to steal and sell pets. It will also make it easier to capture more data on pet

theft to help the police catch offenders. And it will ensure that the impact on the animal is reflected in the sentences or penalties given to offenders.

In an article in *Dogs Today*, Dr Marc Abraham OBE, vet and animal welfare campaigner, said, *"I'm thrilled with the progress made with the Pet Theft Reform campaign. Full credit must go to the Pet Theft Taskforce for listening to the campaigners, as well as Dr Daniel Allen (Keele University) and Debbie Matthews (Vets Get Scanning), plus every single animal-lover that signed and shared the three government petitions in the last few years calling for urgent change."*

For more ways on keeping your dogs safe visit our dedicated [dog theft website pages](#).

Taylor runs a marathon for Neighbourhood Watch Network

In September, Taylor Monckton, a 22-year-old student studying in Nottingham and living in Brighton, completed the Brighton Marathon in support of Neighbourhood Watch Network.



Taylor said, *'During lockdown, I realised the importance of community. So many people became isolated very quickly, and not just the elderly. Even though students and young people are used to meeting online, it's not the same, and the increase in our mental health problems is well documented.'*

Taylor continued, *'There aren't many charities that aim to help people, young and old, connect with their communities to make them safer. I was amazed when I learned about the many activities volunteers get involved in, up and down the country. More needs to be done to raise awareness amongst young people on what this incredible charity does to support communities.'*

This is the first marathon Taylor has run, and he exceeded his fundraising target by raising £606. On behalf of Neighbourhood Watch, thank you Taylor, and very well done!

If you want to undertake a sponsored event for Neighbourhood Watch please get in touch with us by emailing enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk.

Connecting active volunteers through the Knowledge Hub

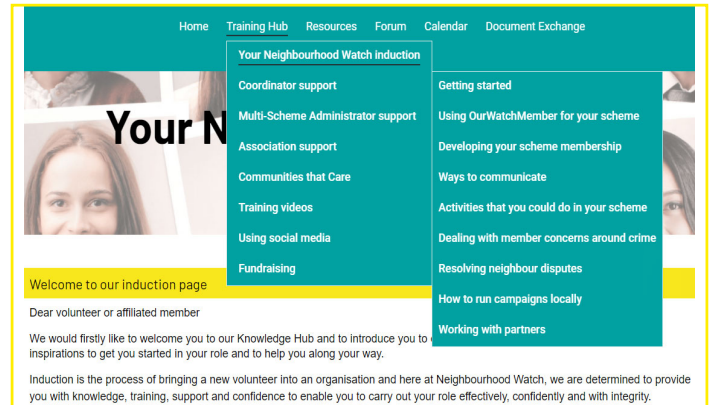
We're very excited about the continuing rollout of our new KNOWLEDGE HUB. We already have around 250 active volunteers using the Hub from across the country.

The Knowledge Hub, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, is an online platform which offers a forum, induction, training, toolkits and other resources to support volunteers in their role.

Coordinators in 18 different areas have been invited to join the Hub so far, with another 10 areas being invited in October.

If you are an approved Coordinator and you'd like to check whether the Hub is available to you, head to ourwatch.org.uk/knowledge-hub.

If your area is listed on that page you should



have received a message via the Alert system inviting you to apply for access. Please check your junk mail if you haven't yet seen it.

You can also sign up directly using the link on the same page, but please note that if your area is not yet on the list you'll get an email asking you to be patient for a little longer until we get to you.

Get in touch with us via volunteer@ourwatch.org.uk if you have any questions.



Protecting digital freedom for all

Technology is a powerful tool and the online world served as a real lifeline for many during the pandemic. However, it also provides some people with new ways to stalk, isolate and control others, as well as target and take advantage of some of the most vulnerable members of our societies.

Over the past year, we've talked extensively with our customers and digital citizens, and the more we talked, the more we heard that the internet was vital to helping them achieve their personal potential. However, feeling exposed online was more pronounced than ever before. Six in 10 people said the internet had become more important to them during the pandemic, but just one in five said they felt more confident online and two-thirds told us that concerns over privacy stopped them using certain online services.

It would seem, therefore, that the digital world has reached a crossroads. Over 4.8 billion people are online today - over half the world's population - and while the internet promises incredible opportunity it's still not equitable for all, and huge disparities exist in efficiency, safety and privacy.

Our online rights are shrinking too, which means we need to take responsibility now and address the complex challenges of the modern digital ecosystem head on, building the tools and services that will empower everyone, everywhere to confidently embrace their potential online and address the inequality in their relationship with the internet.

How is Avast Protecting Digital Freedom?

For over 30 years, we've been keeping people safe on everything from floppy disks to smartphones. As technology has evolved, so have we. We recently unveiled our [new brand identity and expanded purpose](#) to protect digital freedom for all online citizens. These new changes are about changing things for the better, making sure people are protected not just today but tomorrow too, and represent a call to action for people to reset their relationship with the internet for a healthier online experience. Our commitments include the following:

- **Avast One**, a new digital protection service: Avast pioneered free antivirus 20 years ago and is committed to providing the best free protection products for all of its users. Avast's new hero product combines the company's award-winning antivirus technology with a firewall and software updater feature to protect people from using outdated software and supply chain attacks, extensive privacy protection in the form of a Virtual Private Network for regular browsing use, and identity protection through our data breach monitoring service, all for free with the Avast One Essential version.
- **The new Avast Foundation programme:** the company's charitable Foundation celebrates its first year this year, and has debuted a new programme tackling digital freedom issues and supporting vulnerable people. Building on a previous decade of philanthropy, the Avast Foundation is focused on enabling a more equitable and inclusive digital future in which everyone has access to the tools and opportunities to reach their full potential.
- **Shaping policy on security and privacy technologies:** Avast believes that protecting people's privacy needs to go beyond product innovation and has a role in helping shape policy on technology adoption and use. Avast advocates for digital freedom with political stakeholders worldwide by serving as a resource. Avast is proactively engaging on critical topics such as online surveillance, privacy, AI and encryption technologies to educate and ensure people-first policy-making.

The Cyberhood Watch initiative which, together with Neighbourhood Watch, aims to help members and volunteers learn more about the cyber risks that exist online, plays a very important part of our mission to protect everyone, no matter who they are, where they are or how they connect to the internet. If you'd be interested in hearing more, please contact cyberhood@avast.com.



Crimestoppers 'Safe Street' campaign



We want to make sure that this autumn the only thing you lose is an hour's sleep, and the only thing that goes bump in the night are Halloween Trick or Treaters.

That's why this October, we're supporting Crimestoppers 'Safe Street' campaign. Get to know the residents of Safe Street who are doing everything they can to keep their homes and communities safe from crime.

Whilst Safe Street might be fictional we think it can be a reality. We'll be sharing Crimestoppers new animations on our social channels. If you like them – why not share them on your social feeds to help reach more people.

Read more about the campaign [here](#).

CrimeStoppers.
Speak up. Stay safe.

Get Safe Online Week - Online respect

The internet is a fantastic resource, but as we all know, many of its users either intentionally behave disrespectfully towards others, or simply don't consider their actions however innocent they seem. When this happens, it can hurt others in a number of ways, from embarrassment to affecting their entire future.

The year **Get Safe Online Week**, will be sharing information including ten top tips on respectful online behaviour. Visit getsafeonline.org from the 18th October.

Behaving respectfully online



Read our information and top tips about online respect at www.getsafeonline.org, from October 18th
#onlinerespect

[f](#) [t](#) @getsafeonline

Say NO to antisocial behaviour

Antisocial behaviour (ASB) incidents have increased over the last three years. Police forces, councils and housing associations are reporting significant spikes in ASB cases.

A shocking 45% of people say ASB is a problem where they live and 56% of those who had either been a victim of or a witness to ASB, did not report it to anyone.

This suggests that the incidence and the negative effects of ASB are much higher than official statistics based on recorded cases recognise.

To help raise awareness of ASB and encourage greater reporting of the crime, we will be running a social media campaign launching on 25th October.

The campaign will direct people to our website where they can find more information on **recognising, recording and reporting ASB**. We will also be running an ASB webinar open to the public, in partnership with specialist ASB charities. Booking details will be published soon.

If you are concerned about ASB, keep an eye out for our campaign launch email or follow us on our social channels.

Follow us... ourwatch.org.uk

